



Theaterisation of Armed Forces

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What is Theaterisation?

It is a concept that **seeks to integrate the capabilities of the three services** – army, air force and navy – and **optimally utilise their resources** for wars and operations.

There will be **specific theatre commands – or units – could be geographical** – like looking at a border with a particular country – **or thematic**, like a command for all maritime threats.

The **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** has been given task of establishment of joint/ theatre commands.

Several nations have theatre commands, **including the US and China.**



What are the Advantages?

- Synergy among all branches of Indian Armed Forces
- Cohesive and Compact Fighting Force
- Utilising the Logistics of all three Services
- Improved Troop Acclimatisation
- Theatre-Specific Resource Optimization
- Speedy Mobilisation and Intel Sharing



What are the Challenges?

- Budgetary Allocations and the Distribution of Finances
- Assets becoming dispersed by multiplication of theatre commands
- Nomenclature and Jurisdiction of Commands
- Leadership of Theatre commands
- Dilution of powers of Armed Services Chiefs

What is the Current Command Structure?

17 single-service commands

- ▶ Army- 7
- ▶ Navy- 7
- ▶ Air Force- 3

Two tri-Service Commands [Strategic Forces Command] and the Andaman and Nicobar Command

Shekatkar Committee Recommendation (2015)

Creation of 3 integrated theatre commands

- ▶ Northern - China border
- ▶ Western - Pakistan border
- ▶ Southern- Maritime Security



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