

NDA

The National Defence Academy (NDA) is an iconic institution and symbol of global excellence in the province of military education. Over the years it has emerged as a unique military academy, attracting the best of youth from our nation and also from friendly foreign countries and transforming them into officers and gentlemen. During the last six decades of its glorious existence, the National Defence Academy has grown.

To join National Defence Academy an applicant must appear in the entrance exam conducted by Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi, twice a year. The Union Public Service Commission is solely responsible for issuing guidelines for selection and the final conduct of the entrance examination.

Application Fee:

- The application fee for General and OBC students is Rs. 100.
- No application fee is to be paid by SC/ST applicants and children of NCOs/ JCOs/ORs.
- The fee can be paid via online mode (VISA/Master/Debit Card and Net banking).
- In offline mode, payment can be paid through E-challan of SBI Bank.

Eligibility Criteria:

Age Limit:

- Applicant must be in between 16.5 years to 19 years old.
- Only unmarried male candidates can apply.

Qualification:

- Candidates must have passed 12th class or equivalent exam from a recognized board or university.
- For **Air Force and Navy**, a candidate must have passed 12th class or equivalent exam with Physics and Mathematics as the main subjects.

Physical Standards:

- Candidates must be medically fit as per the standards by National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Examination.
- Candidates have to go through the medical exam organized by the Military Hospital after getting approved at the SSB.

NDA Exam Pattern:

- Objective type questions are asked in the examination.
- Examination mode will be pen and paper mode.
- Duration of the examination will be Two and a half hour for Code 1 and Code 2 each.
- The examination will consist of two sections Code 1 Mathematics and Code 2 General Ability Test.
- The language of the exam will be in English and Hindi only.
- Negative marks will be given for every wrong answer.

Subject	Code	Duration	Maximum Marks
Mathematics	01	2 hours and 30 minutes	300
General Ability Test	02	2 hrs and 30 minutes	600
		Total	900
SSB Test/Interview:			900

NDA Exam Syllabus:

- Before preparing, candidates must gather all information regarding the officially prescribed syllabus.
- Mathematics section (Code 01) contains topics like Algebra, Calculus, Matrices and Determinants, Differential Calculus, Vector Algebra, Statistics and Probability, Integral Calculus & Differential equations, Analytical Geometry of Two and Three Dimensions.
- General Ability Test (Code 02) is divided into two parts – English and General Knowledge.
- General Knowledge consists of Physics, Chemistry, General Science, Social Studies, Geography and Current Events.

How to apply:

1. Click the apply now link in advertisement.
2. Click the “click here for Part I” to register for Part I of registration.
3. Submit all details correctly as required on the form.
4. After submitting all details applicants gets a Registration ID via SMS and email both.
5. You may print the application for future purpose or may proceed to Part-II of registration.
6. In Part-II of registration, applicants are requested to submit the application fee which can be paid through both online and offline mode (print the challan receipt and submit the application fee at any SBI branch).
7. After fee submission, applicants are requested to choose the centre from the given list.
8. After centre selection applicants are requested to upload their scanned photograph and scanned signature as per the required size.
9. After submission of images, applicants are requested to submit the agreement to the declaration.
10. Applicants may take the print out of the application submitted or all details will be forwarded to the applicant’s email address.

CDS

What is CDS or Combined Defence Service

CDS or combined defence services exam is conducted by UPSC twice a year. CDS is just like NDA & only difference is CDS is for graduates and NDA is for 10+2.

Selected candidates are admitted to various branches of armed forces like

- Indian Military Academy
- Officers Training Academy
- Indian Naval Academy
- Indian Air Force Academy

The entire process of selection involves two rounds one is written exam and another is interview.

We shall talk about selection process in great details in coming paragraphs.

Basically if you failed at NDA after 10+2 then you can go for CDS after you complete graduation.

A Career in CDS

A career in armed forces could be very exciting. Many of them join because they really want to serve their country and others join just for a job.

Whatever the reason be fact is a lot of candidates apply for CDS each year. In 2016 around 3 million candidates across India are expected to appear for CDS written exam.

If you are selected in one of the branches of armed forces then you are set for your rest of the life.

Apart from getting pay, perks and pension you also get many benefits that are missing in a private job.

Your job can be challenging depending upon which type of armed force you join.

Your job can be very tough and disciplined so you have to prepare yourself for it.

However if you are not ready for a challenging lifestyle then it is advised that you do not go for CDS.

CDS: Pay and Perks

What attracts young students to CDS?

Well the answer is pay and perks. Hence in this paragraph we shall look at pay scale of different ranks in great details.

Defence Officers Pay Scale	
Officer's Rank	Pay Scale
Lt. to Major	Rs 15,600 – Rs 39,100
Lt. Col. To Maj Gen.	Rs 34,400 – Rs 67,000
Lt. Gen. HAG Scale	Rs 67,000 – Rs 79,000
HAG Scale	Rs 75,500 – Rs 80,000
VCOAS/Lt.Gen	Rs 80,000
COAS	Rs 90,000

Defence Officers Grade Pay	
Officer's Rank	Pay Scale
Lieutenant	Rs 5400
Captain	Rs 6100
Major	Rs 6600
Lieutenant	Rs 8000
Colonel	Rs 8700
Brigadier	Rs 8900
Major General	Rs 10,000

Aside from Pay Scale and grade pay there are other perks an officer gets.

- Dearness Allowance
- Maintenance Allowance
- Uniform Allowance
- Transport Allowance
- Even Children Education Allowance
- High Altitude Allowance
- Last but not the least free rations

Even if this is not enough for you then officers also have retired pension plan.

CDS: Eligibility and Educational Qualification

For being eligible for different branches of CDS you need to meet certain requirement for education, age, sex and marital status.

Indian Military Academy

Unmarried male who are born not earlier than 2nd July 1992 and not later than 1st July 1997 for the CDS 2016.

Naval Academy

Unmarried male who are born not earlier than 2nd July 1993 and not later than 1st July 1998.

Air Force Academy

Unmarried male who are born not earlier than 2nd July 1993 and not later than 1st July 1997 for the CDS 2016.

For candidates holding certificates issued by DGCA there is age relaxation up to 26 years.

Officer's Training Academy

Unmarried male who are born not earlier than 2nd July 1992 and not later than 1st July 1998.

Officer's Training Academy Women

Unmarried female who are born not earlier than 2nd July 1992 and not later than 1st July 1998.

Educational Qualification

- **Indian Military Academy:** A degree from a recognized university.
- **Naval Academy:** A degree from a recognized university with physics and mathematics.
- **Air Force Academy:** A degree from a recognized university with physics and mathematics.

CDS Selection Procedure

The entire CDS selection process consists of two steps. First one is written exam and second is interview round.

Candidates who pass the written exam are eligible for the interview conducted by service selection center or SSC.

So let us see the entire process in great details.

CDS: Written Exam Pattern

Indian Military Academy, Air Force Academy and Naval Academy

It includes three papers of 100 marks each

1. English – 100 marks
2. General Knowledge – 100 Marks
3. Elementary Mathematics – 100 Marks

Total = 300 Marks

Subject	No. of Questions	Marks	Timing
English	120	100	2 Hours
General Knowledge	120	100	2 Hours
Elementary Maths	100	100	2 Hours
Total	340	300	2 Hours

Officers Training Academy

1. English – 100 Marks
2. General Knowledge – 100 Marks

So there is no mathematics.

The most important paper is mathematics where you have to answer 100 questions in just 120 minutes. So prepare enough before entering the examination hall.

CDS: Interview Round

Once you are through with the written exam you have to go for interview round. Interview round is conducted in two stages, Stage I and Stage II.

Stage 1

The stage 1 of the interview is called Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) where they test you for picture perception.

You will be tested for picture perceptions where you have to observe a picture and answer various questions related to picture you have just seen.

If you clear Stage 1 then you go for Stage 2

Stage 2

Stage 2 interview is held over 4 days and it is very gruelling. Here they take an interview, group testing officer tasks, psychology tests and conference.

If you clear all of them then you are selected.

Every candidate will be tested by three different people Interviewing officer, group testing officer and psychologist.

So this is the entire process of CDS from written exam to interview.

CDS: Exam Syllabus

Here is the exam syllabus for written exam and interview.

English

Here you will be tested for vocabulary as well as grammar. You have to prepare yourself by learning various words and going through English grammar.

General Knowledge

General knowledge would be a vast subject and you have to know many things like current affairs, history of India, geography etc.

You must read newspaper daily to stay abreast with all the news. However the exam will test just basics of a given field and not get into details.

Elementary Mathematics

Elementary mathematics is the most important subject. Here it will include everything that you learned in 10, 11 and 10+2.

Arithmetic, unitary method, number theory, algebra, trigonometry, geometry, theorems, mensuration, statistics etc.

Practice and prepare beforehand for the exam.

Interview

For stage I you have to see pictures and answer questions related to it and for stage 2 you have to have a developed personality because you will be tested for various things like intelligence, analytical skills, presence of mind, team work etc.

CDS: Number of Vacancies and Cut Off

Marks

CDS is getting tougher year by year. Hence if you are applying for it then you need to know the reality that how many candidates are applying for a fixed number of vacancies.

Year	No. of Applications	No. of Candidates Appeared
2007	64,000	48,000+
2009	90,000	52,000+
2011	100,000	44,000+
2013	200,000+	65,000+
2015	300,000+	200,000+

Vacancy Table

Armed Force Unit	Number of Vacancies Available
Indian Military Academy	160+
Indian Navy Academy	50+
Air Force Academy	38+
Officers Training Academy	206+
Total	450+

Therefore you can imagine how tough the competition is because just for over 400 seats around half a million candidates will apply this year.

Cut Off Marks

Academy	Written Exam	Final Exam
Indian Military Academy	102	225
Indian Naval Academy	99	225
Air Force Academy	129	264
Officers Training Academy	86	168

Benefits of Career in CDS

Although we debated pay and perk that you get after joining an academy very early in this article but we need to look at other benefits also.

1. You are covered for almost everything like all types of allowances, education for children, medical, rationing etc.
2. There is a full retirement pension plan which will cover you for your rest of the life.
3. The most important part is the respect that you get from the society because you are serving the country at the highest level.
4. You can also find a great job after you retire because of your background in defense forces.

How to Apply

Finally we conclude this article by giving you information on how you can apply for CDS and some important dates to note.

You can apply online by filling an application form with all the necessary details and submitting there.

For general candidate the cost of the application is Rs 200.

The commencement of applying online starts in July of a given year and ends on August.

You will get the admit card in the second week of September. Date of the exam is in October and results will be declared in December.

Fill your registration form in two parts and note the registration ID and password because you will use to download your admit card.

It is recommended that you download your admit card at least 3 weeks before the examination form.