

Q: The government is set to announce the appointment of the chief of Defence staff, which would play a far more critical role in the national security apparatus, than 3 Service chiefs. ^{Commonwealth}

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is a high military office that oversees and coordinates the working of the three services. It offers seamless tri-service views and single-point advice to the PM on long-term defence planning and management, including workforce, equipment and strategy and co-ordination in operations.

COMMON ROLE FOR CDS

1. charge of new organisation
- for tackling future threats.
 - Development of future technologies and face emerging threats in the Cyber, space, missiles, nurturing of AI based platform and future drones etc.,
 - Usage of drones and modern conflict realities.
2. Cost-effective development
- facilitate optimal and cost effective defence development according to the defence budgets
 - Optimization of existing structure and man power.
3. Integrating workforce
- Unitary operational control
 - CDS → better placed for integrating employment of workforce potential.

OTHER CRITICAL ROLE FOR CDS:-

1. National security decisions are always taken after multitude of advisory inputs from a number of agencies, duly analysis and end probabilities.
2. CDS → Primary military advisor → with the service chiefs also remaining important military advisors.
3. CDS should not become another interposed level between the Raksha Mantri and the Service chiefs, whose access to the minister should remain as prevalent.
4. CDS ~~not~~ should not be boxed into administrative efficiency roles, but must be in the operational control chain.
5. In the interim, CDS may not override the operational responsibility of the service chiefs.
5.1 His operational responsibility can expand and become more 'hands-on'.

Thus, it is clear that the CDS would play a far critical role in national security. CDS function in our defence is like from being 'first among equals' to 'first above the others'.