

Joint Logistics Node [UPSC Notes]

The Indian armed forces are preparing to set up more joint logistics nodes across the country to enhance integration and streamline supply chains. In this article, you will learn about the joint logistics node (JLN) for the armed forces and the benefits it offers. This topic is relevant for the [IAS exam](#) defence & security segment.

What is Joint Logistics in Indian Armed Forces?

Joint logistics is the deliberate or improvised sharing of service logistics resources to enhance synergy and reduce both redundancies and costs.

- The joint logistics nodes (JLN) will lead to workforce savings, effective resource utilization, and cost savings.
- They will improve interoperability between defence branches and enhance logistics processes.
- The establishment of country-wide joint nodes demonstrates progress in integrating the military and aligns with the goal of creating [integrated theatre commands](#).

Existing Joint Logistics Nodes:

- Three joint logistics nodes were established in 2021 for logistics integration of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- The Joint Operations Division under the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff was responsible for their establishment.
- The operational nodes are located in Guwahati, Tri-Services (Andaman and Nicobar Command, Port Blair), and Mumbai.

Upcoming Joint Logistics Nodes:

- Plans are underway to establish three more joint logistics nodes in Leh, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu.
- The selection of locations considered proximity to rail and air infrastructure, as well as sufficient space for storing supplies during contingencies.

Rationale Behind Joint Logistics

- **Logistical Support**
 - The nodes will offer integrated logistics support to the armed forces, including small arms ammunition, rations, fuel, general stores, civil hired transport, aviation clothing, spares, and engineering support.

- The aim is to streamline supply chains and enhance coordination among the services during conflicts or wars.
- **Catering to Vast Geographical Areas:**
 - Each joint logistics node will cater to troops deployed across a large geographical area.
 - The selection of locations ensures effective coverage and support to troops in various regions.
- **Stocking Policy and Infrastructure:**
 - The stocking policy for each node will consider the number of troops deployed in the region and potential increases, especially in mountainous areas.
 - Weather conditions and other challenges leading to supply disruptions will also be accounted for.
 - Robust infrastructure, including specialized storage and maintenance shelters, will be created based on the equipment profile at each node.
- **Complete Integration and Personnel Deployment:**
 - Officers from all three services will be posted at the joint logistics nodes to ensure complete integration.
 - Each node will come under the purview of one of the three services.
 - The aim is to promote coordination and cooperation among personnel from different branches of the armed forces.
- **Efforts Towards Integration:**
 - While the establishment of integrated theatre commands may take time, there are ongoing efforts to promote integration in training and logistics among the services.
 - The creation of joint logistics nodes marks a step towards enhancing integration in the military.

Conclusion: The establishment of additional joint logistics nodes in the Indian armed forces, along with efforts towards integration, signifies progress in preparing for two-front wars, modernizing the forces, and rationalizing expenditure while improving coordination and logistics capabilities.