



Inter-Services Organisations Act

For Prelims: [Inter-Services Organisations \(ISOs\) \(Command, Control, and Discipline\) Act](#), [Army Act of 1950](#), [Chief of Defence Staff \(CDS\)](#)

For Mains: Key features of the Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) Act, Significance of Integration of Armed Forces

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the Government has notified the [Inter-Services Organisations \(ISOs\) \(Command, Control, and Discipline\) Act](#) empowering the **Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command of Inter-services Organisations** to manage personnel from all branches of the military, streamlining operations and fostering collaboration.

What are the Key Features of the Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) Act?

- **Background:**
 - Currently, the [Armed Forces](#) operate under distinct Service Acts like the [Army Act of 1950](#), the [Navy Act of 1957](#), and the [Air Force Act of 1950](#).
 - However, the **diverse nature** of these acts has sometimes posed **challenges in maintaining** uniform discipline, coordination, and expeditious proceedings across the inter-service establishments.
 - The **ISO Act** does not propose any alteration to the existing service acts, rules, or regulations.
- **Features of the Act:**
 - **Empowering ISO Leadership:**
 - The Act grants Commanders-in-Chief and Officers-in-Command of ISOs the authority to **exercise disciplinary and administrative control** over service personnel under their command, regardless of their specific branch (Army, Navy, Air Force).
 - This [simplifies command structure](#) and ensures efficient decision-making within ISOs.
 - **Constituting and Classifying ISOs:**
 - Existing ISOs like the [Andaman and Nicobar Command](#), [Defence Space Agency](#) and the **National Defence Academy** will be formally recognised under the Act.
 - The central government may constitute an **Inter-services Organisation** which has personnel belonging to **at least two of the three services**: the army, the navy, and the air force.
 - ISO will be placed under the command of an **Officer-in-Command**.
 - A **Joint Services Command (tri-service)** can also be formed, which will be placed under the command of a **Commander-in-Chief**.
 - **Applicability and Qualifications:**
 - It can be **extended to other centrally controlled forces** beyond the Army,

Navy, and Air Force.

- It outlines the **eligibility criteria** for **Commanders-in-Chief** and **Officers-in-Command**, specifying high-ranking officers from each service.
- **Control and Commanding Officer:**
 - The **central government retains ultimate authority over ISOs** and can issue directives related to national security, administration, and public interest.
 - It establishes the **Commanding Officer position**, responsible for a specific unit, ship, or establishment within an ISO.
 - They will carry out duties assigned by the higher leadership and have the authority to initiate disciplinary or administrative actions concerning personnel under their command.

Note:

- **Joint command** in **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** is the **first Tri-Service theatre command** of the Indian Armed Forces, based at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India.
 - The Indian armed forces **currently have 17 commands**. There are **7 commands** each of the Army and the Air Force. The **Navy has 3 commands**.
 - Each command is **headed by a 4-star rank military officer**.
- **Theaterisation of Armed Forces:**
 - It is the **integration of the army, air force, and navy** under a single unified command structure for a **specific geographical area**.
 - Under it **all the assets and resources** of the three services in that area are placed **under a single commander** responsible for planning and executing all military operations.

What is the Significance of Integration of Armed Forces?

- **Enhanced Operational Effectiveness:**
 - Joint planning and training foster better coordination and understanding between services, crucial for modern warfare.
 - **For example:** **Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) Act, 2024** empowers the leadership of ISOs to execute a unified command.
- **Faster Decision-Making:**
 - Streamlined command structures within integrated units allow for quicker decision-making on the battlefield.
 - Established in 2019, the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** is a **single-point military advisor** to the government, facilitating **better coordination in defence planning and procurement**.
- **Optimum Resource Utilisation:**
 - Integration **reduces duplication of efforts** and optimises resource allocation across all services.
 - The creation of integrated theatre commands aims to **streamline planning, logistics, and operations**.

Government Initiatives Regarding Integration of Armed Forces:

- **Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) Act, 2024**
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**
- **Idea of Integrated Theatre Commands**

Conclusion

The process of integration of Indian armed forces has been a long-term vision and past steps seem to be in the right direction. Also, the inclusion of modern warfare systems similar to **China's information support force, cyberspace force**, or the **USA's space forces**, can enhance India's defence-related capabilities to match modern warfare needs and challenges.

Drishti Mains Question:

Q. Discuss key features of the Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) Act. What are significance and challenges related to integration of armed forces?

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. In the Constitution of India, the promotion of international peace and security is included in the (2014)

- (a) Preamble to the Constitution
- (b) Directive Principles of State Policy
- (c) Fundamental Duties
- (d) Ninth Schedule

Ans: (b)

Mains :

Q. "The diverse nature of India as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which is seen in her neighborhood." Discuss along with strategies to be adopted to counter this environment. **[2014]**