

5 August, 2023

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

Context: The Lok Sabha approved the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill of 2023.

- The Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill of 2023 aims to grant Commander-in-Chief and Officer-in-Command of Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) authority over personnel discipline and administration.

Salient features of Bill

- 'ISO Bill - 2023' covers regular Army, Navy, Air Force, and other specified forces in Inter-Services Organisations.
- Grants disciplinary/administrative powers to Commander-in-Chief, Officer-in-Command, and authorized officers in Inter-Services Organisations, irrespective of service.
- Commander-in-Chief/Officer-in-Command is a General/Flag/Air Officer leading an Inter-Services Organisation.
- In their absence, officiating or designated officers can command and initiate disciplinary/admin actions.
- Commanding Officer of an Inter-Services Organisation can also take similar actions for personnel under their command.
- Central Government can establish Inter-Services Organisations under the bill.

Benefits

- **Discipline Boost:** Empowers ISO Heads for effective discipline maintenance in inter-services establishments.
- **Efficiency:** Eliminates the need to send disciplined personnel back to parent Service units.
- **Swift Resolution:** Speeds up handling of indiscipline cases.
- **Cost and Time Savings:** Prevents multiple proceedings, saving public resources.
- **Integration:** Promotes jointness and integration among the three Services.
- **Foundation for Joint Structures:** Establishes groundwork for future Joint Structures.
- **Enhanced Functioning:** Elevates overall performance of the Armed Forces.

CHD1L Gene

Context: A recent study reveals that individuals of African heritage may carry a CHD1L gene variation, which potentially regulates the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

- The CHD1L gene holds promise in combatting HIV, with an African variant reducing viral load.
- Global HIV-1 impact persists despite antiretroviral progress since 2005.
- CHD1L variant linked to lower viral load, benefitting both transmission risk and disease progression.
- 4% to 13% of African individuals may carry this advantageous variant.
- Experiments reveal CHD1L gene activity in macrophages inhibits HIV replication.
- Macrophages play an unexpected role in the virus's behavior.

About the gene

- CHD1L gene encodes Chromodomain Helicase DNA Binding Protein 1 Like, vital for gene expression and DNA repair.
- It influences chromatin structure, aiding DNA replication, transcription, and repair.
- CHD1L contributes to DNA repair processes, preventing mutations and maintaining genomic stability.
- Variations in CHD1L can disrupt DNA repair, raising risk of genetic disorders and carcinogenesis.
- Interactions with other factors make CHD1L pivotal in intricate cellular processes.
- Research explores CHD1L's role in epigenetics, chromatin remodelling, and interactions with other molecules.
- CHD1L is a potential target for therapies addressing DNA damage-related conditions.
- Genome-wide analyses reveal CHD1L's expression patterns, allelic variations, and regulatory regions.

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- CHD1L research deepens understanding of DNA maintenance, genome stability, and their impact on health and disease.

Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS) Anti-tank Guided Missile (ATGM)

Context: Israel's Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS) anti-tank guided missiles have been delivered to the Indian Air Force.

- The Spike Non Line Of Sight (NLOS) variant, an extended-range version of Israel's Spike anti-tank guided missile, possesses a range of up to 25 km (16 mi).
- Developed after insights from the Yom Kippur War, it addresses the need for a precise tactical ground-to-ground missile.
- Distinguished by its larger size at around 70 kg (150 lb), the NLOS can be deployed from both ground launchers and helicopters.
- Manufacturer Rafael is augmenting the missile's seeker and warhead capabilities to cater to specific operational requirements.
- A 6th generation Spike NLOS version, unveiled in 2022, boasts a 50 km (31 mi) range, salvo launching capability, Target Image Acquisition for prioritizing targets, and adaptability for use on strategic UAVs.

Anti-tank Missile systems in India

- **Nag Missile System:** An indigenous fire-and-forget ATGM with a range of up to 4 km. It can be launched from land and air platforms.
- **Spike ATGM:** Acquired from Israel, this missile system includes the Spike NLOS variant with a range of up to 25 km.
- **Milan ATGM:** A French-designed ATGM in service with the Indian Army, capable of engaging armored targets at ranges of several kilometers.
- **Konkurs-M:** A Russian-origin ATGM used by the Indian Army, offering a range of about 4 km.
- **HELINA:** A helicopter-launched ATGM developed indigenously by India, capable of striking armored targets at extended ranges.
- **SANT:** An indigenous standoff ATGM designed for aircraft, currently under development.

Other defence imports from Israel

Category	Weapon Designation	Description
Aircrafts	Heron UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
	Searcher UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
Air Defence Systems	SPYDER SAM system	Surface-to-Air Missile
	BARAK-LR SAM system	Surface-to-Air Missile
Missiles	BARAK-8 SAM	Surface-to-Air Missile
	Derby BVRAAM	Beyond Visual Range Missile
	Python-5 BVRAAM	Beyond Visual Range Missile
	SPICE-2000 Guided Bomb	Guided Bomb
	Griffin Guided Bomb	Guided Bomb
	Harop Loitering Ammo	Loitering Ammunition
	Crystal Maze ASM	Air-to-Surface Missile
	Barak-1 SAM	Surface-to-Air Missile

Privileges Motion

Context: The Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Jagdeep Dhankar, has directed complaints against Raghav Chadha and Derek O'Brien to the Privileges Committee for consideration.

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- The Rajya Sabha Chairman has invoked Rule 203 to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges.
- The decision was announced in a bulletin by the Rajya Sabha secretariat on Thursday night.
- Rule 203 allows the Chairman to send questions of privilege to the Committee for investigation and report.

What is the Motion about?

- Parliamentary privilege grants MPs certain rights for effective Parliament functioning.
- These rights include free expression during debates without legal consequences.
- No exhaustive list, but encompasses free speech immunity.
- Breach of privilege can lead to a motion raised by any member.
- The Chairman can admit and refer it to the Privileges Committee.
- Committee has 10 members, led by a Chairman chosen by Rajya Sabha Chairman.
- The two conditions for raising a question of privilege:
 - **Specific Matter:** The question must pertain to a particular and recent occurrence.
 - **Council Intervention:** The matter should necessitate the intervention of the Parliament's council or assembly.
- Lok Sabha follows similar provisions, with Speaker's authority.
- Speaker/RS Chairperson is first level of scrutiny for privilege motion.
- Can decide or refer to Parliament's privileges committee.

Parliamentary Privileges

- Parliamentary privileges encompass the rights and immunities that enable Parliament and its Members to fulfil their constitutional duties effectively. These privileges are essential for their functioning and protection.
- Constitutional privileges
 - **Article 105** - Pertains to the powers, privileges, etc., of Parliament, its members and committees.
 - **Article 194** - Protects the privileges and powers of the houses of legislature, their members and committees in the states.

Committee on Privileges

- The Privileges Committee is present in both Houses of Parliament.
- It operates as a Standing Committee with semi-judicial roles.
- Its primary function is to investigate breaches of House and member privileges.
- The Lok Sabha's committee comprises 15 members, while the Rajya Sabha's has 10.
- The committee's leadership includes the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha.
- Members can raise privilege breach questions with Chairman/Speaker's permission.
- Conditions for admissibility include recent specific matters needing Council intervention.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Pepper Trade

The King of Spices



Pepper, known as the "King of Spices," has been traded globally since ancient times for its flavor, scarcity and supernatural origins.

Origin and Rarity: Pepper was produced primarily along the Malabar Coast in southwest India. Its scarcity and exotic nature made it a luxury commodity, sought after by various civilizations.

Trade Routes: Ancient trade routes connected India to other parts of Asia and North Africa. The Periplus Maris Erythraei documented trade between Rome and Muziris, an ancient Indian port.

Pepper as Currency: Pepper's value led to its use as currency in various cultures. It was collected as taxes, used for rent and exchanged for other goods, illustrating its economic significance.

Role in Colonial Ventures: The search for a direct sea route to India for pepper prompted Columbus' voyage to the Americas and Vasco da Gama's discovery of the Cape of Good Hope route.

European Dominance: European powers, including the Portuguese, Dutch and English, established colonial dominance over pepper-producing regions and trade routes.

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Colossal Whale



Colossal Whale: (Scientific Name: Perucetus Colossus)

Classification: "Perucetus colossus" is classified under the extinct baleen whale family "Cetotheriidae." This family belongs to the suborder "Mysticeti," which includes contemporary filter-feeding whales like the blue whale and humpback whale.

Discovery: Found in Peru's Ica desert, the colossal whale fossils were discovered by Mario Urbina of the University of San Marcos' Natural History Museum in Lima, over a decade ago.

Ancient Age: Fossils date back 39 million years, revealing ancient marine life of the region's past.

Size and Weight Estimates: Estimated to weigh between 85 and 340 metric tonnes, far exceeding modern blue whales (around 180 metric tonnes) based on fossil evidence.

Differences from Modern Blue Whales: Shorter body (66 feet) but heavier due to dense bones, adapted for shallow coastal waters.

Significance in Paleontology: The colossal whale discovery enriches knowledge of ancient marine life, aiding in understanding whale evolution, adaptations and past ecosystems, thereby informing modern marine studies and conservation.

Manas Tiger Reserve



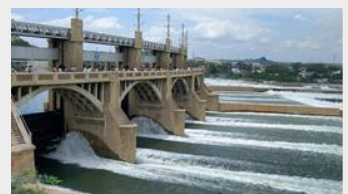
About Manas Tiger Reserve:

- Manas Tiger Reserve is a protected area and wildlife sanctuary located in Assam, India.
- Proposed as a Reserve Forest in 1905, designated a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1928, and a National Park in 1990.
- It was included in India's First Tiger Reserves under Project Tiger in 1973.
- It honored as a World Heritage Site (Natural) by UNESCO in 1985 for its exceptional conservation value.
- It was declared a Biosphere Reserve in 1989, covering a substantial area.
- Part of Indian Rhino Vision 2020, successfully reintroduced One-Horned Rhinoceros in 2006.
- Reintroduced the One-Horned Rhinoceros under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 in 2006.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

- It was formed in December 2005 based on recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
- It ensures implementation of Project Tiger plan and tiger conservation efforts.
- It sets standards, guidelines for tiger conservation, supports tiger reserves and encourages eco-development and people's participation.

Cauvery Water Management Authority



Cauvery Water Management Authority:

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) is a regulatory body established based on the Cauvery Management Scheme approved by the Supreme Court of India.

Formation:

The Cauvery Water Management Authority was established based on the Cauvery Management Scheme approved by the Supreme Court.

Purpose: Its main purpose is to ensure the implementation and compliance of the Supreme Court's orders concerning the storage, apportionment, regulation, and control of Cauvery river waters.

Functions:

Ensures that the Supreme Court's decisions and directions regarding Cauvery river water are followed.

River Cauvery:

- It also called 'Ponni,' known as Ganga of the south.
- It rises in Karnataka, flows through Tamil Nadu, drains into Bay of Bengal.
- Tributaries: Arkavathi, Hemavathi, Kabini, etc.

Ring Nabula



What is the Ring Nabula?

The Ring Nebula is a celestial object known for its striking appearance. It's a glowing, donut-shaped cloud of gas and dust located in space.

James Webb Space Telescope: The images of the Ring Nebula were captured by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

Origin: The Ring Nebula was formed from the outer layers of a dying star that were expelled into space. As the star nears the end of its life, it sheds its outer layers, creating the distinctive nebula.

Ancient Light: The light that we see from the Ring Nebula today actually left the nebula thousands of years ago.

Distance: It is approximately 2,600 light-years away from Earth.

Discovery: The Ring Nebula was discovered by the French astronomer Antoine Darquier de Pellepoix in 1779.

Emission Spectrum: The nebula's distinctive colors are due to the presence of ionized gases like hydrogen and helium, emitting light of specific wavelengths.

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Places in News

Novorossiysk port

An unmanned Ukrainian maritime drone collided with a Russian naval vessel at Novorossiysk port

Political boundaries:

Novorossiysk is a major port city located on the northeastern coast of the Black Sea in Krasnodar Krai, Russia.

Importance: Novorossiysk is one of the largest and busiest ports in Russia and the Black Sea region, serving as a crucial gateway for trade and transportation.

Trade Hub: The port handles a diverse range of goods, including oil and oil products, coal, iron ore, grains and containers.

Oil Exports: Novorossiysk is a key outlet for Russia's oil exports. It is connected to major oil-producing regions like the Caspian Sea and Siberia through pipelines, making it vital for energy trade.

International Trade: Novorossiysk's trade connections extend beyond Russia, involving various countries in the Black Sea region, Europe etc.



POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ In August 2023, who won the 'Best Actor' at the Durban International Film Festival 2023? - Manoj Vajpayee
- ❖ Which university is opening a first-of-its-kind museum on its campus to introduce the evolution of agricultural practices in Bengaluru? - University of Agriculture Sciences
- ❖ In which state the government of India has launched a digital crop survey on a pilot basis from Kharif season? - Madhya Pradesh
- ❖ Which organization signed an MoU with the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) to promote football at the grassroots level? - Subrato Mukherjee Sports Education Society
- ❖ Government of India imposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate of _____ on casinos and online gaming, which is expected to be implemented from the 1st of October. - 28%

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