



THEATERISATION AND MILITARY REFORM - DEFENCE

NEWS: Army chief outlined the three-phase approach towards enhancing jointness across the armed forces, at a time when the military is ready to present its theaterisation model to the decision-makers.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

- Theaterisation aims for jointness and integration among armed forces, optimizing resources for future warfare.
- The planned Theaterisation model includes:
 - *Northern Theatre Command* in Lucknow, focused on China.
 - *Western Theatre Command* in Jaipur, focused on Pakistan.
 - *Maritime Theatre Command* in Thiruvananthapuram, covering maritime operations.



Three-Phase Approach to Jointness

- **Jointness 1.0:** Initial integration phase focusing on:
 - Coordinating acquisition planning, joint courses, and establishing operational logistic nodes.
 - Currently, three nodes are fully operational, with four more in progress.



- **Jointness 2.0:** Doctrinal alignment phase focusing on:
 - Standardizing doctrines, procedures, and forming joint maintenance units for major platforms.
- **Jointness 3.0:** Advanced integration phase focusing on:
 - Expanding common operational planning, tech sharing, and pooling resources like UAVs and ISR systems.

Integrated Theatre Command

It is a unified command in which the resources of all the services are unified under a single commander looking at a geographical theater.

- The commander of a joint command will have the freedom to train and equip his command as per the objective and will have logistics of all the services at his beckoning. The three services will retain their independent identities as well.
- A committee headed by Lieutenant General D B Shekatkar had recommended three commands: Northern, for China; Western, for the Pakistan border' and Southern, for maritime security.

Integrated Commands vs. Jointness

- *Jointness:* Allows each service to maintain its identity while coordinating operations and sharing resources in combat.
- *Integrated Commands:* Aims to unify service identities into a single, cohesive force, achieving full integration.

Advantages of Theaterisation and Jointness

- Enhances *operational efficiency* by acclimatizing troops to specific battlespaces.
- Streamlines *training and specialization*, tailoring drills to each theater's needs.
- *Rapid mobilization* in high-intensity situations through coordinated efforts.
- Enables *theater-specific allocation of military assets*, optimizing resources.
- Ensures *unified command* for quicker decision-making, reducing hierarchical redundancies.

Challenges in Implementation

- *Inter-Service Differences:* Conflicts over command scope, structure, and control remain among the three branches.
- *Resource Allocation:* Concerns over equipment deployment and ambiguity about transferring weapons and platforms between commands.
- *Educational Framework:* A lag in adapting military education to prepare personnel for theater commands.

Concluding Remarks



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- The three-phase approach provides a robust framework for jointness, setting the foundation for a unified command structure.
- However, addressing inter-service differences, updating training curricula, and establishing clear resource-sharing protocols are essential for successful implementation.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/army-chief-gen-upendra-dwivedi-highlights-3-step-approach-to-boost-jointness-101730899649513.html>



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