



Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill 2023

For Prelims: [Inter-Services Organisation \(Command, Control & Discipline\) Bill - 2023](#), [Andaman and Nicobar Command](#), Commands of Indian Army, Navy, Air Force.

For Mains: Salient Features of Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill - 2023

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Lok Sabha recently passed the [Inter-Services Organisation \(Command, Control & Discipline\) Bill - 2023](#) with the aim to bolster the efficiency, discipline, and jointness among the Armed Forces.

What is the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill 2023?

▪ Background: :

- Currently, the [Armed Forces](#) operate under **distinct Service Acts - the [Army Act 1950](#), [Navy Act 1957](#), and [Air Force Act 1950](#).**
 - However, the diverse nature of these acts has sometimes posed challenges in **maintaining uniform discipline, coordination, and expeditious proceedings** across the inter-services establishments.
 - The **Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control, & Discipline) Bill - 2023**, addresses these concerns with its forward-looking provisions.
- ISO Bill 2023 **does not propose any alteration to the existing Service Acts, Rules, or Regulations** that have stood the test of time and judicial scrutiny over several decades.

▪ Salient Features:

- **Applicability:** The bill is applicable to **all regular Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel.**
 - Also, the central government **holds the right to designate any force established and maintained within India** to which the provisions of the bill will apply.
- **Inter-services Organisation:** Existing **Inter-services Organisations** will be deemed to have been constituted under the Bill. These include the [Andaman and Nicobar Command](#), **the Defence Space Agency, and the [National Defence Academy](#).**
 - 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.**

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.

- **Expanded Command and Control Authority:** One of the central tenets of the bill is the extension of command and control authority to the **Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command of an Inter-services Organisation**.
 - Unlike the existing structure, **where these officers lack disciplinary and administrative powers** over personnel from other services, the bill empowers them to exercise full command and control.
 - This includes maintaining discipline and ensuring the proper execution of duties by service personnel.

- **Commanding Officer:** The bill introduces the concept of a Commanding Officer, **responsible for overseeing a unit, ship, or establishment**.
 - This officer, in addition to their unit-specific duties, also carries out tasks assigned by the Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command of the Inter-services Organisation.

- **Central Government Authority:** The superintendence of an Inter-services Organisation will be vested in the central government.
 - The government may also issue directions to such organizations on grounds of **national security, general administration, or public interest**.

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