

# THE EDUCAFÉ TIMES



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## Message from the Editor

Hello Readers!  
We bring another edition of The Educafé Times where we talk about another sought-after career opportunity - the Indian Army. Here we discuss the scope of the career, the challenges, and the skill sets required.

Have some new ideas for our newsletter? Share them at [educafestudentsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:educafestudentsolutions@gmail.com) and get a shoutout.

Happy Reading!!

## Guardians of Peace: The Vital Role of Defence Forces

Do you aspire to serve your country and are you willing to make the ultimate sacrifice? Do you admire the honour that comes with wearing a military uniform? Are you prepared to handle military conflicts, cyberattacks, terrorism and natural disasters? Are you ready to work with people from different backgrounds and walks of life? If the answers to these questions is Yes, then a career in the Defence forces is for you. The Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Indian Coast Guard are the four professional uniformed services that make up the Indian Armed Forces, which constitute the country's military forces. A career in any of these is exciting, challenging and adventurous.

### CAREER PATH

- To join the Defence Services as a commissioned officer in the Air Force or Navy, you need to specialize in Science with Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics as your subjects during your 11th/12th or +2 levels;
- Whereas for the Army, you can specialise in Arts, Science or Commerce during your 11th/12th or +2 levels.
- National Defence Academy (NDA) is the premier joint services academy in India where cadets of the Army, Navy, and Air Force train together for 3 years. After your +2 level you can join the NDA, where you need to appear for the entrance exam conducted by UPSC. Age is an important eligibility criterion for the application.
- Applicants are selected through a written exam, followed by interviews covering general aptitude, psychological testing, team and social skills, along with medical tests.
- After completing the NDA program, cadets are sent to their respective training academies for one year of training before granting of commission. Army cadets go to IMA at Dehradun, Air Force cadets to AFA at Dundigal, Hyderabad, and Naval cadets to INA at Ezhimala, Kerala.
- Apart from NDA, the Agnipath scheme, initiated by the Indian Army, has chosen Agniveer for participation. Those selected under this program will undergo a four-year enlistment in the Indian Army. Following the successful completion of the four-year term, 25% of the Agniveers will be able to secure permanent positions in the Indian Army, contingent upon the organisation's needs. For additional details regarding the scheme and the selection procedure, kindly refer to the following link:

<https://www.joinindiannavy.gov.in/en/page/agniveer-mr.html>



- Apart from this pathway, there are other additional ways of joining the defence. For additional details regarding the scheme and the selection procedure. Here are some links:
- <https://upsc.gov.in/examinations/Combined%20Defence%20Services%20Examination%20%28T%29%2C%202024>
- <https://territorialarmy.in/>
- <https://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in/how-to-join.htm>
- <https://indianairforce.nic.in/career-in-iaf/>
- <https://www.joinindiannavy.gov.in/en/faq/faq/index/officer#>

In conclusion, a career in defence offers a rare combination of service, commitment, and chances for professional advancement. This professional path is not only personally fulfilling but also a crucial part of safeguarding national and international security, whether you are drawn to military duty, civilian defence employment, or similar sectors.

Be ready for this profession by carefully evaluating your interests, abilities and goals, to identify the greatest fit within the military sector. If you are still confused, please don't hesitate to contact us for further assistance.



## Prescription to Success

### *Snippets of an interview conducted with an Indian Officer*

*Why did you choose a career in the armed forces, and what motivated you to serve your country?*

I chose a career in the armed forces because I was a part of NCC, and it was my first exposure to the military. Wearing the uniform gave me a sense of happiness that was different from anything else. I wanted to join the army not just to serve my country but also because I believe that any job can be a way of serving your country. I wanted to be a part of an organization that has fought and won so many wars.

*How does one get selected? Any tips for aspiring youth?*

There are many videos available on YouTube that provide detailed guidance on how to get selected for the entrance test, followed by an interview and medical examination. My only tip is to find a learning opportunity in everything you do. You can become a better person by learning from your experiences. Try to improve your soft skills, such as communication and emotional intelligence, rather than just your technical knowledge. If you are good at interpersonal communication and emotional intelligence, chances are high that you will be selected for the army.

*What branch of the armed forces are you in and how does one get there?*

I am in the logistics branch and one gets there after getting into the Academy. So once you get in, there will be options of what you want to choose depending on your academic qualifications. If you are an engineer, there are more avenues available, such as the engineering part of the Indian army. As for me, since I am not an engineer, I choose the logistic department.

*What are some of the most significant challenges you've faced during your selection, and how did you overcome them?*

During the selection process, my biggest challenge was understanding myself because the interview procedure varies for each individual. I believe that we are our own syllabus. If we are aware of our strengths, weaknesses and the opinions of those around us, we can better navigate the selection process. Self-awareness may sound intellectual, but it can be difficult for some to accept themselves. Overcoming this obstacle was my greatest achievement during the selection process.

*How did you prepare physically and mentally for getting into the forces?*

Physical preparation involves being active and improving your fitness levels, no matter what activity you are doing. So, if you can't run for three kilometres, it's okay to aim for it and practice for it. Be a team player and participate in whatever tests or activities you are given, whether it's an exam or a college event. Mentally, stay positive and remind yourself that even if you face challenges, there are people in worse conditions, so you can handle them with ease. Your problems are small and you'll be able to solve them.

*How does it feel to be a woman in the armed forces and what impact has it had on your life?*

It is an amazing feeling to be a woman in the army. When you go out, it is quite common for a man to say that he is an army officer, as there are more men in the army. However, being a woman in the army and seeing people react to you is a different kind of feeling. It is a source of pride for my parents and a unique factor in our society. Because of my achievements, my parents and I are highly respected in our community. I believe that parents reap the fruit of their efforts.

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*What opportunities for career advancement and specialization are available within your branch?*

I believe that there are excellent career advancement opportunities not just in my branch, but in any branch of the Indian Army. We are required to complete certain courses which provide us with degrees or diplomas in specific fields. For instance, I am in logistics and I will be completing many courses during my 10 years of service. At the end of it all, after passing a one-semester exam, I will receive an MBA degree. The Army prepares us for the outside world as well. One of the most valuable things I have learned is manpower management. We deal with different kinds of people every two years and have to manage them differently. I think that is a significant advantage of being in the Army, as it teaches you man management skills that no AI tool can ever replace."

*What advice would you give to someone considering a career in the defence forces?*

If you want to consider a career in the defence forces, I would advise you to speak to more people in the defence forces because people before joining the forces they see only the glorious part of being an army officer. They don't see the difficult parts of an Indian army officer so speak to anyone around you. One comes with different expectations and the world inside is a little different. It is not what it is shown in the movies, so one should know the ground reality.

*What are the benefits and drawbacks of a military career, in your opinion?*

The military career offers a unique way of life that can help in developing one's personality and adaptability skills. You may leave the army, but the army will not leave you, and that can be a significant advantage in fitting in anywhere. Additionally, being in the forces exposes you to different situations and tasks, providing enormous opportunities for growth and development. In the morning, you may be a PT Usha, and during the day, you may be a manager. In the evening, you could be playing sports or planning a party. The army provides exposure to various roles, making you an all-rounder.

While some people may feel that the seclusion from the outside world is a drawback, others do not see it that way. Managing personal life, especially family, can be challenging, and there are unique challenges in every job. However, one of the most significant benefits of being in the military is that your parents are taken care of even after you leave the army. Your family can benefit from the support of the military community, as they become a part of a larger family. So, even if your parents are living in another part of the country, they have 200 children in India to rely on for help.

*Are there any specific skills or qualifications that are particularly valued in your branch of the armed forces?*

As I mentioned earlier, the logistics branch doesn't require any prior engineering education. If you are interested in joining, there are vacancies for individuals who hold a BSc degree. The organization will provide you with a technical degree, followed by a year-long BTech course, ultimately resulting in an engineering degree. Therefore, there are no specific skill requirements or qualifications. However, the most crucial skills you need to possess are communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking. These skills are vital because knowledge can be acquired anytime, but emotional intelligence (EQ) has to be developed.



# Career Queries

by : Dr. Sudha Bhogle



**How does a B.Com degree equip students with managerial skills, and what should one consider when pursuing concurrent qualifications like CA alongside it?**

Aligning abilities with career paths is crucial for success in today's competitive world. It is essential to have a variety of skills to survive and do well in today's competitive world. Being interested in a specific area is one thing; having the ability to pursue that interest is another. A proper synchrony between interest and ability is necessary to build a successful career.

A B.Com degree provides students with a broad range of managerial skills, focusing on general business principles, accounting, economics, and quantitative skills. Graduates of B.Com can pursue further courses such as M.Com, Master of Finance (MFin), Master of Accounting (MAcc), MBA, CA, CFA, and CS.

Technically B.Com and CA can be done simultaneously. One can attempt CPT exams (Level 1 of the CA course) after appearing for the 12th standard examination. However, it is important to note that both B.Com and CA require a significant amount of time and hard work, and finding a balance between them is not easy. For more details, kindly check the following website: <http://icai.org/>



**Confused about your career?**

