



Chief of Defence Staff

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The Prime Minister has announced the establishment of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) for the three services – the Indian Army, the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force.

- The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is a post that will act as the **single-point advisor** to the Government of India.
- It will **synergise long term planning, procurement, training and logistics** of the three Services, and ensure better **coordination** between them.
- The creation of a CDS to act as a single point military adviser to the Prime Minister on strategic issues was one of the key recommendations of the **Kargil review committee** on higher military reforms after the 1999 conflict.

Need for Chief of Defence Staff

- **Incoherency:** In general, the policy formulation is done by Defense Secretary, who is a bureaucrat, while its execution rests with Chiefs of armed forces. **This makes defence policy incoherent.**
- **Modern Warfare:** The emergence of **modern warfare domains** like Space, Cyber etc, requires a more **integrated approach** to defense strategy.
- A **group of ministers that was formed in 2001** to explore necessary reforms required to improve India's national security had also favoured creating the post of Chief of Defence Staff.
- In **2012 Naresh Chandra task force** recommended the appointment of a permanent chairman of chiefs of staff committee.
The permanent chairman of chiefs of staff committee is the senior most of the three Chiefs.
- The CDS is also one of the 99 recommendations made by the **Lt. General D.B. Shekatkar (retd.) committee (2016)**.

Significance

- The creation of the CDS will eventually lead to the **formation of tri-service theatre commands** intended to create vertical integration of the three forces.
- This is expected to **save money** by avoiding duplication between the Services, at a time of shrinking capital expenditure within the defence budget.
- It will help India in **Defense diplomacy**.

Source: TH