

Pellet Guns: Use in Crowd Control and Implications

Pellet guns were reportedly used during the July 20, 2026, march to Parliament, injuring protesters.

Pellet guns are firearms designed to disperse crowds using small, non-lethal projectiles, often causing injuries.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Pellet guns** were reportedly used during the **July 20, 2026**, march to Parliament.
- At least **80 protesters** were injured in **police action** on **July 20, 2026**.
- **Delhi Police** denied using **pellet guns** against protesters.
- **Pellet guns** and **shock batons** are part of the gear of the **Rapid Action Force (RAF)**.
- The **RAF** is the **anti-riot unit** under the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**.
- **RAF** was deployed alongside the **police** on **July 20, 2026**.
- **Pellet guns** were last known to have been used during the **2024 farmers protest** at Khanuari and Shambhu barrier along the **Punjab-Haryana border**.
- **Farmer leaders** alleged injuries from **pellet guns** during the **2024 protests**, despite police denial.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** was established in **1939** as the **Crown Representative's Police**.

The **CRPF** was renamed the **Central Reserve Police Force** after the enactment of the **CRPF Act** in **1949**.

The **Rapid Action Force (RAF)** is a **specialized wing** of the **CRPF**.

The **RAF** was raised in **1992** to deal with **riot and crowd control** situations.

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** is the **nodal ministry** for all **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** including **CRPF**.

The **Police Act, 1861**, governs the organization and functioning of **police forces** in **India**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Pellet guns are used by Rapid Action Force (RAF) for crowd control, causing injuries.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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