



# CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details " Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)". This topic has relevance in the Environment section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

### **For Prelims:**

*Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)?*

### **For Mains:**

*GS 3: Environment*

*Key Functions of CPCB?*

### **Why in the news?**

The state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) have been penalized by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for failing to install pollution control equipment at their petrol stations. In the respective stock exchange filings, IOC faces a fine of Rs 1 crore, while BPCL incurs a penalty of Rs 2 crore.

### **About Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB):**

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is a legally established organization, founded in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Additionally, the CPCB was also entrusted with powers and responsibilities under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

### **Key Functions:**

- **Policy Advice:** CPCB plays a crucial role in advising the Central Government on matters concerning the prevention and control of water and air pollution, with the overarching aim of enhancing air quality.
- **National Programs:** The CPCB designs and oversees the implementation of nationwide programs aimed at preventing, controlling, or reducing water and air pollution.
- **State Board Coordination:** It serves as a coordinating body for the activities of State Pollution Control Boards and resolves disputes between them.
- **Technical Guidance:** The CPCB provides technical guidance and assistance to State Boards, conducts and sponsors research and investigations related to water and air pollution, and strategies for their mitigation.
- **Public Awareness:** The CPCB conducts comprehensive mass awareness programs through mass media to educate and engage the public in efforts to combat water and air pollution.

- **Data Collection and Dissemination:** The organization collects, compiles, and publishes technical and statistical data related to water and air pollution and effective prevention and control measures. It also creates manuals, codes, and guidelines for sewage and effluent treatment and air quality improvement.
- **Environmental Standards:** In consultation with concerned State Governments, the CPCB establishes, modifies, or abolishes standards for water and air quality.
- **Prescribed Functions:** The CPCB carries out any other functions as prescribed by the Government of India in the context of environmental protection and pollution control.

### **Powers of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**

- **Directive Authority:** Under Section 18 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, the CPCB has the power to issue directives to State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs). If any of these directives are not adhered to, the CPCB has the authority to assume the responsibilities of a State Pollution Control Board.
- **Regulatory Control:** According to Section 33A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, the CPCB is empowered to issue directives that may restrict, close, or regulate specific activities, businesses, or processes. It can also regulate the supply of power, freshwater, or other services, if necessary to control pollution.

### **Vapor Recovery System:**

A vapor recovery system is designed to eliminate harmful vapor and liquid contaminants from crude products, enhancing their purity and preventing the release of toxic pollutants into the environment. This process is particularly important in industries dealing with chemical processing, as it helps recover unwanted vapors from storage units, ensuring the safety and purity of chemicals for further use and transportation.

### **Components of a Typical Vapor Recovery Unit (VRU):**

- **Gas Compressor:** The VRU features a gas compressor responsible for compressing and recovering the vapor-laden air or gases from the storage units.
- **Scrubber:** A scrubber is employed to clean and remove impurities from the recovered vapor, improving its quality and environmental safety.
- **Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs):** VFDs are utilized to control and adjust the speed of the gas compressor, optimizing the efficiency of the vapor recovery process.
- **Switching Device:** This component helps in controlling the start-up and shutdown of the VRU and its associated equipment, ensuring safe and effective vapor recovery.

**SOURCE:**

[\*\*Pollution board fines IOC Rs 1 crore, BPCL Rs 2 crore for not installing pollution control devices at their petrol pumps – The Economic Times \(indiatimes.com\)\*\*](#)

### **Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding:**

1. CPCB was established as a statutory body under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. CPCB has the responsibility to address both water and air pollution under the respective Acts.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: B**

**Q.2 Pollution is a pressing global concern, with far-reaching impacts on public health and the environment. Discuss the role of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in India as a regulatory authority in mitigating pollution.**

**Rishabh**

## THEATERISATION OF ARMED FORCES

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Theaterisation of Armed Forces". This topic has relevance in the "Security" section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

### **For Prelims:**

*What is the Theaterisation of Armed Forces?  
What are the different commands of the Armed forces?*

### **For Mains:**

*GS3: Security*

### **Why in the news?**

The Armed Forces have finalised integrated theatre commands, with proposed theatre commanders under a national defence committee led by the Defense Minister.

### **What is Theaterisation?**

- Theaterisation of armed forces is the **integration of the army, air force, and navy under a single unified command structure for a specific geographical area.**
- This means that all the assets and resources of the three services in that area are placed under a **single commander** responsible for planning and executing all military operations.
- A theatre of operations is a specific area in which military operations are conducted. The term can also refer to adapting military forces to the specific challenges and requirements of a particular operational environment, such as a desert, jungle, or urban setting.

### **Examples of theaterisation in practice:**

- **The United States has several theatre commands**, including the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), responsible for the Middle East and Central Asia, and the United States Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM), responsible for the Indo-Pacific region.
- **China has five theater commands:** Northern Theater Command, Southern Theater Command, Eastern Theater Command, Western Theater Command, and Central Theater Command.

## Advantages of Theaterisation

- **Improved coordination and cooperation between the three services:** Theaterisation helps to break down silos and improve coordination and cooperation between the three services. This is essential for effective joint operations.
- **More efficient use of resources:** Theaterisation allows for a more efficient use of resources, as assets can be allocated to where they are most needed, regardless of which service they belong to.
- **Faster and more flexible decision-making:** Theaterisation allows for faster and more flexible decision-making, as the commander is not constrained by the different bureaucratic procedures of the three services.
- **Enhanced deterrence and warfighting capabilities:** Theaterisation can enhance deterrence and warfighting capabilities by creating a more integrated and cohesive force. This can make it more difficult for adversaries to assess and exploit vulnerabilities.
- **Increased synergy and efficiency:** Theaterisation can lead to increased synergy and efficiency in operations, planning, and training. This can result in a more effective and efficient armed force.

## Plans for Theater Commands in India

- The Kargil Review Committee, the Naresh Chandra Committee, and the Group of Ministers all called for significant changes in India's higher defence management.
- The **Shekatkar Committee** was instrumental in proposing the establishment of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) role and the creation of theatre commands.
- According to the reports, the initial phase will involve setting up three theatre commands:
  - To address security challenges along the **Pakistan border located at Jaipur**
  - To counter potential threats from **China, situated at Lucknow**
  - A **maritime theatre command** to protect against maritime threats beyond India's coastal borders located at **Karwar**.

## Implementation Challenges

- **Absence of National Security Strategy (NSS):** Critics, including retired military professionals, highlight the need for a coherent NSS before implementing theatre commands to provide a clear policy blueprint and objectives for their functioning.
- **Inter-Service Disagreements:** The three forces hold differing views regarding the scope, structure, and command authority within theatre commands.
- **Resource Transfer:** Ambiguity surrounds the allocation of war-fighting equipment and the transfer of weapons, platforms, and resources between theatre commands.
- **Inadequate Training:** The nation lags in establishing an adequate curriculum framework for military personnel to serve in theatre commands effectively.

## India's Current Command Structure

- Currently, India maintains 17 single-service commands and two tri-service commands. The 17 single-service commands are categorised as follows:
- **Army: 7 Commands**
  - Northern Command
  - Western Command

- Southern Command
- Eastern Command
- Central Command
- South-Western Command
- Training Command
- **Navy: 3 Commands**
  - Western Naval Command
  - Eastern Naval Command
  - Southern Naval Command
- **Air Force: 5 Commands**
  - Western Air Command
  - Eastern Air Command
  - Central Air Command
  - Southern Air Command
  - Training Command
- **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC):** a tri-service command that is responsible for the security of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Strategic Forces Command (SFC):** a nuclear command responsible for operating and maintaining India's nuclear weapons.

The process of theaterisation necessitates the careful consideration of crucial aspects, such as the **establishment of a well-defined hierarchical chain of command**, the delineation of **relationships between service headquarters and theatre commands**, and the provision of comprehensive **training** to accommodate the diverse roles arising from theaterization. Theaterisation is a significant change for armed forces, but it is a necessary step to ensure that they can meet the challenges of the modern world.

**Sources:**

[Contours of joint theatre commands ready, await Govt nod before tweaks | India News - The Indian Express](#)

**Q1. With reference to Theaterisation, consider the following statements:**

1. A theatre refers to a geographical area where military operations are conducted.
2. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission recommended the creation of theatre commands in the Armed Forces.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

**Answer: (a)**

**Q2. Consider the following:**

1. Andaman and Nicobar Command
2. Strategic Forces Command
3. Training Command
4. Central Command

**How many of the abovementioned factors are tri-service commands of the Armed Forces?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

**Answer: (b)**

**Q3. Discuss the concept of theaterization in military strategy. What are the primary objectives and advantages of implementing theaterization in the armed forces?**

**Gaurav**

