

The Inter-services Organizations Bill, 2023

Why in news?

Recently, the *Inter-services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023* was introduced in Lok Sabha which empowers the central government to constitute Inter-services Organisation.

What is the current setup?

- Presently, the service personnel of Air Force, Army and Navy are governed by
 - The Air Force Act, 1950
 - The Army Act, 1950
 - The Navy Act, 1957
- Only officers of the respective services are empowered to exercise disciplinary powers over the respective service personnel.
- This has a direct impact on command, control and discipline of the Inter-services Organisations (ISOs) and joint training establishments.
- In simple words, Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command of such ISOs are not empowered to exercise powers over the personnel belonging to other services.

Inter-services Organisations (ISOs) include Andaman and Nicobar Command and Defence Space Agency and **Joint training establishments** includes National Defence Academy and National Defence College

What are the challenges in the current setup?

- **Parent unit** - The personnel serving in the ISOs need to be reverted to their parent Service units for any disciplinary or administrative action.
- **Negatives** - This is both time consuming and have financial implications relating to the movement of the personnel.
- **Multiple proceedings** - It results in multiple sets of proceedings when the enquiry involves the same set of facts and circumstances but involves personnel belonging to different services.
- **Standard of discipline** - Multiple proceedings demands expeditious disposal of cases which eventually affects the standard of discipline.

What is the Inter-services Organizations Bill, 2023?

- It aims to address these impediments to ensure discipline and faster disposal of cases without disturbing the unique service conditions or amending the service Acts.

Key provisions of the bill

- **Establishment** - With the existing ISOs, the bill empowers the Union government to set up ISOs.
- These ISO can include a joint services command comprising personnel belonging to at least 2 of the 3 services.
- **Head of ISOs** - *Commander-in-chief or the officer-in-command* will be the heads of ISOs and it empowers them to exercise command and control over the personnel serving in an ISO or attached to it.
- **Superintendence** - The superintendence of these ISOs will be vested in the *Central Government*.
- **Parent Act** - Personnel will continue to be governed by their respective service Acts while serving in or attached to an ISO.
- **Impact on theaterisation** - The Bill ensure better management of theatre commands once they are operationalised.

Theaterisation of Armed Forces is a concept in which the three services will work as a single entity looking after security challenges in a specified geographical territory under an operational commander.

What are the impacts of the bill?

- Expedite disposal of cases
- Saving of time and public money by avoiding multiple proceedings
- Greater integration amongst armed forces personnel
- Addresses security challenges in a specified geographical territory

Quick facts

- The 1st tri-service command is the Andaman and Nicobar Command which was formed in 2001.
- [Shekatkar Committee](#) is associated with military reforms.

References

1. [The Hindu | The Inter-Services Organisations Bill 2023](#)
2. [PIB | Shekatkar Committee](#)
3. [Deccan Herald | Andaman And Nicobar Command](#)
4. [PRS | Key Provisions Of The Bill](#)