

# CDS 2026 Study Plan: 6-Month & 12-Month Strategy

Preparing for the **Combined Defence Services (CDS) Examination 2026** requires a **well-structured study plan**, consistency, and smart execution. Whether you have **6 months or a full 12 months**, the right strategy can help you clear the **CDS written exam, SSB interview, and medical stage** confidently.

This article provides **two detailed preparation plans—6-month fast-track and 12-month long-term strategy**—so you can choose what suits your timeline best.

## Understanding CDS 2026 Exam Structure (Quick Overview)

### Written Examination

- English – 100 marks
- General Knowledge – 100 marks
- Mathematics – 100 marks (IMA/INA/AFA)
- OTA: English + GK only

### Next Stages

- SSB Interview (5 days)
- Medical Examination
- Final Merit List

## Key Principles for CDS Preparation

- Concept clarity > number of hours
- Regular revision is mandatory
- Previous year questions are critical
- SSB preparation should start early
- Physical fitness must be maintained throughout

## CDS 2026 - 6-Month Study Plan (Fast-Track Strategy)

## **Ideal for:**

- Repeat aspirants
- Candidates with basic foundation
- Final-year students

## **Month 1-2: Core Concepts & Basics**

### **English**

- Grammar rules (tenses, articles, prepositions)
- Vocabulary (20 words/day)
- Error spotting & sentence improvement

### **General Knowledge**

- NCERT (Class 6-8)
- History & Geography basics
- Daily current affairs (30 minutes)

### **Mathematics**

- Arithmetic (percentages, profit & loss, ratio)
- Algebra basics
- Geometry fundamentals

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## **Month 3-4: Advanced Coverage & Practice**

- NCERT (Class 9-10)
- Polity & Science
- Full Maths syllabus completion
- Start previous year CDS papers
- Weekly mock tests

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## Month 5: Revision & Speed Building

- Topic-wise revision
- Short notes & formulas
- Sectional mock tests
- Improve accuracy & time management

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## Month 6: Full Mock Tests & Final Revision

- 2-3 full-length mocks per week
- Error analysis
- Focus on weak areas
- Light SSB & fitness focus

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# CDS 2026 - 12-Month Study Plan (Long-Term Strategy)

### Ideal for:

- Beginners
- Non-math background candidates
- Working professionals

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## Phase 1 (Months 1-4): Foundation Building

- English grammar & vocabulary
- NCERT GK (Class 6-8)
- Maths basics (Class 8-9 level)
- Daily newspaper reading

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## Phase 2 (Months 5-8): Syllabus Completion

- NCERT (Class 9-10)
- Polity, Science, Economy

- Complete Maths syllabus
- Start PYQs & sectional tests

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## **Phase 3 (Months 9-10): Practice & Accuracy**

- Weekly full-length mocks
- Previous year paper analysis
- Strengthen weak areas

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## **Phase 4 (Months 11-12): Final Revision & Exam Readiness**

- Intensive revision
- Formula & fact consolidation
- Time management strategy
- Mental & physical preparation

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## **Subject-Wise Preparation Strategy**

### **English**

- Daily practice
- Focus on grammar & comprehension
- Avoid memorising rules blindly

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### **General Knowledge**

- Static GK is the backbone
- Revise current affairs monthly
- Avoid unnecessary facts

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### **Mathematics**

- Daily practice

- Use shortcuts & formulas
- Don't fear Maths—practice reduces fear

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## SSB Preparation Alongside Written Exam

- Develop OLQs naturally
- Improve communication
- Group discussions & leadership roles
- Physical fitness routine

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## Daily Study Time Recommendation

Timeline	Daily Study Hours
6 Months Plan	5-6 hours
12 Months Plan	3-4 hours

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## Books & Resources (Minimal Approach)

- English: Grammar + practice book
- GK: NCERT + current affairs
- Maths: One CDS-level maths book
- Previous Year Question Papers

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## Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Ignoring revision
- Overloading with too many books
- Delaying mock tests
- Ignoring SSB & fitness

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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Q1. Is 6 months enough for CDS preparation?

Yes, with consistent and focused preparation.

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## **Q2. Which plan is better—6 or 12 months?**

Depends on your foundation and available time.

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## **Q3. Can beginners clear CDS in first attempt?**

Yes, many do with proper planning.

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## **Q4. Is Maths compulsory for all CDS entries?**

No. OTA candidates don't have Maths.

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## **Q5. How many mock tests are required?**

At least **20-30 full-length mock tests**.

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## **Q6. When should SSB preparation start?**

From day one—SSB is personality-based.

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## **Conclusion**

Whether you choose a **6-month fast-track plan** or a **12-month long-term strategy**, success in **CDS 2026** depends on **discipline, consistency, and smart preparation**.

Stick to your plan, revise regularly, and stay physically fit. With the right mindset and strategy, **clearing CDS 2026 is completely achievable**.

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