



Deputation of DIGs

For Prelims: Central deputation of Deputy Inspector General-level IPS officer, All India Services, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

For Mains: Federalism, Policing system.

Why in News?

Recently, the Centre has issued another order on the **central deputation of Deputy Inspector General-level IPS officers**.

- The order held that IPS officers coming to the Centre at the **DIG level** would **no longer be required to be empanelled at that level** with the Union Government.
- The order came after its [proposal to amend the All India Service Rules](#) that would allow it to call any IAS, IPS or IFoS officer on central deputation with or without the state's consent.

What is the Order?

- According to **existing rules**, a DIG-ranked IPS officer with a **minimum experience of 14 years** could only be deputed to the Centre if the **Police Establishment Board** empanelled them as DIGs at the Centre.
 - The board chooses the panel on the basis of officers' career and vigilance records.
 - **Till now, only the Superintendent of Police-level officers** does not require empanelment at the Centre.
- The new order makes the **entire pool of DIG-level officers in a state eligible for central deputation**.
- However, this **would not automatically allow DIGs to come to the Centre**. Officers would still have to be put on the offer list for central deputation which is decided by the states and the Centre in consultation.

Why has it been issued?

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** said the move is aimed at increasing the pool of DIG-level IPS officers for central deputation in the **backdrop of massive vacancies in Central Police Organisations (CPOs) and the [Central Armed Police Forces \(CAPFs\)](#)**.
 - According to data sourced from various CPOs and CAPFs, out of 252 posts reserved for IPS officers at DIG level at the Centre, 118 (almost half) are vacant.
 - Also, it increases the size of the pool of officers available to the Centre.
- IPS officers have a quota of 40% in CPOs and CAPFs. The Centre had in November 2019 written to states **proposing to decrease this quota by 50%**, saying more than 60% of posts remain vacant since most states do not spare their officers.
- Also, MHA held that the **number of districts in some states doubled in a decade or so, the availability of officers was one third**.

Why would states have a problem?

- The new order may be seen by many states as the Centre's attempt at pushing the envelope further on **increasing its powers over officers serving in the states**.
 - Further, there is a **serious paucity of officers in the states too**.
- It is against the **spirit of cooperative federalism**.
- The proposed amendment would weaken the **State's political control over the bureaucracy**.
- It would affect effective governance and **create avoidable legal and administrative disputes**.
- The Centre could weaponise the **bureaucracy against an elected State government**.

All India Services (AIS)

- **About:** The All India Services (AIS) comprises the three civil services of India:
 - **Indian Administrative Service (IAS),**
 - **Indian Police Service (IPS), and**
 - **Indian Forest Service (IFoS).**
- **Federal Nature of AIS Officers:** AIS officers are **recruited by the Union Government** (by UPSC) and their services are **allotted under various State Cadres**.
 - Hence, they have the **accountability to serve both under the State and the Centre**.
 - However, the **Cadre Controlling Authority** of AIS is the Union Government.
 - The DoPT is the cadre controlling authority of IAS officers.
 - Cadre controlling authority for deputation of **Indian Police Service and Indian Forest Service Officers (IFoS)** is the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Environment Ministry respectively**.
- **Central Deputation Reserve:** The State government has to prescribe a number of officers available for deputation as prescribed under Central Deputation Reserve.
 - Every State cadre of the service provides for a **Central deputation quota** which in turn requires additional recruitment to be made to the service to provide for trained and experienced members to serve on posts in the Central Government.
- **Deputation of AIS Officer and Present Rules:**
 - In normal practice, the **Centre asks every year for an "offer list"** of officers of the All India Services willing to go on central deputation, after which it selects officers from that list.
 - Officers have to get a **no-objection clearance** from the State government for Central deputation.
 - States have to depute the All India Services (AIS) officers, to the Central government offices and at any point, it cannot be more than **40% of the total cadre strength**.

[Source: IE](#)

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