

## Preface

The Indian Combined Defence Service Examination or National Defence Academy Examination stands as a beacon of honour and commitment, attracting individuals driven by patriotism and a desire to serve their nation with utmost dedication. These examinations serve as the gateway to a career adorned with valour, discipline, and a profound sense of duty towards safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation.

Conducted with meticulous precision by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and various State Public Service Commissions, including the esteemed Gujarat Public Service Commission, the Indian Defence Service Examination offers a myriad of opportunities across diverse job profiles within the Defence Services.

Stepping into the realm of Indian Defence Services opens doors to a spectrum of roles, ranging from combat-oriented positions to administrative and logistical responsibilities. With each entry point, candidates embark on a journey marked by challenges, camaraderie, and an unwavering commitment to the nation's security and well-being.

In this discussion, we delve into the multifaceted job profiles within the Defence Services, unravelling the myths and misconceptions that often shroud this noble profession. Through a comprehensive exploration of entry points and career trajectories, we endeavour to inspire and enlighten aspiring individuals about the rewarding path of serving in the Indian Defence Services.

Join us as we navigate through the realm of the Indian Defence Service Examination, where courage meets honour, and service transcends self.

## Indian Army

Indian Army is the one of the three wings of National Defence, viz. -

1. Indian Army
2. Indian Air Force
3. Indian Navy

Indian Army recruits maximum number of candidates at any level of entry. Different ways of recruitment and method is given below :

- **Direct Recruitment**

Very high ranked defence officers have the authority to recruit a person directly into the Indian Army with strong recommendation and reason. However direct recruitment happens in case of compensation to the martyr's family member.

- **Agniveer Recruitment**<sup>1</sup>

The Indian government has started to recruit a number of cadets through the “Agnipath Yojana”. For the year 2024, there are 25000 vacancies in various technical and non-technical departments of the Indian Army. Age group of candidates are in the range of **17 years and 6 months to 21 years**. They are paid a stipend of minimum INR 30000 per month for a period of four years out of which 10 weeks to 6 months is training period. A brief description of Agniveer Recruitment process is given below :

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<sup>1</sup> [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18UJhr305EKWFuL\\_poIEd4qnyDceL-lHe](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18UJhr305EKWFuL_poIEd4qnyDceL-lHe)

Sl. No.	Category	Eligibility criteria to appear CEE (Computer based Entrance Examination)
(a)	Agniveer (GD)	<p>Class 10th / Matric pass with 45% marks in aggregate and 33% in each subject. For boards following the grading system, min of 'D' grade (33% - 40%) in individual subjects or grades with 33% in individual subjects and overall aggregate of 'C2' grade or equivalent corresponding to 45% in aggregate.</p> <p><b>Note: Candidates with valid Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) Driving License will be given preference for Driver requirements.</b></p>
(b)	Agniveer (Technical)	<p>10+2 / Intermediate Exam Pass in Science with Physics, Chemistry, Maths and English with min 50% marks in aggregate and 40% in each subject.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>10+2 / Intermediate exam pass in Science with Physics, Chemistry, Maths &amp; English from any recognized State Edn Bd or Central Edn Bd to include NIOS and ITI course of min one yr in required field with NSQF level 4 or above.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>10th/ Matric pass with 50% in aggregate and min 40% in English, Maths and Science with 02 yrs of Tech Training from ITI or two/three yrs Diploma from recognised educational institution including polytechnics in following streams only :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Mechanic Motor Vehicle</li> <li>(ii) Mechanic Diesel</li> <li>(iii) Electronic Mechanic</li> <li>(iv) Technician Power Electronic Systems</li> <li>(v) Electrician</li> <li>(vi) Fitter</li> <li>(vii) Instrument Mechanic</li> <li>(viii) Draughtsman (All types)</li> <li>(ix) Surveyor</li> <li>(x) Geo Informatics Assistant</li> <li>(xi) Information and Communication Technology System Maintenance</li> <li>(xii) Information Technology</li> <li>(xiii) Mechanic Cum Operator Electric Communication System</li> <li>(xiv) Vessel Navigator</li> <li>(xv) Mechanical Engineering</li> <li>(xvi) Electrical Engineering</li> <li>(xvii) Electronics Engineering</li> <li>(xviii) Automobile Engineering</li> <li>(xix) Computer Science/Computer Engineering</li> <li>(xx) Instrumentation Technology</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	Category	Eligibility criteria to appear CEE (Computer based Entrance Examination)
(c)	Agniveer (Office Asst/Store Keeper Technical)	10+2 / Intermediate Exam Pass in any stream (Arts, Commerce, Science) with 60% marks in aggregate and minimum 50% in each subject. Securing 50% in English and Maths/ Accounts/ Book Keeping in Class XII is mandatory.
(d)	Agniveer Tradesmen 10 th pass	(a) Class 10th simple pass (b) No stipulation in aggregate percentage but should have scored 33% in each subject.
(e)	Agniveer Tradesmen 8th pass	(a) Class 8th simple pass (b) No stipulation in aggregate percentage but should have scored 33% in each subject.

This is to be noted that only male candidates are allowed to join Indian Army through the gateway of Agniveer Recruitment. Given below is the chart of physical standards for an eligible candidate :

**Table 1**

Category	Minimum Physical Standards		
	Height (in cm)	Weight (in kg)	Chest (in cm)
Agniveer (General Duty)	170	Proportionate to height and age as per Army Medical Standards	77 (+5 cm expansion)
Agniveer (Technical)	170		
Agniveer (Office Asst/Store Keeper Technical)	162		
Agniveer Tradesmen 10 th pass	170		76 (+5 cm expansion)
Agniveer Tradesmen 8 th pass	170		

## **Recruitment Process of Agniveer**

Recruitment process is conducted in two phases. Phase I is an Online Common Entrance Exam (CEE) at Computer Based Test Centres spread across India and Phase 2 will be a Recruitment Rally by AROs at Rally Venue.

### **Phase I**

#### **CEE**

(a)

Candidates can download an Admit Card after clicking the link on the Join Indian Army website.

Candidate has to put his username (which is the Roll Number of candidate) and Password as received by SMS/Email.

(b)

Candidates should download their Admit Card & carry a colour printout at the exam centre. All instructions given on the Admit Card must be read by the candidates carefully and they should adhere to the instructions.

(c)

Entry gates at the exam centre will be opened one and a half hour prior to the scheduled time of exams and will close. 30 mins prior to time of exam. No candidate will be allowed to enter once the The entrance gate is closed.

(d)

No electronic gadgets are permitted at the examination centres. Candidates will undergo following activities at the exam centre:-

(i) Frisking at the Entry Gate.

(ii) Checking of Admit Card & Aadhar Card at the checking point.

(iii) Auto allotment of Exam Hall.

(iv) Attendance at Exam Hall gate.

(v) Capture of Biometric (Photo & thumb impression) inside the exam hall.

(vi) Login ID to allotted computer terminal.

(vii) Appear for test as per procedure.

(viii) Exit Biometric before exiting the Examination Hall.

(e)

Online test will be an objective Multiple Choice Question (MCQ). As per category of application the candidates would be required to answer 50 questions in one hr or 100 questions in two hrs.

(f)

**Marking pattern for online test:-**

(i) Full mks for every correct answer

(ii) Nil mks for unattempted question

(iii) 25% mks shall be deducted for every attempted wrong answer (-ve mks)

(iv) All questions, if attempted, will be considered for evaluation, even if marked for review.

(g)

**Typing Test for Agniveer Office Asst/SKT.**

Typing test for candidates appearing for Agniveer Office Asst/SKT will be carried out during the online CEE wherein 30 words per min (wpm) in English during the test is desirable. Only those candidates who qualify the typing test will be eligible for call up for phase-II of recruitment process.

(h)

Marks scored by the candidates in Online CEE will be Normalised to take into account variation in difficulty levels of the question paper across different sessions.

## Phase II

Proportionate to the vacancies available candidates would be shortlisted by applying a cut off in written exam result. The Roll No of the candidates who are in merit will be published on the Join Indian Army website. These candidates will receive a second admit card for balance of recruitment process as per Rally Schedule of respective ARO. The admit card for Phase II of recruitment process can also be downloaded online under candidate's login (profile) on Join Indian Army web portal <https://joinindianarmy.nic.in>. Shortlisted candidates have to report on the stipulated date and time for phase II at the designated Recruitment Rally venue with following document/ certificate in original along with two attested photocopies with them:-

1. **Admit Card** Printed on Laser Printer on good quality paper (Do not shrink the size).
2. **Photograph** Twenty (20) copies of unattested Passport size colour photographs developed on good quality photographic paper in white background not more than three months old **Computerised/photocopied/shopped photographs will NOT be accepted. Photographs must be with proper hair cut and clean shave (except Sikh Candidates).**
3. **Education Certificates.**
  - (i) Education Certificate with marks sheet of all educational qualifications achieved by candidate i.e Matric/Intermediate etc from recognized School/ College / Board/University.
  - (ii) Provisional/online education certificate should be certified in ink signed by the head of the educational institution of concerned Board/University.
  - (iii) Candidates with matric certificate from Open School should bring School Leaving Certificate countersigned by BEO/DEO.

**4. List of Education Board recognized by State Governments / UT administrations is listed as below will only be accepted : -**

- 4.1. Board of School Education, Bhiwani, Haryana
- 4.2. Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education, Dharamsala
- 4.3. Department of Pre University, Govt of Karnataka
- 4.4. Karnataka State Secondary Education Examination Board
- 4.5. Karnataka Open School, JSS Maha Vidyapeeth, Mysore
- 4.6. Govt of Kerala, Board of Higher Secondary Examination
- 4.7. Board of Public Examination, Kerala
- 4.8. Board of Vocational Higher Secondary Examination, Kerala
- 4.9. Kerala State Open School, Thiruvananthapuram  
(Affiliated to Board of Higher Secondary Examination, Kerala)
- 4.10. State Board of School Examination (Secondary) & Board of Higher Secondary Examination, Tamil Nadu
- 4.11. Board of Secondary Education, Andhra Pradesh
- 4.12. Board of Intermediate Education, Andhra Pradesh
- 4.13. Andhra Pradesh Open School Society, Govt of Andhra Pradesh
- 4.14. Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education, Namapally, Hyderabad
- 4.15. Board of Secondary Education, Telangana State, Chapel Rd, Namapally, Hyderabad
- 4.16. Telangana Open School Society
- 4.17. Bihar School Examination Board, Patna
- 4.18. Bihar Board of Open Schooling & Examination, Patna
- 4.19. Bihar State Madrasa Education Board, Patna
- 4.20. Bihar Sanskrit Shiksha Board, Bihar
- 4.21. Jharkhand Academic Council, Ranchi
- 4.22. Board of Secondary Education, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal
- 4.23. M.P State Open School Education Board, Bhopal
- 4.24. Maharishi Patanjali Sanskrit Sansthan, Bhopal
- 4.25. Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education, Raipur



- 4.26. Chhattisgarh State Open School, Raipur
- 4.27. Chhattisgarh Sanskrit Vidyamandlam Board, Raipur
- 4.28. Chhattisgarh Madrasa Board, Raipur
- 4.29. Board of Secondary Education, Ajmer
- 4.30. Rajasthan State Open School, Jaipur
  - (a) Secondary School Examination
  - (b) Senior Secondary School Examination
- 4.31. Banasthali Vidyapith, Banasthali
  - (a) Secondary School Examination
  - (b) Senior Secondary School Examination
- 4.32. Punjab School Education Board, Mohali
- 4.33. J & K State Board of School Education, Jammu/Srinagar
- 4.34. West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, Kolkata
- 4.35. West Bengal Board of Madarsa Education, Kolkata
- 4.36. West Bengal Council of Rabindra Open Schooling, Kolkata
- 4.37. West Bengal Board of Primary Education, Salt Lake City, Kolkata
- 4.38. Board of Open Schooling and Skill Education, Sikkim
- 4.39. Board of Secondary Education, Odisha, Cuttack
- 4.40. Council of Higher Secondary Education, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
- 4.41. Odisha State Board of Madrasa Education, Bhubaneswar
- 4.42. UP Board of High School & Intermediate Education, UP (Allahabad/Prayagraj)
- 4.43. UP Board of Sec Sanskrit Education Council, Lucknow
- 4.44. Board of School Education, Uttarakhand, Ramnagar, Nainital
- 4.45. Maharashtra State Secondary & Higher Secondary Education Board, Nagpur
- 4.46. Maharashtra State Secondary & Higher Secondary Education Board, Amravati
- 4.47. **Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Pune**
- 4.48. **Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Gandhinagar**
- 4.49. **Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Alto-Berdez, Goa**
- 4.50. Board of Secondary Schools Assam (SEBA)

- 4.51. Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC)
- 4.52. Assam Sanskrit Board, Guwahati
- 4.53. State Madrassa Education Board, Assam
- 4.54. Meghalaya Board of School Education, Meghalaya
- 4.55. Nagaland Board of School Education, Kohima
- 4.56. Board of Secondary Education, Manipur
- 4.57. Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur
- 4.58. Tripura Board of Secondary Education, Tripura
- 4.59. Mizoram Board of School Education
- 4.60. Higher Secondary Education Board, Nepal
- 4.61. Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (ICSE), New Delhi**
- 4.62. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Delhi**
- 4.63. National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), NOIDA**

- 5. Class 8 th pass candidates and candidates with Matric Certificate from Open School should bring School Leaving Certificate mentioning Date of Birth, signed and stamped by Principal of School and countersigned by District Education Officer. If a School leaving certificate countersigned by District Education Officer is not produced, they are liable to be rejected at Rally Site or later.
- 6. **For 8th Class Pass Candidates:** 8 th class pass mark sheet and transfer certificate issued by school (both certificates) should be countersigned by the District Inspector of School/District Education Officer.
- 7. **Nativity/Domicile Certificate :** Nativity/Domicile Certificate with photograph issued by Tehsildar/ District Magistrate.
- 8. **Caste Certificate :** Digital caste certificate issued by the State Government.
- 9. **Religion / Minority Certificate :** Religion / Minority Certificate to be issued by the Tehsildar/SDM (if religion as “SIKH/HINDU/MUSLIM/CHRISTIAN” is not mentioned in caste certificate).
- 10. **School Character Certificate :** School Character Certificate issued by the School/College Principal/Headmaster where the candidates last studied

11. **Character Certificate :** Character Certificate with photograph issued by Village Sarpanch/Municipal Corporation within the last six months from the date of despatch.
12. **Unmarried Certificate:** Unmarried Certificate for all candidates with photograph issued by Village Sarpanch/Municipal Corporation within the **last six months**.
13. **Relationship Certificate.** SOS/SOEX/SOW/SOWW Candidates are required to produce the following documents : -
  - 13.1. Relationship certificate issued from respective Record Office only duly signed by Record Officer with Personal Number, Rank, Name and particular of the Record Officer issuing the Relationship Certificate with office seal/stamp is endorsed. Relationship Certificate should bear water marks of the concerned Records in an ascribed format<sup>2</sup>.
  - 13.2. A declaration to the effect as mentioned in Affidavit on Ten Rupees Non-Judicial Stamp paper prepared by the ESM duly signed by 1st Class/Executive/Judicial Magistrate is required to be submitted by the candidate at rally site in ascribed format<sup>3</sup>.
  - 13.3. Original Discharge Book of Ex-Servicemen also to be produced. Name and date of birth of the candidate must have been recorded in it.
14. **NCC Certificate: NCC A/B/C Certificate and Republic Day Parade certificate** should have a photograph of the candidate duly attested by issuing authority. NCC A/B/C pass certificates in original will only be accepted. No bonus marks in the final merit to be allotted unless the certificate (Relationship/Sports/NCC) have been verified. An undertaking to the effect will be obtained from the candidate.
15. **Sports Certificate :** Relaxation in physical standards is applicable to outstanding sportsmen as mentioned below :
  - 15.1. (International/ National/State & those who represented District, College/School, State/ University / Board Championship) and represented India at the International level.
  - 15.2. Represented State at the Senior/Junior National level and have won any medal in individual event or have reached upto eighth position in Team event.

<sup>2</sup> [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18UJhr305EKWFuL\\_poIEd4qnyDceL-lHe](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18UJhr305EKWFuL_poIEd4qnyDceL-lHe) Appendix B

<sup>3</sup> [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18UJhr305EKWFuL\\_poIEd4qnyDceL-lHe](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18UJhr305EKWFuL_poIEd4qnyDceL-lHe) Appendix C

Relaxation is given in the physical standards of height, weight and chest for 2 cm, 5 kg and 3 cm respectively. List of sports for which the candidate may claim bonus marks / relaxation is listed below :-

(i) Athletics	(xvi) Kayaking & Canoeing
(ii) Archery	(xvii) Karate
(iii) Badminton	(xviii) Rowing
(iv) Basketball	(xix) Rugby
(v) Boxing	(xx) Swimming, Diving and Water Polo
(vi) Cricket	(xxi) Squash
(vii) Equestrian	(xxii) Shooting
(viii) Football	(xiii) Sailing
(ix) Fencing	(xiv) Taekwondo
(x) Gymnastics	(xv) Triathlon
(xi) Golf	(xvi) Volleyball
(xii) Hockey	(xvii) Weight Lifting
(xiii) Handball	(xviii) Wrestling
(xiv) Judo	(xix) Winter Games
(xv) Kabaddi	(Ice Hockey, Skiing etc.)
	(xx) Wushu

16. **ITI/Diploma Certificate :** ITI/Diploma Certificate for award of bonus marks for ITI/ Diploma for Agniveer Technical Category.
17. **O' level IT Course Certificate :** 'O' level (IT) Course Certificate issued by NIELIT and having higher level IT Courses Certificate NIELIT for award of bonus marks for Agniveer Office Assistant/SKT category.
18. **Affidavit :** Duly signed by candidate on Rs 10/- Non-Judicial Stamp Paper as per specimen duly attested by notary in the ascribed format will be submitted by candidate at the Rally Site without fail. **Submission of Affidavit is Mandatory to gain entry into the Rally. Candidates WILL NOT BE PERMITTED to enter the rally without an affidavit.**

19. **Certificate of Bonus Marks :** All original certificates / photocopies duly attested pertaining to Bonus marks will be accepted only during the Rally. No certificates to include NCC Certificates, Sports Certificate, Relationship Certificate, ITI/Diploma certificate, O' level IT Course Certificate or any other certificates to claim Bonus Marks / Relaxation would be accepted after termination of the Rally.
20. **PAN Card & AADHAR Card :** PAN Card & Aadhar Card are mandatory documents for final enrolment for the purpose of Pay & allowances and other social benefits schemes.
21. **Police Character Certificate:** Validity of certificate to be within six months on date of recruitment rally.
22. **Sarpanch/Nagar Sewak (Residence Proof) :** Validity of certificate to be within six months on date of recruitment rally
23. **No Claim Certificate :**No claim certificate with photograph duly signed by self and father/mother/guardian and countersigned by Village Sarpanch/ MC/ District Administration within the last six months. (Candidates will be appearing in rally at their own will and risk and no claim for any injury or loss sustained during the rally will be entertained).
24. **Tattoo:** Candidates belonging to tribal communities/from tribal areas, are permitted to have permanent body tattoos on any part of the body, as per existing customs and traditions of the said tribe to which a candidate belongs. Such candidates will only be permitted on producing the following two certificates: -
  - 24.1. Self certification certificate to be signed by the candidates in ascribed format.
  - 24.2. Certificate of belonging to a tribal community and permissibility of permanent Body Tattoo(s) to be signed by DC/DM or SDM of the District/Tehsil where the tribe of the candidates is presently settled.

Permanent body tattoos of religious sentiment are only permitted on the inner face of forearms i.e from the inside of the elbow to the wrist and on the reverse side of the palm/back (dorsal) side of the hand. Permanent body tattoos on any other part of the body are not acceptable and candidates will be barred from further selection.
25. **Driving Licence :** Light Motor Vehicle driving licence if applicable for the positions of drivers.

## Recruitment Rally Test :

Candidates will have to undergo following tests before getting selected as Agniveer : -

### 1. Physical fitness Test

- a. **Running** : 1.6 km run in 5 minutes 30 seconds or lower fetches 60 marks in Group I  
1.6 km run in 5 minutes 31 seconds to 5 minutes 45 seconds fetches 48 marks in Group II
- b. **Beam Pull Ups** : 10 pull ups for 40 marks in group I  
: 9 pull ups for 33 marks in group II  
: 8 pull ups for 27 marks  
: 7 pull ups for 21 marks  
: 6 pull ups for 16 marks
- c. **9 feet ditch** : Need to qualify
- d. **Zig Zag Balance** : Need to qualify

Candidates appearing for Agniveer Tech and Agniveer Office Asst/SKT only need to **qualify in all tests.**

- 2. **Physical Measurement Test (At Rally Site)** : Physical measurements are taken as per Army Standards as mentioned above in table 1.
- 3. **Adaptability Test** : All candidates who qualify the Physical Fitness Test (PFT) & Physical Measurement Test (PMT) will have to undertake Adaptability Test as per policy in vogue. Adaptability Test is for selection of candidates who can adapt to the environment of the Indian Army and are able to adapt to the challenges of military life. Those candidates who will qualify the Adaptability Test will be eligible for the medical & further recruitment process. Those candidates who do not qualify the Adaptability Test will not be allowed for further participation in the recruitment process. Candidates will be allowed to carry their Smartphones for the duration of the Adaptability Test.

#### 4. Medical Test :

(i)

Medical examination of candidates who qualify in Physical Fitness Test, Physical Measurement Test and Adaptability Test will be conducted by Army Medical Team at the Rally site as per Army Medical standards and policy in vogue on the subject issue.

(ii)

Unfit candidates will be referred to Military Hospital for specialist review. Candidates need to report to a designated Military Hospital within 5 days from referral and a reviewed medical exam to be completed by Military Hospital within 07 days as per policy.

(iii)

The recruitment medical officer and the specialist doctors of Armed Forces are the final authorities on declaring a candidate fit or unfit during initial med examination, review medical examination and med examination prior to enrolment. The candidates shall be governed by Army standards which may be at variance from civil standards. There is no provision for representation or appeal or re-review after the review medical examination.

(iv)

**Passing the medical examination is not a guarantee for employment in the Indian Army.**

All documents submitted by the candidates are verified by government agencies before enrolment into the Army. Strong legal action will be taken against individuals submitting fake documents and candidature of the candidate can be cancelled. Even after recruitment, the service will be terminated if candidates are found to have produced fake documents or given wrong information at the time of recruitment, despite the number of years of service individual may have rendered.

**For further information and guidance , consult [Career Choices Simplified](#) for no charges.**

- **Selection through NDA Examination<sup>4</sup>**

National Defence Academy is recognized by the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the award of B.A./B.Sc./B.Sc (Computer Science) for Army Cadets and B Tech degree for Navy and Air Force Cadets. NDA has been recognized by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi since 1973. Academic excellence is a prerequisite for continued trainability. Academic instruction at the NDA is imparted by qualified and highly motivated Academic officers Civilian and Service Instructors. The curriculum is well-rounded but demanding and is supported by up-to-date libraries and laboratories. The aim is to achieve excellence in academic pursuits without compromising on outdoor activities<sup>5</sup>.

After completion of four and a half years of training, cadets get their officer grade commission. Although the Academy itself recruits employees internally or externally through an advertisement through government gazette, here we shall discuss the process of including cadets in NDA after clearing the entrance examination particularly in Indian Army.

NDA includes both male and female unmarried candidates in the age group of 16.5 years to 19 years. The applications are invited twice a year and examinations are conducted as NDA - I and NDA - II. The form is published in the month of October and May respectively.

The examination is conducted by Union Public Service Commission on following subjects mentioned in table 2 :

**Table 2**

Examination Paper	No. of Questions	Maximum Marks	Duration of Paper
Mathematics	120	300	150 minutes
General Ability Test	150	600	150 minutes

<sup>4</sup> <https://nda.nic.in/site-page-viewer/10>

<sup>5</sup> [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://nda.nic.in/docs/Trishakthi\\_AT2023.pdf](https://nda.nic.in/docs/Trishakthi_AT2023.pdf)



There are following sections in General Ability Test also known as **GAT** shown in Table 3 :

**Table 3**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Number of Questions</b>	<b>Maximum Marks</b>
A	English	50	200
B	Physics	25	100
B	Chemistry	15	60
B	General Science	10	40
B	History, Polity etc.	20	80
B	Geography	20	80
B	Current Events	10	40
<b>A &amp; B</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>600</b>

**Note :** There is a negative marking of one third of each wrong response, that is : - 0.83 for each wrong answer of Mathematics Paper, while 1.33 marks is negated for each wrong answer of GAT Paper.

## **Second Phase of NDA**

The successful completion of the NDA written examination invites shortlisted candidates for the Personality Test at various centres of the Staff Selection Board (SSB) and that is the most crucial part of the selection procedure. Many of the times it clashes with the JEE Advanced counselling or written examination. Moreover, the entire process is an experience one may cherish forever. SSB tests run for 5 days and there are two stages with various tests.

- **Stage I**
  - **Screening Test**
    - Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) - Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning
    - Picture Perception and Description Test (PPDT)
- **Stage II**
  - **Psychological Test**
    - Thematic Apperception Test (TAT)
    - Word Association Test (WAT)
    - Situation Reaction Test (SRT)
    - Self Description Test (SD)
  - **Group Testing Officer Test (GTO)**
    - Group Discussion (GD)
    - Group Planning Exercise (GPE)
    - Progressive Group Task (PGT)
    - Half Group Task (HGT)
    - Individual Obstacle Task (IOT)
    - Command Task
    - Snake race/Group Obstacle Race
    - Individual lecture
    - Final Group Task (FGT)
  - **Personal Interview (PI)**
  - **Conference**

The order and sequence of the mentioned tests may vary depending on the group instructor's pace as well as availability of various officers assessing the candidate's suitability.

Air Force candidates have to appear for an additional test viz. **Pilot Aptitude and Battery Test (PABT)** and that can be attempted only once in lifetime. One who clears PABT may apply for Indian Air Force through other years of NDA or CDS, where he/she is exempted from PABT.

Candidates on successful completion of all stages are forwarded for the Medical Checkup, where one may either get selected as a cadet of NDA or may receive a temporary rejection or a permanent rejection on medical ground.

Physical Standards for vision is given in the table below :

- Uncorrected without glass: **6/6, 6/9**
- Corrected with glass: **6/6 (only for Hypermetropia)**
- Nil limits for myopia
- Limits for Hypermetropia: **+2.00 D**

To understand the nature of each test in detail and guidance for preparation , you may consult

[Career Choices Simplified](#)

Height and Weight standards for male and female is mentioned in the Table 4 and Table 5 respectively as follows:

**Table 4**

Height Range (in cm)	Weight (in kg) as per age group (in years)			
	15-17	18-22	23-27	28-32
152 - 158	46 - 49	47 - 50	50 - 54	54 - 58
159 - 165	50 - 53	51 - 55	55 - 59	59 - 63
166 - 171	54 - 56	56 - 59	60 - 64	63 - 66
172 - 178	57 - 60	59 - 63	64 - 69	67 - 71
179 - 183	61 - 63	64 - 66	69 - 72	72 - 74
184 - 185	64	67 - 68	73 - 74	75

**Table 5**

<b>Height Range (in cm)</b>	<b>Weight (in kg) as per age group (in years)</b>	
	<b>20 - 25 years</b>	<b>26 - 30 years</b>
<b>148 - 151</b>	<b>43 - 45</b>	<b>46 - 48</b>
<b>152 - 155</b>	<b>46 - 48</b>	<b>49 - 51</b>
<b>156 - 160</b>	<b>49 - 51</b>	<b>52 - 55</b>
<b>161 - 165</b>	<b>52 - 55</b>	<b>55 - 58</b>
<b>166 - 171</b>	<b>55 - 58</b>	<b>59 - 62</b>
<b>172 - 176</b>	<b>59 - 62</b>	<b>63 - 66</b>
<b>177 - 178</b>	<b>63 - 66</b>	<b>At most 66</b>

It is recommended to candidates aspiring for defence as career to undergo medical fitness test before applying for written examination or SSB.

Few of the reasons for establishing one as medically unfit to Indian Army is given below :

- Sweaty Palms
- Flat Foot
- Knock Knee
- Kidney Stones
- Colour Perception
- Pigeon Chest
- Colour Perception CP2 and CP3 (Flying Branch) and CP3 (CDS entry)
- Carrying Angle of Elbow
- Cardiac Murmuring

Another gateway to enter the Indian Army is through writing CDS (Combined Defence Service) examination or after completing a professional degree of Engineering, Medical Science, Law etc., where candidates directly appear for SSB for Psychological Test and Personal Interview. NCC 'C' certificate holders also can directly appear for the SSB. However, one needs to keep oneself physically and mentally very sound to shine with the royal career of the Indian Army.

Physical challenges which candidates are asked to qualify are as listed below :

- Physical Running 2.4 km in 15 minutes
- Push ups 13 in a series
- Chin Ups 6 in a series
- Sit Ups 25
- Rope Climbing 3 to 4 metres ( 10 to 13 feet approximately )

The SSB tests remain the same in all gateways of defence services and only successful candidates are sent to Military Hospital for getting declared as medically fit, temporarily unfit or permanently rejected on medical grounds. If a candidate gets a temporary rejection or wins a challenge to the medical review - he/she has to reappear the medical test in a particular Army Medical Hospital within 42 days.

### **Indian Navy and Indian Air Force**

Procedure and gateways to be selected in the wings of Indian Navy and Indian Air Force remain almost the same as that of Indian Army but the stream is restricted to Science and Technology.

Further, as discussed above a candidate has to pass the PABT (Pilot Aptitude and Battery Test) for entry into the Air Force Academy. Female candidates above the height of 163 cm.

### **Selection through CDS**

Combined Defence Services are conducted twice every year and the only difference is that CDS can be written by graduates/post graduates. A candidate opting for short service commission of Officer Training Academy or Indian Army can be a graduate of any stream but that for Air Force Academy or Naval Academy has to be a science graduate. **To understand the nature of each test in detail and guidance for preparation , you may consult [Career Choices Simplified](#) .**