



# Unified Commanders Conference

## Why in News

The **Unified Commanders Conference** (UCC) which was scheduled to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020 has been postponed in the wake of the **Covid-19 pandemic**.

## Key Points

- It is the **annual meeting of three armed force services** (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the **Ministry of Defence** to plan India's **long term security**.
- It provides a **platform for discussions at the apex Level on all the Joint Issues** and **enables stock taking of the previous year** and **planning the way ahead for the next year**.
- It is **chaired by the Defence Minister, Minister of State (Defence)** and also **attended by** the ministry top officials, **National Security Advisor** (NSA), **Chief of Defence Staff** (CDS), service chiefs and senior officers of the three services.

## National Security Advisor

- The National Security Advisor **acts as the secretary of the National Security Council (NSC)** of India and is also the **primary advisor to the Prime Minister**.
- The current National Security Advisor is **Ajit Doval**.

## National Security Council

- It is a **three-tiered organization** that **oversees political, economic, energy and security issues of strategic concern**.
- India formed it in **1999**, where all aspects of national security are deliberated upon by it.
- NSC acts as the **apex body, headed by the Prime Minister**.
  - It operates **within the executive office of the Prime Minister of India**, liaising between the government's executive branch and the intelligence services, advising leadership on intelligence and security issues.
- The Ministers of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs and Finance are its **members**.
- NSC comprises of the three tier structure- **Strategic Policy Group** (SPG), the **National Security Advisory Board** (NSAB) and the **National Security Council Secretariat**.
  - The SPG chaired by the Cabinet Secretary is the principal forum for **inter-ministerial coordination and integration** of the relevant inputs.
  - The NSAB **undertakes long-term analysis and provides perspectives** on issues of national security.

