



NDI DEFENCE INSTITUTE

(A DEFENCE EXAM TRAINING CENTRE FOR NDA, CDS, AFCAT, CAPF AC, UPSC, SSB INTERVIEW, SAINIK, RMS, RMC & SOLDIER)

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UPSC DEFENCE EXAM (SYLLABUS & PATTERN)

“ AIM HIGH
PREPARE RIGHT
ACHIEVE THE NATION ”

सत्यमेव जयते

UPSC & DEFENCE EXAMS

SYLLABUS & PATTERN

2026 - 2027

Your Blueprint to a Glorious Career in
Armed Forces & Central Armed Police Forces

DISCIPLINE
COURAGE
COMMITMENT

CDS

(Combined Defence Services)

For IMA, INA, AFA & OTA
Pattern, Syllabus & Subjects

AFCAT

(Air Force Common Admission Test)

Pattern, Syllabus, Marking Scheme
& Normalisation Explained

CAPF AC

(Central Armed Police Forces)

BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB
Pattern, Syllabus, Papers
& Selection Process

CGCAT

(Coast Guard Common Admission Test)

Pattern, Syllabus, Subjects
& Exam Structure

COMPLETE SYLLABUS COVERAGE

DETAILED EXAM PATTERN

SMART PREPARATION STRATEGY

PREPARE TODAY LEAD TOMORROW

★ NATION FIRST, ALWAYS FIRST ★

UPSC & DEFENCE COMPLETE EXAM PATTERN & SYLLABUS

Your Roadmap to Join the Indian Armed Forces & Central Armed Police Forces

This document provides a complete overview of major defence entrance examinations conducted in India for aspirants aiming to join the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces as Officers.

UPSC CDS (OTA)

| Subject | No. of Questions | Marks | Duration |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| English | 120 | 100 | 2 hours |
| General Knowledge | 120 | 100 | 2 hours |
| Total marks: 300 | | | |

UPSC CDS (IMA/INA/AFA)

| Subject | No. of Questions | Marks | Duration |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| English | 120 | 100 | 2 hours |
| General Knowledge | 120 | 100 | 2 hours |
| Mathematics | 100 | 100 | 2 hours |
| Total marks: 300 | | | |

AFCAT (Air Force Common Admission Test)



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| Subject | No. of Questions | Marks |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| General Awareness | 18-20 | 54-60 |
| Verbal Ability in English | 25-30 | 75-90 |
| Numerical Ability | 15-20 | 45-60 |
| Reasoning and Military Aptitude | 25-35 | 75-105 |
| Duration: 2 hours | Total no. of questions: 100 | Total marks: 300 |

UPSC CAPF AC

| Subject | No. of Questions | Marks |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| Paper I - General Ability and Intelligence | 125 | 250 |
| Paper II - General Studies, Essay and Comprehension | Descriptive | 200 |
| Personality Test | Interview | 150 |
| | | Total marks: 600 |

CGCAT (Coast Guard Common Admission Test)

| Subject | No. of Questions | Marks |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| English | 25 | 100 |
| Reasoning & Numerical Ability | 25 | 100 |
| General Science & Mathematical Aptitude | 25 | 100 |
| General Knowledge | 25 | 100 |
| Duration: 2 hours | Total no. of questions: 100 | Total marks: 400 |

UPSC & Defence Exam Syllabus (2026-2027)

AIR FORCE COMMON ADMISSION TEST (AFCAT) SYLLABUS

The AFCAT Question Paper will have 100 questions. The total time allotted for the paper is two hours.

Each Question Paper will have questions from the following topics: -



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- a) **General Awareness:** Current Affairs, Defence, History, Geography, Polity, Economy, Science & Technology, Environment, Sports, Art & Culture, National & International Organisations.
- b) **English Verbal Ability:** Comprehension, Error Detection, Vocabulary, Synonyms & Antonyms, Idioms & Phrases, Sentence Rearrangement, Cloze Test, One Word Substitution and Grammar.
- c) **Numerical Ability:** Percentage, Ratio & Proportion, Profit & Loss, Time & Work, Time & Distance, Simple & Compound Interest, Mensuration, Probability, Statistics, HCF & LCM, Number System and Arithmetic Aptitude.
- d) **Reasoning & Military Aptitude:** Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning, Pattern Recognition, Analytical Ability, Spatial Reasoning and Military Aptitude Questions.

Note:

- The standard of Numerical Ability Questions will be of Matriculation level. The standard of questions in other subjects will be of graduation level (Indian University).
- Exam will be in English only

COMBINED DEFENCE SERVICES EXAM (CDS) SYLLABUS

GENERAL ENGLISH

The question paper will be designed to test the candidates' understanding of English and workmanlike use of words. The syllabus covers various topics aspects like: Grammar and usage, vocabulary, comprehension and cohesion in extended text to test the candidate's proficiency in English.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

General Knowledge including knowledge of current events and of such matters of everyday observation and experience in their scientific aspects as may be expected of an educated person who has not made a special study of any scientific subject. The paper will also include questions on History of India and Geography of a nature which candidate should be able to answer without special study.

ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICS (only for IMA, INA, AFA)

ARITHMETIC

- Number System—Natural numbers, Integers, Rational and Real numbers. Fundamental operations, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, square roots, Decimal fractions. Unitary method, time and distance, time and work, percentages, applications to simple and compound interest, profit and loss, ratio and proportion, variation. Elementary Number Theory—Division algorithm. Prime and composite numbers. Tests of divisibility by 2, 3, 4, 5, 9



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and 11. Multiples and factors. Factorisation Theorem. H.C.F. and L.C.M. Euclidean algorithm. Logarithms to base 10, laws of logarithms, use of logarithmic tables.

ALGEBRA

- Basic Operations, simple factors, Remainder Theorem, H.C.F., L.C.M., Theory of polynomials, solutions of quadratic equations, relation between its roots and coefficients (Only real roots to be considered). Simultaneous linear equations in two unknowns—analytical and graphical solutions. Simultaneous linear inequations in two variables and their solutions. Practical problems leading to two simultaneous linear equations or inequations in two variables or quadratic equations in one variable & their solutions. Set language and set notation, Rational expressions and conditional identities, Laws of indices.

TRIGONOMETRY

- Sine \times , cosine \times , Tangent \times when $0^\circ < \times < 90^\circ$ Values of $\sin \times$, $\cos \times$ and $\tan \times$, for $\times = 0^\circ, 30^\circ, 45^\circ, 60^\circ$ and 90° Simple trigonometric identities. Use of trigonometric tables. Simple cases of heights and distances.

GEOMETRY

- Lines and angles, Plane and plane figures, Theorems on (i) Properties of angles at a point, (ii) Parallel lines, (iii) Sides and angles of a triangle, (iv) Congruency of triangles, (v) Similar triangles, (vi) Concurrence of medians and altitudes, (vii) Properties of angles, sides and diagonals of a parallelogram, rectangle and square, (viii) Circles and its properties including tangents and normals, (ix) Loci.

MENSURATION

- Areas of squares, rectangles, parallelograms, triangle and circle. Areas of figures which can be split up into these figures (Field Book), Surface area and volume of cuboids, lateral surface and volume of right circular cones and cylinders, surface area and volume of spheres.

STATISTICS

- Collection and tabulation of statistical data, Graphical representation frequency polygons, histograms, bar charts, pie charts etc. Measures of central tendency.



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CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCE (CAPF AC) SYLLABUS

Paper I: General Ability and Intelligence

The objective type questions with multiple choices in this paper will broadly cover the following areas:

- 1. General Mental Ability:** The questions will be designed to test the logical reasoning, quantitative aptitude including numerical ability, and data interpretation.
- 2. General Science:** The questions will be set to test general awareness, scientific temper, comprehension and appreciation of scientific phenomena of everyday observation including new areas of importance like Information Technology, Biotechnology, Environmental Science.
- 3. Current Events of National and International Importance:** The questions will test the candidates' awareness of current events of national and international importance in the broad areas of culture, music, arts, literature, sports, governance, societal and developmental issues, industry, business, globalisation, and interplay among nations.
- 4. Indian Polity and Economy:** The questions shall aim to test candidates' knowledge of the Country's political system and the Constitution of India, social systems and public administration, economic development in India, regional and international security issues and human rights including its indicators.
- 5. History of India:** The questions will broadly cover the subject in its social, economic and political aspects. This shall also include the areas of growth of nationalism and freedom movement.
- 6. Indian and World Geography:** The questions shall cover the physical, social and economic aspects of geography pertaining to India and the World.

Paper II: General Studies, Essay and Comprehension

Part-A – Essay questions which are to be answered in long narrative form either in Hindi or English totaling 80 Marks. The indicative topics are modern Indian history especially of the freedom struggle, geography, polity and economy, knowledge of security and human rights issues, and analytical ability.



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Part-B – Comprehension, précis writing, other communications/language skills – to be attempted in English only (Marks 120) – The topics are Comprehension passages, précis writing, developing counter arguments, simple grammar and other aspects of language testing.

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) AC Syllabus

- (a) English:** Comprehension, Usage of Words, Sentence completion / Corrections, Punctuations, Grammar, Vocabulary, Antonyms and Synonyms, Parts of Speech, Direct and Indirect Speech, Idioms and Phrases, Active and Passive Voice. etc (Question paper will be designed to test the candidates' understanding of English and workmanlike use of Grammar).
- (b) Reasoning and Numerical Ability :** Spatial, Numerical, Reasoning and Associative Ability, Sequences, Spellings, Unscrambling, Coding and Decoding, Missing Numbers / Series Completion, Decimal Fraction, Ratios and Proportion, Average and Volume, Time and Work, Speed and Distance, Market Price, Cash Price, Expenditure Problems, Profit and Loss, Percentage, Factoring (LCM and HCF), Simple Interest and Compound Interest, Mensuration Formulas (Calculation of length, breadth or height of square, rectangle, cube etc)
- (c) General Science and Mathematical Aptitude :** Nature of Matter, Universe, Electricity and its Applications, Force and Gravitation, Newton's Laws of Motion, Work, Energy and Power, Heat, Temperature, Light, Current, Magnetism, Metals and Non Metals, Measurements, Sound and Wave Motion, Atomic Structure, Chemistry – Carbon and its Compounds, Periodic Table, Acids, Bases & Salts, Food, Nutrition and Health Physiology and Human Diseases and Basic Computer Science Arithmetic Ability, Number Systems, Algebra, Basic Trigonometry, Geometry, Statistics, Probability and Set Theory.
- (d) General Knowledge:** History of India, Geography, Climate / Environment, Civics – Constitution of India, Art, Culture, Dance, Heritage, Religion, Freedom Movement, Important National Facts, Economics, Politics, Sports and Championships, Entertainment, Books and Authors, Awards, Defence and Wars, Geographical Neighbours, Countries – Languages, Capitals, Currencies, Common Name, Full Forms, Abbreviations, Eminent Personalities, National – Bird/ Animal/ Monuments/ Flower/ Anthem/ Sport/ Flag/ Emblem etc, Discoveries and Current Affairs.



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FINAL MESSAGE TO ASPIRANTS

"Success in Defence Exams is not achieved overnight. It is built daily through discipline, consistency and dedication."

The journey towards the uniform requires courage, commitment and hard work. Stay focused, trust the process and continue preparing with determination.

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