

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

Inter-Services Organisation Bill, 2023

IN CONTEXT: The passage of the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill, by the Parliament is a step closer towards realizing the long-awaited reform of the Armed Forces in India.

What is the current setup of armed forces in India?

Service Acts- Armed forces personnel in India are governed separately by

- ✓ The Army Act, 1950
- ✓ The Navy Act, 1957
- ✓ The Air Force Act, 1950

Issues

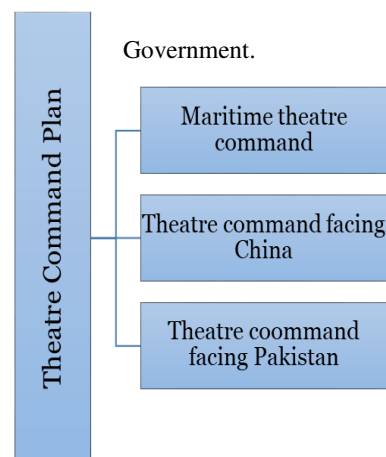
- ✓ **Disciplinary action-** The Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command of such Inter-services Organisations (ISOs) are not empowered to exercise disciplinary and administrative powers over the personnel belonging to other services.
- ✓ This has a direct impact on command, control and discipline of the Inter-services Organisations.
- ✓ **Time consuming-** The personnel serving in the ISOs need to be reverted back to their parent Service units for any disciplinary or administrative action.
- ✓ **Financial constraints-** It has financial implications relating to the movement of the personnel.
- ✓ **Complexities-** The problem becomes more cumbersome when the proceedings arise from the same set of facts and circumstances but involves personnel belonging to different services.
- ✓ **Pendency of cases-** Multiple sets of proceedings under the respective Services Act are required to be initiated, which hampers speedy disposal of cases.

What are the key features of the bill?

- ✓ **Inter-services Organisation-** It will placed under the command of an Officer-in-Command.
- ✓ It includes
 - Andaman and Nicobar Command
 - Defence Space Agency
 - National Defence Academy
- ✓ **Power of central government-** Central government may constitute an Inter-services Organisation which has personnel belonging to at least 2 of the three services.
- ✓ Central government may also issue directions to such organisations on grounds of national security, general administration, or public interest.
- ✓ The central government may notify any force (in addition to the three forces) raised and maintained in India to which the Bill will apply.
- ✓ **Joint Services Command-** It is constituted under Inter Service Organisation which may be placed under the command of a Commander-in-Chief.
- ✓ **Control of Inter-services Organisations-** The Bill empowers the Commander-in-Chief or the Officer-in-Command of an Inter-services Organisation to exercise command and control over the personnel serving in or attached to it.
- ✓ **Commander-in-Chief-** The officers eligible to be appointed as the Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command are
 - A General Officer of the regular Army (above the rank of Brigadier)
 - A Flag Officer of the Navy (rank of Admiral of the Fleet, Admiral, Vice-Admiral, or Rear-Admiral)
 - An Air Officer of the Air Force (above the rank of group captain)
- ✓ The Commander-in-Chief will be empowered to exercise all disciplinary and administrative powers vested in
 - General Officer Commanding the Army
 - Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of a Naval Command
 - Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of an Air Command,
 - Any other officer/authority specified in the service Acts or by the
- ✓ **Commanding officer-** It provides for a Commanding Officer who will be in command of a unit, ship, or establishment.
- ✓ The officer will perform duties assigned by the Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command of the Inter-services Organisation.
- ✓ The officer will be empowered to initiate all disciplinary or administrative actions over the personnel appointed, deputed, posted, or attached to that Inter-services Organisation.

What are the advantages of the move?

- ✓ **Integrated theatre command-** Establishment of Inter Service Organisation will pave the way for creation of integrated theatre command.
- ✓ **Better coordination-** It will help to cope up with the new challenges involved in modern warfare which is more technology and network-centric and aid in better jointness within the military.



- ✓ **Precursor to One Border One Force-**
 - ✓ **Cost effective-** Due to integration of services, there will be speedy disposal of cases and reduce the finance associated with it.
 - ✓ **Simplification-** It simplifies the multiple set of proceedings, and eases the disciplinary action against the personnel.

WAY FORWARD: The integration of Indian armed forces with renewed vigour and future-readiness has been indeed boosted by this bill. China, with whom India shares a long and contested border, reorganised its 7 military regions into 5 theatre commands a few years ago. India also needed to evolve its response to such changes.

SCIENCE

Lymphatic Filariasis

In Context: Union Health & Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya declared that India is committed to eradicating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, surpassing the global target by three years.

Lymphatic Filariasis

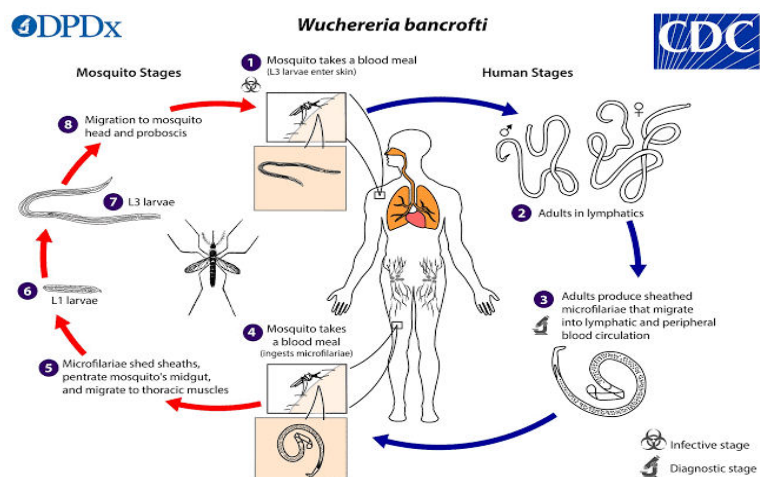
- ✓ Filariasis is a disease caused by a chronic mosquito-borne parasitic infection. Chronic infection can lead to swelling of the extremities, hydroceles, and testicular masses.
- ✓ It is the second-largest cause of permanent deformity and disability behind leprosy worldwide.
- ✓ Lymphatic filariasis is a neglected tropical disease that causes significant morbidity in the developing world.
- ✓ The Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis is providing mass drug administrations (MDA) to populations in endemic areas in a push to eradicate this disease.
- ✓ **Etiology**
- ✓ Causes- Three species of nematode parasites: *Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Brugia malayi*, and *Brugia timori*
- ✓ Vectors- *Aedes*, *Anopheles*, *Culex*, *Mansonia*, and *Ochlerotatus*.
- ✓ **Epidemiology**
- ✓ It affects 120 million people in 72 countries worldwide, mostly in the tropics and subtropical climates of Asia, Africa, the Western Pacific, South America, and the Caribbean.
- ✓ Four countries in America are endemic: Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Brazil.
- ✓ One-third of children in endemic regions are asymptotically infected with *W. bancrofti*.
- ✓ Half of the patients infected are in their 30s or 40s, and there is a 10:1 predilection for men to women.

Trend and present endemicity of filariasis in India

- ✓ The estimates in 2001 indicate that about 473 million people are exposed to the risk of bancroftian infection and of these about 125 million live in urban areas and about 348 million in rural areas.
- ✓ About 31 million people are estimated to be harbouring microfilaria (mf) and over 23 million suffer from filaria disease manifestations.
- ✓ The state of Bihar has the highest endemicity (over 17%) followed by Kerala (15.7%) and Uttar Pradesh (14.6%).
- ✓ *B. malayi* nocturnal periodic infection is prevalent in the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal. The single largest tract of this infection lies along the west coast of Kerala.

Pathophysiology

- ✓ Humans are the primary reservoir for this parasitic disease, and mosquitoes are the vector.
- ✓ The mosquito deposits larvae into the bloodstream.
- ✓ They take up residence in the lymph nodes and grow into adult worms.
- ✓ The larvae have a predilection to deposit in femoral lymph nodes.
- ✓ They undergo sexual reproduction, and females give birth to countless microfilariae, which are dumped into circulation in a diurnal pattern.
- ✓ The proliferation of adult worms disrupts the lymphatic drainage and increases the susceptibility to repeated infections - most notably streptococcal and fungal infections.



Main challenge

- ✓ The major challenge with the currently available drugs is that the interruption of transmission requires very high treatment coverage (probably > 85% of the total population) to achieve elimination.
- ✓ Current approaches to drug delivery do not achieve this (only 40-60% get treated if mass treatment is executed by regular health services).
- ✓ There is an urgent need for more effective drug delivery strategies for lymphatic filariasis elimination that are adapted to regional differences and variations in health sector development.

Filariasis Control in India

- ✓ After a pilot project in Orissa from 1949 to 1954, the National Filaria Control Programme (NFPCP) was launched in the country in 1955, to delimit the problem, to undertake control measures in endemic areas and to train personnel to man the programme.
- ✓ The main control measures were mass DEC administration, antilarval measures in urban areas and indoor residual spray in rural areas.
- ✓ The revised program was launched in 1996-97 in 13 districts in seven endemic states namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, where MDA was undertaken.
- ✓ India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, three years ahead of the global target through mission mode, multi-partner, multi-sector, targeted drive for which we have drawn up the roadmap”.

Way ahead

- ✓ Efforts shouldn't merely be focused on medication but also on curbing disease transmission via mosquitoes.
- ✓ Enhanced synergy between state and central governments is the need of the hour.
- ✓ Community engagement plays a pivotal role. Ex. Health initiatives like the Ni-kshay Mitra spotlighted the impact of grassroots involvement in health missions.
- ✓ The "Whole of Government" and "Whole of Society" approach is pivotal to successfully eliminating the disease.
- ✓ Awareness campaigns at local levels, such as villages and panchayats are pivotal.
- ✓ Given the significance of diligent medicine consumption, it is recommended that the medication be done under the watch of healthcare professionals to ensure efficacy.
- ✓ Second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative.
- ✓ National Guidelines for Clinical Management of Dengue and Chikungunya Fevers for 2023.

Conclusion: Better diagnostics and procedures need to be developed for monitoring and surveillance. Research is required on the progression and reversibility of disease manifestations, especially in children and after (mass) treatment. Another priority is the development of new drugs or drug combinations for curative treatment or sustained suppression of the (larval) microfilariae forms of the parasite.

PRELIM FACTS

1. Hmar community

In context: Hmar Inpui, the apex tribal body of the Hmar community, recently asked the Centre to expedite the processes of resolving the demands of the tribal communities in the form of separate administration for the Kuki/Hmar/Zomi.

About Hmar community:

- ✓ Hmar tribe, also called Mhar or Mar, are the dwellers of the North Eastern Part of India.
- ✓ They inhabit the northeastern states of Manipur, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura.
- ✓ The Hmars belong to the Chin-Kuki-Mizo group of tribes and are recognised as Scheduled Tribe under the Constitution of India.

Origin:

- ✓ Hmar Tribes claim their origin from the Singlung, which is located in central or south-west China.
- ✓ The ancestors of Hmar belong to the Chinese dynasty. They are found in the Rippaimukh area, Jiribam and Khuga areas and Churachandpur area of Manipur.
- ✓ Hmar tribes mostly reside in the southern area of Manipur, especially in the districts of Churachandpur and its neighbouring regions.

Clans:

- ✓ The Hmar society is based on clan system.
- ✓ Each clan had a dialect of its own, though nowadays a common dialect used by the Hmar People was developed by Christian missionaries.
- ✓ The chief of the village council is called "Lal". Everybody follows his leadership and directive.

Society:

- ✓ The society is patrilineal and patriarchal in nature.
- ✓ Father is the head of the family. Joint family is common among them.
- ✓ The clan is not exogamous in Hmar society.
- ✓ They practice both inter-clan and intra-clan marriage.
- ✓ Hmars built their villages on hill -tops & houses are constructed on wooden planks.

Economic Life:

- ✓ The Hmar tribes depend on forest products.
- ✓ Shifting cultivation is the main and traditional occupation and blacksmith, carpentry, poultry, basketry, priesthood, herbal medicine are subsidiary occupation.

2. Mushkbudji Rice

In context: Recently, Mushkbudji Rice received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

About Mushkbudji Rice:

- ✓ It is short bold aromatic rice grown in higher reaches of Kashmir valley.
- ✓ The cooked rice is unique and possesses a harmonious blend of taste, aroma and rich organoleptic properties.

- ✓ It is mainly grown in areas of Sagam, Panzgam and Soaf Shali of district Anantnag and Beerwah belt of district Budgam.
- ✓ The consumption of aromatic rice in Kashmir has now been limited to special occasions, marriages, and festivals.

What is a Geographical Indication Tag?

- ✓ It is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- ✓ This is typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts and industrial products.
- ✓ The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- ✓ This GI tag is valid for 10 years following which it can be renewed.

3. Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

In context: India's Index of Industrial Production in India declined to a three-month low of 3.7 per cent in June, mainly due to poor showing by the manufacturing sector.

About Index of Industrial Production:

- ✓ It is one of the Prime indicators of economic development for the measurement of trends in the behavior of Industrial Production over a period of time with reference to a chosen base year.
- ✓ It indicates the relative change of physical production in the field of industries during a specified year as compared to the previous year.
- ✓ It is computed and published by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on a monthly basis.

Base Year: The base is always given a value of 100. The current base year for the IIP series in India is 2011-12. So, if the current IIP reads as 116, it means that there has been 16% growth compared to the base year.

Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):

- ✓ ICI measures the collective and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Petroleum Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.
- ✓ The objective of the ICI is to provide an advance indication of production performance of industries of 'core' nature before the release of IIP by the Central Statistics Office.
- ✓ These industries are likely to impact general economic activities as well as industrial activities.
- ✓ The Index is compiled and released by the Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

4. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill

In Context: Union Home Minister introduced three bills in the Lok Sabha to replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill respectively.

A legacy goes

Govt. says the overhaul of the British-era codes will make the criminal justice system citizen-friendly. Key changes:



Indian Penal Code, 1860, will be replaced by Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, will be replaced by Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)

Indian Evidence Act, 1872, will be replaced by Bharatiya Sakshya (BS)

Govt. says sedition law has been repealed, but Section 150 of the BNS deals with the offence. It does not use term 'sedition' but describes the offence as "endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India".

Key provisions for sedition:

- ✓ Section 150 of The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 deals with the offence of sedition.
- ✓ However, it does not use the word sedition but describes the offence as endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
- ✓ The new provision brings under its sweep aiding through financial means and acts of subversive activities, or those encouraging feelings of separatist activities.
- ✓ The Commission had recommended adding the words with a tendency to incite violence or cause public disorder.

- ✓ It also defined tendency to incite violence as a mere inclination to incite violence or cause public disorder rather than proof of actual violence or imminent threat to violence.

Current law on sedition

- ✓ Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with the subject of sedition.
- ✓ It says that whoever brings into hatred or contempt, or excites disaffection towards the Government established by law shall be punished with imprisonment for life and/or fine or with imprisonment which may extend to three years and/or fine.
- ✓ The expression “disaffection” includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity.
- ✓ Comments expressing disapprobation of the measures of the Government with a view to obtain their alteration by lawful means, without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section.
- ✓ Comments expressing disapprobation of the administrative or other action of the Government without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section.

5. International Youth Day 2023:

In context: Every year, on the 12th of August, the global community comes together to celebrate International Youth Day.

History of International Youth Day

- ✓ An International policy on youth was emphasised between 1965 and 1975 by the UN General Assembly and the UN Economic & Social Council and both focused on three key areas i.e. participation, development, and peace.
- ✓ In 1999, the United Nations decided to commemorate International Youth Day on 12 August, every year.
- ✓ It was based on a recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon to the UN General Assembly.
- ✓ The first International Youth Day was observed on 12th August 2000.

Theme of International Youth Day, 2023

- ✓ To celebrate the day, the United Nations decides a theme every year that is relevant to all global communities and citizens.
- ✓ International Youth Day 2023 theme is “Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World”. “Intergenerational solidarity: creating a world for all ages” was the focus of IYD 2022. The purpose of choosing this theme is to emphasise the necessity for action among all generations to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure that no one is left behind

Significance of International Youth Day

- ✓ International Youth Day is celebrated to give an opportunity to young peoples’ voices, actions and mainstream initiatives. This also encompasses their meaningful, universal and equitable engagement.
- ✓ One of the aims of the day is to recognise the importance of youth participation in political, economic and social life and processes.
- ✓ International Youth Day also recognises the efforts of the world’s youth in enhancing global society and to draw attention regarding cultural and legal problems surrounding youngsters.
- ✓ The day also promotes various ways to engage youngsters in making positive contributions to their communities.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. “Indian society is more rhetorical than rational.” In the light of the statement, assess Indian society on the scales of rationality and scientific temper.

- Indian society is more emotional, reactionary and tolerant due to its socio-cultural background. In any event e.g. marriage or celebration, we tend to express our emotions in overwhelming way. Nowadays, whenever any big event or development happens, people immediately give their responses on social media.
- This has acted as obstacle for rational thinking and has promoted many social evils. The Indian society has many social evils such as superstitions, dowry practice, domestic violence of women, religious obscurantism. These practices are deeply rooted in our society. Though with time, many social reformers such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy and rationalist in recent times such as Narendra Dabholkar and Kalaburgi has tried to promote scientific temper in our society.
- Due to socio-cultural factors being tolerant is one such cause to corruption - society is tolerant because of soft nature. It is tolerant to both good things and bad things. It comes from belief in religion. There is no sense of rejection against bad practices. India is one major country which didn't experience revolution.
- A scientific temper refers to an open, questioning, seeking mind. A mind that seeks truth and accepts it when proven. A mind that is ready to consider that an alternative viewpoint could have merit. A mind that is curious to understand the ‘whys’ and ‘hows’ of life while accepting that all questions may not be fully answerable. The defining characteristics of a scientific mindset are curiosity, logical ability, objectivity, criticality, emphasis on empirical evidence, open-mindedness, the ability to discern fact from hypothesis, ability to recognize self-limitation, and an interest in new developments.
- A person of scientific temper experiences indirectly an internal strength that orders life. Order results from internal strength than from external induction. Spiritualists call it Self-realisation. It is the Scientific Temper that helps in developing Secularism, Humanism & Spirit of enquiry and reform.
- Scientific temper involves many parameters. It is characterized by healthy scepticism, universalism, freedom from prejudice or bias, objectivity, open mindedness and humility, willingness to suspend judgement without sufficient evidence, rationality, perseverance and last but not the least a positive

approach to failure. The hallmark of all decision-making by a person with scientific temper is logic, rationality and verifiability.

- **Conclusion:** Every person has the Constitutional Fundamental Duty to practice scientific temper and rationality. Role of educational institutions like schools and colleges and civil servants become important in inculcation of scientific temper among the children and common people in the country.

MCQ

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Index of Industrial Production (IIP):
 1. It is computed and published by the Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
 2. The current base year for the IIP series in India is 2011-12.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - a) Only 1
 - b) **Only 2**
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Mushkbudji Rice, which was recently seen in the news, is cultivated in:
 - a) Kerala
 - b) Andhra Pradesh
 - c) West Bengal
 - d) **Kashmir valley**
3. Batagaika crater, recently seen in the news, is located in which of the following countries?
 - a) France
 - b) **Russia**
 - c) Papua New Guinea
 - d) Australia
4. Which one of the following Ministries is responsible for implementation of 'Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana'?
 - a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 - b) **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**
 - c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
 - d) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
5. Considered the following statement regarding International Youth Day.
 1. 12th of August, the global community comes together to celebrate International Youth Day.
 2. International Youth Day 2023 theme is "Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World".
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) **Both 1 and 2**
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Which of the following statement(s) about Earendel is/are correct?
 1. Earendel is the hottest star ever discovered.
 2. The discovery of Earendel was made possible through gravitational lensing.
 3. Earendel was named after a character in "The Lord of the Rings" by J.R.R. Tolkien.
 4. Earendel is located in the Milky Way galaxy.
 Please select the correct option:
 - a) 1 only
 - b) **2 and 3**
 - c) 1 and 2
 - d) 2, 3, and 4
7. Which of the following statements about Takakia and its adaptations is/are correct?
 1. Takakia is a common moss species found in various regions worldwide.
 2. Takakia's genetic traits have developed over the past few decades.
 3. Takakia's habitat on the Tibetan Plateau is characterized by snow cover for eight months of the year.
 4. Takakia's adaptations are primarily related to surviving in arid desert conditions.
 Code:
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) **3 only**
 - c) 1 and 4 only
 - d) 2 and 3 only
8. Considered the following statement regarding Lymphatic Filariasis.
 1. Union Health & Family Welfare declared that India is committed to eradicating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027
 2. Filariasis is a disease caused by a chronic mosquito-borne parasitic infection.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) **Both 1 and 2**
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Considered the following are comes under Eight Core Industries (ICI)
 1. 1.Coal
 2. Crude Oil
 3. Petroleum Refinery Products,
 4. Fertilizers
 Code:
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 1 and 4
 - c) Only 3 and 4
 - d) **All of the above**
10. Match the followings

Act	-	Rename
1. Indian penal code	-	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita
2. Criminal Procedure Act	-	Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita
3. Indian Evidence Act	-	Bharatiya Sakshya

 How many of the following statemen is/are correct?
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) **Only 3**
 - d) None