

How to Join the Indian Army

By Col. Shivender Kanwar
(Ex-Special Forces)



Website: www.shivenderkanwar.com

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@ShivenderKanwar>

After 10+2

(A) Entry: National Defence Academy (NDA)

Eligibility:

- **Age:** 16.5 - 19.5 years as on the first day of the month in which the course is due to commence.
- **Gender:** Male (Female candidates are now eligible but under the NDA Women Entry Scheme).
- **Marital Status:** Unmarried
- **Educational Qualification:** 10+2 with PCM for Army, Navy, and Air Force. Candidates without PCM can apply only for the Army wing.
- **Duration:** 3 Yrs at NDA and 1 Yr at IMA
- **Selection Process:**
 - Written Examination: Conducted by UPSC, it has:
 - Mathematics: 120 questions, 300 marks.
 - General Ability Test (GAT): 150 questions, 600 marks (includes English and General Knowledge).
 - SSB Interview: 5-day psychological and physical assessment.
 - Medical Examination: Ensure fitness standards.
- **Notification:**
 - Published twice a year in June & December.
 - Check UPSC website: <https://upsc.gov.in>.
- **Preparation Tips:**
 - Regularly read newspapers for current affairs.
 - Practice reasoning and mental ability.
 - Practice NCERT maths.

(B) Entry: 10+2 TES

Eligibility:

- **Age:** 16.5 - 19.5 years as on the first day of the month in which the course is due to commence.
- **Gender:** Male.
- **Marital Status:** Unmarried
- **Educational Qualification:** 10+2 Physics, Chemistry & Maths (aggregate 60% and above and appeared in JEE (Mains) for B.E/B.Tech to apply)
- **Duration:** 5 yrs (1 yrs OTA GAYA & 4 yrs CTWS) Permanent Commission after 4 yrs.
- **Selection Process:**
 - The 10+2 Technical Entry Scheme (TES) for men is a direct entry scheme in the Indian Army that does not require a written examination. Instead, candidates are shortlisted based on their JEE (Mains) rank (from TES-50 onwards) and Class 12 PCM percentage, followed by an SSB interview and medical examination.
- **Notification:**
 - Published twice a year in May/June & October/November.
 - Check Indian Army website: www.joinindianarmy.nic.in

After Graduation (Any Stream including Engineering)

(A) Combined Defence Services (CDS) Examination

- **Eligibility:**
 - **Age:** 19-24 years (IMA); 19-25 years (OTA).
 - **Educational Qualification:** Graduation from any stream (PCM required for Air Force/Navy).
 - **Gender:** Both male and female candidates can apply.
- **Marital Status:** Unmarried
- **Selection Process:**
 - **Written Examination (Conducted by UPSC):**
 - For IMA/AFA/NA:
 - English (100 marks), General Knowledge (100 marks), and Elementary Mathematics (100 marks).
 - For OTA:
 - English (100 marks) and General Knowledge (100 marks).
 - SSB Interview.
 - Medical Examination.
- **Duration:** 1.5 yrs for IMA & 49 weeks for OTA
- **Notification:**
 - Twice a year (July and November).
 - Check UPSC website: <https://upsc.gov.in>.
- **Preparation Tips:**
 - Revise graduation-level subjects.
 - Work on current affairs and General Knowledge.
 - Solve previous year's question papers.

(B) Technical Graduate Course (TGC) (For Engineers only)

- **Eligibility:**
 - Age: 20-27 years.
 - Educational Qualification: Engineering degree in relevant streams.
 - **Marital Status:** Unmarried
 - **Selection Process:**
 - Shortlisting based on academic performance.
 - Direct SSB Interview for shortlisted candidates.
 - **Duration:** 1 yrs
 - **Notification:**
 - Twice a year (Mar/Apr and Sep/Oct).
 - Check Join Indian Army website.
-

(C) SSC NCC Men

- **Eligibility:**
 - Age: 19-25 years.
 - Educational Qualification: Graduate with 50% Aggregate marks, 2/3 Years service in NCC Senior Div Army with minimum 'B' Grade in 'C' Certificate Exam
- **Selection Process:**
 - No written exam is required.

- Shortlisting based on academic performance and NCC credentials.
- Direct SSB Interview for shortlisted candidates.
- **Gender:** Male.
- **Marital Status:** Unmarried
- **Notification:**
 - Twice a year June & December.
 - Apply offline as Notified in the Notification through NCC Dte.



3. After Post-Graduation and Above

(A) Army Education Corps (AEC)

- **Eligibility:**
 - Age: 23-27 years.
 - Educational Qualification: Post-Graduate in specific streams like Humanities, Sciences, or Engineering.
- **Selection Process:**
 - Direct application and SSB interview.
 - Notification on Join Indian Army.

(B) University Entry Scheme (UES) (For Engineering Final Year Students)

- **Eligibility:**
 - Age: 18-24 years.
 - Educational Qualification: Final year of engineering.
- **Selection Process:**
 - Pre-SSB screening at respective campuses.
 - SSB interview for shortlisted candidates.

Key Websites to Monitor

1. Join Indian Army website: For all direct entries, notifications, and updates.
2. [UPSC Website](#): For NDA and CDS notifications.

General Preparation Strategy

1. Physical Fitness:

- Develop stamina, strength, and flexibility through regular running, yoga, and gym sessions.

2. Written Examination:

- Build a daily routine for Mathematics, English, and General Knowledge preparation.
- Refer to NCERT books and reliable guides.

3. SSB Interview:

- Enhance communication skills.
- Practice storytelling and group discussions.
- Learn about OLQs (Officer Like Qualities).

