

NDA 2026 Notification Details & Preparation Timeline

The **National Defence Academy (NDA) examination** conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is one of the most prestigious defence entrance exams in India. Every year thousands of students appear for the NDA exam to join the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force as officers**.

For aspirants searching for the **best NDA coaching in Kerala**, understanding the **NDA 2026 notification details and preparation timeline** is essential for planning an effective study strategy.

This article explains the **important dates, eligibility, exam pattern, and a month-wise preparation timeline** to help students prepare efficiently for NDA 2026.

NDA 2026 Notification - Important Dates

The UPSC releases the NDA notification twice every year: **NDA 1 and NDA 2**.

NDA 1 2026 Important Dates

- **Notification Release:** 10 December 2025
- **Application Start Date:** 10 December 2025
- **Last Date to Apply:** 30 December 2025
- **Admit Card Release:** Expected last week of March 2026
- **Exam Date:** 12 April 2026
- **Result (Expected):** May 2026

NDA 2 2026 Important Dates

- **Notification Release:** 20 May 2026
- **Application Start Date:** 20 May 2026
- **Application Last Date:** 9 June 2026
- **Admit Card Release:** Early September 2026 (expected)
- **Exam Date:** 13 September 2026

UPSC conducts the NDA exam **twice a year**, giving aspirants two opportunities to qualify for the armed forces.

Students preparing through the **best NDA coaching in Kerala** often begin preparation **6-12 months before the exam** to ensure complete syllabus coverage.

NDA 2026 Vacancy and Selection Process

The NDA exam recruits candidates for:

- **Indian Army**
- **Indian Navy**
- **Indian Air Force**
- **Naval Academy**

For NDA 1 2026, around **394 vacancies** were announced across these wings.

NDA Selection Stages

1. **Written Examination**
2. **SSB Interview**
3. **Medical Examination**
4. **Final Merit List**

Students must clear all these stages to join the **National Defence Academy or Naval Academy**.

NDA 2026 Eligibility Criteria

Before applying, candidates must meet the eligibility requirements.

Age Limit

Candidates must be **16.5 to 19.5 years old**.

For NDA 1 2026:

- Candidates should be born between **1 July 2007 and 1 July 2010**.

Educational Qualification

Army Wing

- Passed or appearing in **Class 12 from any stream**

Air Force and Navy Wings

- Must have **Physics and Mathematics in Class 12**

Many institutes offering the **best NDA coaching in Kerala** start preparation from **Class 11 itself**, allowing students to build strong fundamentals.

NDA 2026 Exam Pattern

The NDA written exam consists of two papers.

Mathematics

- **Total Marks:** 300
- **Questions:** 120
- **Duration:** 2.5 hours

Topics include:

- Algebra
- Trigonometry
- Calculus
- Matrices
- Probability
- Coordinate Geometry

General Ability Test (GAT)

- **Total Marks:** 600
- **Duration:** 2.5 hours

Sections include:

- English
- Physics
- Chemistry
- General Science
- History
- Geography
- Current Affairs

The **total written exam marks are 900**, followed by the SSB interview for **another 900 marks**.

NDA 2026 Preparation Timeline (Step-by-Step Plan)

A well-planned preparation timeline increases the chances of clearing the exam.

Phase 1: Foundation Stage (6-8 Months Before Exam)

Focus on building **conceptual understanding**.

Study Plan:

- Complete **NCERT Mathematics (Class 10-12)**
- Improve **English grammar and vocabulary**
- Start reading **newspapers for current affairs**
- Learn basic **Physics and Chemistry concepts**

Students who join the **best NDA coaching in Kerala** during this stage receive structured classes covering the entire syllabus.

Phase 2: Concept Strengthening (4-5 Months Before Exam)

At this stage, aspirants should start solving more questions.

Focus on:

- Mathematics problem solving
- Science numerical practice
- English comprehension
- Static GK preparation

Recommended activities:

- Solve **previous year NDA question papers**
- Practice **daily mock questions**
- Revise formulas and concepts

Phase 3: Practice and Mock Tests (2-3 Months Before Exam)

This stage focuses on **speed and accuracy**.

Important tasks:

- Take **weekly mock tests**
- Analyze mistakes
- Improve time management
- Focus on weak subjects

Most students enrolled in the **best NDA coaching in Kerala** get **weekly mock exams and performance analysis** during this phase.

Phase 4: Final Revision Stage (Last 30 Days)

The last month is crucial for scoring high marks.

Focus on:

- Revising formulas
- Practicing shortcut methods

- Solving full-length mock tests
- Reviewing previous mistakes

Avoid learning new topics during this phase. Instead, concentrate on strengthening existing knowledge.

Importance of Coaching for NDA Preparation

Although self-study is important, professional guidance can significantly improve preparation.

Institutes known for the **best NDA coaching in Kerala** provide:

- Experienced faculty
- Structured syllabus coverage
- Mock tests and practice papers
- Physical fitness training
- SSB interview guidance

These programs help students prepare for both the **written exam and SSB interview**.

Final Thoughts

The **NDA 2026 exam** is a golden opportunity for students who aspire to serve the nation as officers in the armed forces. With the notification released and exam dates announced, aspirants should start preparing early with a well-structured plan.

By understanding the **notification details, eligibility criteria, and preparation timeline**, students can organize their studies effectively and maximize their chances of success.

Joining the **best NDA coaching in Kerala** can provide expert guidance, structured preparation, and mentorship that helps students confidently clear the NDA exam.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. When was the NDA 1 2026 notification released?

The NDA 1 2026 notification was released on **10 December 2025** by UPSC.

2. What is the NDA 1 2026 exam date?

The NDA 1 2026 written exam will be conducted on **12 April 2026**.

3. When will NDA 2 2026 notification be released?

The NDA 2 2026 notification is expected to be released on **20 May 2026**.

4. How many vacancies are available in NDA 1 2026?

Around **394 vacancies** were announced for NDA 1 2026 across Army, Navy, and Air Force wings.

5. What is the age limit for NDA 2026?

Candidates must be **between 16.5 and 19.5 years of age** to apply for the NDA exam.

6. How early should I start preparing for NDA?

Ideally, students should begin preparation **6-12 months before the exam**, or even from **Class 11**.

7. Is coaching necessary for NDA preparation?

Coaching is not mandatory, but institutes offering the **best NDA coaching in Kerala** provide structured study plans, mock tests, and SSB training that can significantly improve selection chances.

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