How to Prepare General Knowledge for CDS April 2026 Exam

Victor Growth

The **Combined Defence Services (CDS) Examination** conducted by UPSC is one of the most prestigious gateways to join the Indian Armed Forces. Among the three sections of the written exam—**English, General Knowledge (GK), and Elementary Mathematics**—the **General Knowledge section** is considered the most challenging due to its vast and unpredictable nature.

If you are appearing for **CDS April 2026 Exam**, mastering General Knowledge is crucial to clearing the cut-off. This guide will provide a **comprehensive strategy, topic-wise preparation tips, study resources, and expert techniques** to score high in GK.

Importance of GK in CDS 2026 Exam

- **Number of Questions:** 120
- **Total Marks:** 100
- **Time Duration:** 2 hours

The GK section covers **current affairs, static GK, history, geography, polity, economy, science, defense-related topics, and international relations**. Since there is **negative marking (1/3rd per wrong answer)**, smart preparation is the key.

Subject-Wise Strategy to Prepare GK for CDS April 2026

1. Current Affairs

- Focus on **last 12 months** of national and international news.
- Prioritize defense exercises, military agreements, government schemes, and India’s relations with neighboring countries.
- Read newspapers like *The Hindu* or *Indian Express* daily.
- Follow monthly current affairs magazines (e.g., *Pratiyogita Darpan*).
- Revise **budget, economic survey, and defense acquisitions**.

Victor Growth Tip: At Victor Growth, we provide **monthly current affairs capsules** and **CDS-specific current affairs analysis** for easy revision.

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2. History

- **Ancient & Medieval History:** Focus on cultural heritage, art & architecture.
- **Modern History:** Indian freedom struggle, important movements, and leaders.
- **World History (basic):** World Wars, American & French Revolution.

Smart Prep: Study **NCERTs (Class 6–12)** and Lucent's General Knowledge for quick revision.

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3. Geography

- **Indian Geography:** Physical features, climate, soil, agriculture, and industries.
- **World Geography:** Important rivers, mountains, oceans, and mineral resources.
- Focus on **environmental geography and climate change** (UPSC favorite).

Use maps and practice atlas-based learning.

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4. Indian Polity

- Constitution of India – fundamental rights, duties, directive principles.
- Structure of Parliament, President, Prime Minister, Governor, Supreme Court, High Courts.
- Emergency provisions, constitutional amendments.
- Latest bills and acts.

Recommended Book: *M. Laxmikanth's Indian Polity* (must-read).

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5. Economy

- Basics of Indian economy, GDP, inflation, banking, taxation.
- Union Budget and Economic Survey (summary).
- Government schemes like PM Gati Shakti, Digital India, etc.

Focus on **concepts rather than mugging up facts**.

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6. Science & Technology

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- Physics, Chemistry, Biology (up to Class 10 level NCERTs).
- ISRO missions, DRDO developments, space technology, nuclear energy.
- Biotechnology and environment-related topics.

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7. Defence Knowledge

- Latest defense exercises (e.g., Indra, Malabar, Yudh Abhyas).
- Missile systems (Agni, Prithvi, BrahMos).
- Ranks and commands in Army, Navy, Air Force.
- Recent defense acquisitions and modernization programs.

□□ Victor Growth provides **exclusive Defense GK notes** tailored for CDS aspirants.

Preparation Timeline for CDS April 2026

Step 1: (Sept 2024 – Sept 2025)

- Build foundation using NCERTs (6–12) for history, geography, polity, science.
- Read newspaper daily + monthly magazines.

Step 2: (Oct 2025 – Jan 2026)

- Solve previous year CDS GK papers (last 10 years).
- Revise important static GK topics.
- Prepare notes on current affairs.

Step 3: (Feb – April 2026)

- Rapid revision through notes and capsules.
- Attempt **mock tests** for time management.
- Revise frequently asked defense-related topics.

Best Books & Resources for CDS GK

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- **NCERTs (Class 6–12)** – History, Geography, Polity, Science.
- **Lucent's GK** – For quick facts.
- **M. Laxmikanth** – Indian Polity.
- **Spectrum – Modern Indian History**.
- **Manorama Yearbook & Newspapers**.
- **Victor Growth Study Materials** – CDS-targeted GK handouts, current affairs capsules, and mock tests.

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Smart Tips to Score High in GK

- **Daily Revision:** Spend at least 2 hours daily on GK.
- **Note-Making:** Prepare crisp notes for revision.
- **Mock Practice:** Attempt sectional tests regularly.
- **Avoid Guesswork:** Attempt only when 70–80% sure.
- **Stay Consistent:** GK requires daily effort, not last-minute cramming.

Why Choose Victor Growth for CDS GK Preparation?

- **Expert Faculty:** Subject-wise mentors for GK.
- **Monthly Current Affairs Capsules** designed for CDS exam.
- **Defence-Specific GK Materials** focusing on military news & exercises.
- **Mock Tests & Doubt Sessions** to improve accuracy.
- **Result-Oriented Coaching:** Many toppers of CDS credit Victor Growth for structured guidance.

Join Victor Growth and make your **CDS April 2026 dream a reality.**

FAQs on Preparing General Knowledge for CDS April 2026

Q1. How many months of current affairs should I prepare for CDS 2026?
You should prepare at least **12 months of current affairs** before the exam, with special focus on the last 6 months.

Q2. Is NCERT enough for CDS GK preparation?
NCERTs (6–12) are the **foundation**, but you must supplement them with books like Lucent GK, Laxmikanth Polity, and current affairs magazines.

Q3. Which newspaper is best for CDS GK?
The Hindu and *Indian Express* are the most recommended for daily preparation.

Q4. How to cover defense-related GK?
Follow PIB, Ministry of Defence updates, and Victor Growth's **defense GK modules** for simplified coverage.

Q5. Can I crack GK without coaching?
Yes, self-study with the right books is possible, but structured coaching at **Victor Growth** ensures better time management and targeted preparation.

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