

Career Opportunities in the Armed Forces

Dear Students,

In case you are planning for a career in the Armed Forces or any other similar services here are some suggestions for you:

1. Start your preparations for the career in the XIth standard. Do not postpone your decision.
2. Talk to your teachers and other experts who can guide you about a career in the Armed Forces. Retired Officers of the Army, Navy or the Air Force and any similar organisations would be able to guide you.
3. The information given below is a general guide line for opportunities in the Armed Forces and related services.

Please Note the following :

1. The information provided is to be treated as a guideline. This textbook will not be taken as an authority under any circumstances and Balbharati or the board of authors/ compilers and the publisher bear no legal or moral responsibility of any kind.
2. Changes in all parameters may take place and may get published from time to time on websites and Employment News.
3. There are entries for Coast Guard, BSF, CRPF, ITBP and Industrial Security Force for officers' cadre. These are announced separately from time to time.
4. Read Employment News for advertisements relating to recruitment.

Entries after X + II (to be attempted while in X + II) as

Officers in Armed Forces

[Please refer to the UPSC and Armed Services websites and Employment News for schedules and latest parameters. This textbook will not be quoted as an authority and will be used only as a guideline for awareness]

1. National Defence Academy (NDA), Pune: For male candidates of the age 16.5 to 19 years at the time of entry into the Academy.
2. Technical Entry for the Army and the Navy: For male candidates only after passing XII board examination with PCM subjects. Age limit 16.5 to 19 years of age at the time of entry.
3. Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) entry for medical officers stream: Male and Female candidates appearing or passed XII board examination with Physics, Chemistry and Biology as their subjects. Age limit 16.5 to 21 years (changes are likely).

4. Armed Forces Medical College entry for Nursing Stream: For Female candidates appearing or passed XII board examination with Physics, Chemistry and Biology as their subjects at the board examination. Age limit 16.5 to 21 years (changes are likely)

Entries after Graduation (Can be attempted while in the final year of graduation) as Officers in the Armed Forces

1. Through Combined Defence Services entrance examination. Age limits – 19 to 25 years for male and female candidates, through Permanent Commission stream or Short Service Commission stream. This is in all three services. (changes are likely and there are different streams). Entrance Test is followed by a detailed interview (Service Selection Board interview). (Some entries are without the entrance test).
2. Entry for Engineers in all three services – without entrance test or AFCAT test for the Air Force. Age limits are variable for the three services, from 19 to 24/ 27 years).
3. Legal cadre and Education Cadre – These entries are announced from time to time.

Note : All entries (except the AFMC and Nursing) have SSB interview procedure, whether entrance test is applicable or not. The selection through interviews is followed up by medical examination with stringent requirements of height, weight, ECG, EEG, eyesight, hearing ability. Partial or full colour blindness, Knocked Knees and Flat feet are very common grounds for medical rejection.

Entries in Non-Officer Cadre

These are announced by the Directorate of Recruitment for entry as Jawans, Airmen and Naviks. Min qualifications are X + II. Some craftsmen are also recruited after X std. There are technical entries for diploma holders as direct recruitment at Non-Commissioned Officer levels (Naiks and Havildars or equivalent ranks in the Navy and the Air Force).

Websites for Recruitment in the Armed Forces

For Army : at www.joinindianarmy.nic.in

For Navy : <https://www.joinindiannavy.gov.in/>

For Air Force : <http://indianairforce.nic.in/>

Websites for Recruitment in Indian Paramilitary Forces

1. **Border Security Force (BSF) :** Get information related to recruitment in Border Security Force.

<http://bsf.nic.in/en/career.html>

2. **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) :** is a premier multi-skilled security agency which provides security cover to nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, power plants, sensitive Government buildings and ever heritage monuments. Detailed information related to recruitment of Central Industrial Security Force.

http://www.cisf.nic.in/RECRUITMENT_files/RECRUITMENT.htm

3. **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** : is an armed Force of the Union of India, with the basic role of assisting the State/Union Territories in Police operations to maintain law and order and contain insurgency. You can find information about recruitment of Central Reserve Police Force.

<https://www.india.gov.in/recruitment-central-reserve-police-force>

4. **Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** : is a specialized mountain Force and most of the officers & men are professionally trained mountaineers and skiers. Know more about career opportunities in Indo Tibetan Border Police.

<http://itbpolicy.nic.in/itbpwebsite/index.html>

5. **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** : is a Border Guarding Force (BGF) . You can find detailed information pertaining to recruitment and career opportunities in the SSB.

<http://www.ssbrectt.gov.in/>

Updated Information

In 2019 in landmark decision to reform the higher defence management in the country, the Union Cabinet approved the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff in the rank of a four-star General with salary and perquisites equivalent to a Service Chief. The Chief of Defence Staff will also head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), to be created within the Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary.

The following areas will be dealt by the Department of Military Affairs headed by CDS:

- (i) The Armed Forces of the Union, namely, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
- (ii) Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence comprising Army Headquarters, Naval Headquarters, Air Headquarters and Defence Staff Headquarters.
- (iii) The Territorial Army.
- (iv) Works relating to the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
- (v) Procurement exclusive to the Services except capital acquisitions, as per prevalent rules and procedures.

Apart from the above, the mandate of the Department of Military Affairs will include the following areas:

- (a) Promoting jointness in procurement, training and staffing for the Services through joint planning and integration of their requirements.
- (b) Facilitation of restructuring of Military Commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through establishment of joint/theatre commands.
- (c) Promoting use of indigenous equipment by the Services.

The Chief of Defence Staff, apart from being the head of the Department of Military Affairs, will also be the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. He will act as the Principal Military Adviser to Raksha Mantri on all tri-Services matters. The three Chiefs will continue to advise RM on matters exclusively concerning their respective Services. CDS will not exercise any military command, including over the three Service Chiefs, so as to be able to provide impartial advice to the political leadership.

As the Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee, CDS will perform the following functions:

- CDS will administer tri-services organisations. Tri-service agencies/organisations/commands related to Cyber and Space will be under the command of the CDS.
- CDS will be member of Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Raksha Mantri and Defence Planning Committee chaired by NSA.
- Function as the Military Adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority.
- Bring about jointness in operation, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance, etc of the three Services, within three years of the first CDS assuming office.
- Ensure optimal utilisation of infrastructure and rationalise it through jointness among the services.
- Implement Five-Year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan (DCAP), and Two-Year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans (AAP), as a follow up of Integrated Capability Development Plan (ICDP).
- Assign inter-Services prioritisation to capital acquisition proposals based on the anticipated budget.
- Bring about reforms in the functioning of three Services aimed at augmenting combat capabilities of the Armed Forces by reducing wasteful expenditure.

It is expected that this reform in the Higher Defence Management would enable the Armed Forces to implement coordinated defence doctrines and procedures and go a long way in fostering jointmanship among the three Services. The country would be benefitted by coordinated action on greater jointmanship in training, logistics and operations as well as for prioritisation of procurements.

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[https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1597425\)](https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1597425)