

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE CAREER PATHS THROUGH NDA II 2026

The **National Defence Academy (NDA)** is the most prestigious gateway for young aspirants who dream of serving the nation as officers in the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force**. NDA II 2026 offers a golden opportunity for students after Class 12 to begin a disciplined, respected, and adventurous career in the Armed Forces.

This guide explains **career paths, eligibility, selection process, training, and growth opportunities** through NDA II 2026.

▣▣ What is NDA II 2026?

The NDA exam is conducted by the Union Public Service Commission twice a year to select candidates for:

- **Indian Army**
- **Indian Navy**
- **Indian Air Force**

Candidates undergo training at the National Defence Academy located in Khadakwasla, Pune.

▣▣ Career Path in Indian Army Through NDA

▣▣ Entry & Training

- Join NDA after clearing written exam + SSB interview
- 3 years training at NDA
- 1 year at Indian Military Academy

▣▣ Commission

- Commissioned as **Lieutenant**

▣▣ Career Growth

- Lieutenant → Captain → Major → Lieutenant Colonel → Colonel → Brigadier → Major General → Lieutenant General → General

▣▣ Roles in Army

- Infantry Officer
- Armoured Corps
- Artillery
- Engineers
- Signals

☐☐ Why Choose Army?

- Leadership in ground combat
- Adventure (field postings, counter-insurgency)
- High respect and authority

🚢 Career Path in Indian Navy Through NDA

☐☐ Entry & Training

- NDA training (3 years)
- Specialized training at Indian Naval Academy

☐☐ Commission

- Commissioned as **Sub Lieutenant**

☐☐ Career Growth

- Sub Lieutenant → Lieutenant → Lieutenant Commander → Commander → Captain → Commodore → Rear Admiral → Vice Admiral → Admiral

☐☐ Roles in Navy

- Executive Branch (Navigation, Operations)
- Engineering Branch
- Electrical Branch
- Submarine & Aviation

☐☐ Why Choose Navy?

- Work on advanced warships & submarines
- Travel across the world
- Technical and strategic roles

✈️ Career Path in Indian Air Force Through NDA

☐☐ Entry & Training

- NDA training (3 years)
- Air Force Academy training at Air Force Academy

☐☐ Commission

- Commissioned as **Flying Officer**

☐☐ Career Growth

- Flying Officer → Flight Lieutenant → Squadron Leader → Wing Commander → Group Captain → Air Commodore → Air Vice Marshal → Air Marshal → Air Chief Marshal

☐☐ Roles in Air Force

- Flying Branch (Pilot)
- Technical Branch
- Ground Duty (Administration, Logistics)

☐☐ Why Choose Air Force?

- Become a fighter pilot
- High-tech aviation career
- Fast-paced and prestigious

☐☐ NDA II 2026 Eligibility Criteria

✓ Educational Qualification

- Army: 12th pass (any stream)
- Navy & Air Force: 12th with Physics & Mathematics

✓ Age Limit

- 16.5 to 19.5 years

✓ Gender

- Both **male and female candidates** eligible

☐☐ Selection Process

1. Written Examination

- Mathematics (300 marks)
- General Ability Test (600 marks)

2. SSB Interview (5 Days)

- Screening Test
- Psychological Test
- GTO Tasks
- Personal Interview

3. Medical Examination

☐☐ Training at NDA

- Duration: 3 Years
- Tri-services training (Army, Navy, Air Force)
- Focus on:

- Academics
- Physical fitness
- Leadership development
- Discipline & personality building

☐☐ Salary & Benefits

- Stipend during training: ₹56,100/month
- After Commission:
 - Pay Level 10 + allowances

Benefits:

- Free accommodation
- Medical facilities
- Pension
- Travel concessions

☐☐ Why NDA is the Best Career Option?

- Early entry into defence forces
- Government job security
- Leadership at a young age
- Adventure + honour + respect
- Opportunity to serve the nation ☐☐☐☐

☐☐ SEO Keywords

- NDA II 2026 career guide
- Army Navy Air Force career through NDA
- NDA eligibility 2026
- NDA selection process
- How to join Indian Army after 12th
- NDA training details
- Defence career after 12th India

☐ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is NDA II 2026 exam date?

The NDA II 2026 exam is usually conducted in **September 2026** (official notification will confirm).

2. Can girls apply for NDA II 2026?

Yes, after the Supreme Court of India ruling, girls are eligible for NDA.

3. Which is better: Army, Navy, or Air Force?

- Army: Leadership & field operations
- Navy: Technical & sea-based career
- Air Force: Aviation & high-tech roles

Choice depends on personal interest.

4. Is Maths compulsory for NDA?

- Not required for Army
- Mandatory for Navy & Air Force

5. How many attempts are allowed for NDA?

You can attempt NDA multiple times within the age limit.

6. What is the salary after NDA?

Starting salary is around **₹56,100 + allowances**, increasing with rank.

7. Is NDA tough to crack?

Yes, but with proper preparation, discipline, and guidance, it is achievable.

☐☐ Final Words

NDA II 2026 is not just an exam—it is a **life-changing opportunity** to become a leader, a warrior, and a proud officer of India. Whether you dream of marching on land, sailing the seas, or flying high in the skies, NDA is your first step.

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