

CDS Eligibility - Nationality/Citizenship

In order to fit the **CDS exam eligibility** a candidate who can give the CDS exam must be either be:

- A Citizen of India, or
- A subject of Nepal, or
- A subject of Bhutan, or
- A refugee from Tibet who came over to India before the 01st January 1962 to set in India permanently, or
- Indian origins who have migrated from Burma, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and East African Countries of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi, Zaire, Zambia, and Ethiopia or Vietnam to settle permanently in India.

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Important Points to Note: To fit the CDS Eligibility Criteria following are some of the major points to be noted by the candidates.

- Candidates under criteria 2, 3, 4, and 5 must have an Indian Government certificate or proof supporting their claims.
- Candidates who are Gorkha subjects of Nepal are not required to show any CDS eligibility certificate.
- A candidate who requires a certificate of CDS eligibility in 2024 may be permitted to the test provisionally pending receipt of the appropriate certificate from the government before UPSC announces the CDS result.

CDS Age Limit, Gender & Marital Status

The CDS age eligibility are different for male and female candidates. According to CDS norms, female candidates can only apply for OTA (non-technical). Male candidates can apply for any CDS examination post as long as they meet other eligibility conditions. The age limit for CDS exam eligibility is given in detail below.

Various Departments	Age Criteria in each case
Indian Military Academy (IMA)	Candidates born not earlier than 2nd January 2001 and not later than 1st January 2006 only are eligible.
Indian Naval Academy (INA)	Candidates born not earlier than 2nd January, 2001 and not later than 1st January, 2006 only are eligible.
Indian Air Force Academy (AFA)	20 to 24 years as on 1st January, 2025 i.e. born not earlier than 2nd January, 2001 and not later than 1st January, 2005
Officers' Training Academy (OTA) (SSC course)	Candidates born not earlier than 2nd January, 2000 and not later than 1st January, 2006 only are eligible.
Officers' Training Academy—(SSC Women Non-Technical Course)	Candidates born not earlier than 2nd January, 2000 and not later than 1st January, 2006.

Important Note: Following are some of the important points to keep in mind regarding marital status for candidates to fit the CDS Eligibility Criteria.

- Candidates should be less than 25 years of age & must be unmarried.
- Marriage is not permitted during your training period.

- Married candidates above 25 years of age can also apply, but during their training period, they will not be provided with the accommodation of their partner. They are also not allowed to live outside the Academy premises with their family.
- Date of birth as recorded in the Matriculation/Secondary School Certificate or an equivalent certificate will be accepted by the Commission.

CDS Eligibility 2024 - Educational Qualification

Another critical aspect of **CDS eligibility criteria** is the education qualification necessary for a particular force. Candidates pursuing the CDS 2024 exam must have finished their graduation or be taking the final exam for their degree. It is critical to remember that CDS admit cards are only provided to candidates who meet all of the eligibility requirements. Check the details given below to know what is CDS Exam Qualification Force-wise.

Armed Forces	CDS Education Qualification
IMA (Indian Military Academy)	Candidates should have a Graduation from a recognised University or equivalent.
INA (Indian Naval Academy)	Candidates should have a degree in Engineering from a recognised University or Institution.
AFA (Air Force Academy)	Candidates should have a degree from a recognised University (with Physics and Mathematics at 10+2 level) or a Bachelor of Engineering.
OTA (Officer Training Academy)	Candidates should have a Graduation from a recognised University or equivalent.

Important Note: Candidates must note the following points regarding CDS educational qualification to fit the UPSC CDS Eligibility Criteria.

- Candidates studying in the final semester/year of degree courses should not have any present backlog up to the last semester/year, and they will be required to submit proof of passing the degree examination at the time of joining folks who can give the CDS exam.
- The Commission reserves the right to treat a candidate who does not possess any of the qualifications as educationally qualified in exceptional cases provided that he/she possesses qualifications, the standard of which, in the opinion of the Commission, justifies their admission.

CDS Eligibility - Physical Standards

The candidates must be physically fit according to the prescribed physical standards and must be in good physical and mental health and free from any disease/ disability which is likely to interfere with the efficient performance of duties both ashore and afloat, under peace as well as war conditions in any part of the world. There should be no evidence of weak constitution, bodily defects or underweight. The candidate should not be overweight or obese. The CDS height and weight parameters for different categories are given below.

CDS Physical Eligibility		
Gender	Minimum Height	Height Relaxation for Certain Groups
Male	157.5 cm	○ 152 cm for Navy

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 162.5 cm for Air Force Flying Branch ○ 157.5 cm for Air Force Ground Duty ○ 152 cm for Gorkhas, Assamese, Garhwalis, etc. ○ 5 cm shorter for people from the hills of India's north-eastern region such as Garhwali and Kumaon
Female	152 cm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 147 cm for Gorkhas, Assamese, Garhwalis, etc. ○ 5 cm shorter for people from the hills of India's north-eastern region such as Garhwali and Kumaon ○ 2 cm shorter for candidates from Lakshadweep
All	148 cm	After all kinds of waivers/dispensations, the minimum height for all entries is 148 cm. If not, the candidate will be labelled a dwarf.

CDS Physical Eligibility for Male Candidates in the Army and Navy

To join the Army and Navy, male candidates must pass the standards of prescribed height and weight. Below, we have given the list of weight and height parameters for the different age groups of male candidates. Refer to the table for more details.

CDS Height and Weight Requirements for Army & Navy				
Height in Centimetres (Without Shoes)	Weight (Kgs)			
	18 years	20 years	22 years	24 years
152	44*	46	47	48
155	46	48**	49	50
157	47	49	50	51
160	48	50	51	52
162	50	52	51	54
165	52	53	55	56
168	53	55	57	58
170	55	57	58	59
173	57	59	60	61
175	59	61	62	62
178	61	62	63	64
180	63	64	65	66
183	65	67	67	68
185	67	69	70	71
188	70	71	72	74
190	72	73	74	76
193	74	76	77	78
195	77	78	79	81

CDS Physical Eligibility for Male Candidates in the Air Force

Below, we have given a detailed list of height and weight required for male candidates willing to join the Indian Air Force. The acceptable weight for Air Force candidates will be $\pm 10\%$ of the average. (For FAT % (<20) of Normal Individuals).

CDS Height and Weight Requirements for Airforce								
Height (mm)	Weight (Kgs)							
	15- 17 years	18-22 years	23-27 years	28-32 years	33-37 years	38-42 years	43-47 years	>48 years
1520	46	47	50	54	54	54	55	54
1530	47	47	51	55	55	54	56	54
1540	47	48	51	56	55	55	57	55
1550	48	49	52	56	56	56	57	56
1560	48	49	53	57	57	56	58	56
1570	49	50	54	58	58	57	58	57
1580	49	50	54	58	58	58	59	58
1590	50	51	55	59	59	59	60	58
1600	51	52	56	59	60	59	60	59
1610	51	52	56	60	60	60	61	60
1620	52	53	57	61	61	61	62	60
1630	52	54	58	61	62	61	62	61
1640	53	54	59	62	63	62	63	62
1650	53	55	59	63	63	63	64	62
1660	54	56	60	63	64	64	64	63
1670	54	56	61	64	65	64	65	64
1680	55	57	61	65	65	65	65	65
1690	55	57	62	65	66	66	66	65
1700	56	58	63	66	67	67	67	66
1710	56	59	64	66	68	67	67	67
1720	57	59	64	67	68	66	68	67
1730	58	60	65	68	69	69	69	68
1740	58	61	66	68	70	69	69	69
1750	59	61	66	69	71	70	70	69
1760	59	62	67	70	71	71	71	70
1770	60	62	68	70	72	72	71	71
1780	60	63	69	71	73	72	72	71
1790	61	64	69	72	73	73	73	72
1800	61	64	70	72	74	74	73	73
1810	62	65	71	73	75	75	74	73
1820	62	66	72	74	76	75	74	74
1830	63	66	72	74	76	76	75	75
1840	64	67	73	75	77	77	76	75
1850	64	68	74	75	78	77	76	76
1860	65	68	74	76	78	78	77	77
1870	65	69	75	77	79	79	78	77

1880	66	69	76	77	80	80	78	78
1890	66	70	77	78	81	80	79	79
1900	67	71	77	79	81	81	80	79
1910	67	71	78	79	82	82	80	80
1920	68	72	79	80	83	82	81	81
1930	68	73	79	81	83	83	-	-

CDS Exam Eligibility for Female Candidates - Height & Weight Standards

Female candidates who want to join the OTA, must qualify the height and weight standards decided by the exam conducting body. The following is a list of the height and weight criteria for female applicants to work in OTA.

CDS Height and Weight Standards for Female Candidates

Height in Cms. (Without shoes)	Weights (Kgs)		
	18 years	20 years	30 years
148	39	41	43
150	40	42	43.5
153	42	43.5	45
155	43	44	46
158	45	46	48
160	46	47	49
163	47	48	51
165	49	51	53
168	50	52	54

CDS Eligibility - Medical Standards

According to the UPSC rules, candidates must be physically and mentally fit. On medical grounds, a large number of qualified candidates are disqualified. As a result, candidates are highly urged to have a medical examination before applying for the CDS exam. Check out the table summarizing the medical eligibility criteria for CDS exam:

Medical CDS Eligibility Criteria	Details
Physical Standards	Candidates must meet the minimum physical standards set by the CDS, such as a minimum acceptable height of 152 cms for female candidates.
Medical Fitness	Candidates must be physically and mentally fit as per the medical standards set by the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS).
Visual and Hearing Standards	Candidates must meet visual and hearing standards set by UPSC. The standards might vary depending on the role candidates are applying for.
Medical Examination	Candidates will undergo a medical examination conducted by the Armed Forces Medical Board (AFMB) to determine their medical fitness. Any candidate found to be medically unfit will not be allowed to continue with the recruitment process.

It is important for candidates to meet the medical eligibility criteria along with other eligibility criteria before applying for the CDS exam. Below are some common medical defects are:

- Condition of Overweight / Underweight
- Under Sized Chest

- Piles
- Wax (Ears)
- Deviated Nasal Septum
- Tonsillitis
- Gynaecomastia
- Varicocele
- Hydrocele / Phimosis

CDS Eligibility Criteria 2024 - Visual Parameters

In the physical standards category, visual standards are an essential factor for recruiting candidates. However, the visual standards for each category are different. Below, we have listed the visual parameters for candidates willing to join IMA and OTA, Navy and Airforce separately. Refer to the information stated below.

CDS Visual Eligibility For IMA and OTA

Following are the visual standards to check if the candidates fit the CDS Exam Eligibility for enrollment into the Indian Army through various entries.

- Uncorrected vision(max allowed): 6/60 & 6/60
- Myopia: < -3.50 D Sph (including max astigmatism ≤ +/- 2.0 D Cyl)
- Hypermetropia: < +3.50 dSph (including max astigmatism ≤ +/- 2.0 D Cyl)
- BCVA: Rt 6/6 & Lt 6/6
- Lasik/equivalent surgery: Permitted
- Color perception: CP II

The table below indicates the CDS eligibility for male and female candidates in terms of their eyesight (Vision).

Male	Female
Vision (corrected) better eye 6/6 and worse eye 6/12	Vision(corrected) better eye 6/6, worse eye 6/12
Manifest hypermetropia should be less than plus 3.5 D including Astigmatism	Manifest hypermetropia should be less than plus 3.5 D including Astigmatism.
Myopia of not more than minus 3.5 D	Myopia of not more than minus 5.5 D

CDS Visual Eligibility For Navy

The list of Naval Candidates' Vision standards is given below in the table:

Condition	Standards
Uncorrected without glasses	6/12, 6/12
Corrected with glasses	6/6, 6/6
Binocular Vision	III
Limits of Myopia	- 1.5D Sph
Limits of Hypermetropia	+ 1.5 D Cyl
Limits of Colour Perception	I
Astigmatism (within limits of myopia and hypermetropia)	+0.75 D Sph / Cyl

CDS Visual Eligibility For Air Force

Candidates who habitually wear spectacles are not eligible for Air Force. Minimum distant vision 6/6 in one eye and 6/9 in other correctable to 6/6 only.

Visual Parameters for Air Force	Details

Spectacles	Candidates who habitually wear spectacles are not eligible for Air Force.
Minimum Distant Vision	Minimum distant vision 6/6 in one eye and 6/9 in other correctable to 6/6 only.
Hypermetropia	Hypermetropia: +2.0 d Sph.
Colour Vision	Colour Vision CP-1.
Manifest Myopia	Manifest Myopia: Nil.
Retinoscopic Myopia	Retinoscopic Myopia- 0.5 in any meridian.
Astigmatism	Astigmatism: +0.75 D Cyl (with + 2.0 D- Max).
Maddox Rod Test	At 6 metres: Exo-6 prism D, Eso-6 prism D, Hyper-1 prism D, Hypo-1 prism D. At 33 cms: Exo-16 prism D, Eso-6 prism D, Hyper-1 prism D, Hypo-1 prism D.
Lasik/equivalent surgery	Candidates who have had kerato-refractive surgery must present a certificate or surgical notes from the hospital detailing the date, type of surgery, and treatment.

CDS Eligibility Criteria 2024 - Hearing Standards

Under the physical standards category, hearing standards for recruiting candidates is an essential criterion. Every individual must pass the hearing test. A detailed explanation of all the related conditions to ear and hearing standards are given:

Hearing Standards for CDS Eligibility	
Test	Requirement
Speech Test	A candidate can get rejected if they fail to meet the required requirements. The applicant must score at least 70 percent at an intensity no greater than 65 Db in either ear.
Audiometric Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If you have undergone a specific type of ear surgery called Tympanoplasty, starting from the second type (Type II) onwards, but not the first type (Type I). ○ If you have calcium deposits (calcareous plaques) in your eardrum, but only if they cover less than one-third of a specific part called the pars tensa. ○ If you have had an infection in the middle ear. ○ If you have a growth or swelling called granulation or polyp in your outer ear canal. ○ If you have had a surgical procedure called stapedectomy. ○ If you have a condition called Otosclerosis. ○ If you have a condition called Meniere's disease. ○ If you have a problem with the balance system in your inner ear (vestibular dysfunction) or with the movement sense related to your

	<p>body's position (proprioception origin).</p> <p>○ If you have developed Bell's palsy after having an ear infection.</p>
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CDS Exam Eligibility - Spinal Conditions

Past medical history of diseases or any spine injury or Sacroiliac joints, either with or without objective signs which have prevented the candidate from successfully living a physically active life, will be a cause of rejection to get commissioned in the Indian Air Force. History of spinal fracture/prolapsed intervertebral disc and operation for these conditions can be a reason for rejection. If a candidate gets detected with the conditions given below during the medical examination, then a candidate will not qualify for Air Force service. Check the CDS eligibility criteria given below:

CDS Eligibility Criteria for Spinal Diseases	Details
Granulomatous disease of the spine	Not eligible.
Arthritis/Spondylosis	Rheumatoid arthritis and allied disorders, Ankylosing Spondylitis, Osteoarthritis, Spondylosis, and degenerative joint diseases; Not eligible
Non-articular Rheumatism	Lesions of the rotator cuff, recurrent lumbago, tennis elbow, and others; Not eligible
Miscellaneous Disorders	Including SLE, Dermatomyositis, Polymyositis, Vasculitis; Not eligible
Spondylolisthesis/ Spondylolysis/ Spondylosis	Not eligible.
Compression fracture of vertebrae	Not eligible.
Scheuermann's disease (Adolescent Kyphosis)	Not eligible.
Loss of Cervical Lordosis	If associated with clinically restricted movements of the cervical spine, not eligible.
Cervical Ribs	Unilateral/bilateral Cervical ribs and a demonstrable neurological or circulatory deficiency, not eligible.

CDS Exam Eligibility - Dental Conditions

Conditions which needs to be taken care for Dental standards and problems for CDS candidates are mentioned. CDS eligibility criteria are given below:

CDS Eligibility Criteria for Dental Conditions	Details
Incipient pathological conditions of the jaws	Progressive or recurrent, not eligible.
Significant jaw discrepancies	Between the upper and the lower jaw, which can

	hamper efficient chewing and/or speech, not eligible.
Symptomatic Temporo-Mandibular Joint	With clicking and tenderness, not eligible.
Restricted mouth opening	Less than 30 mm measured at the incisal edges, dislocation of the TMJ on a wide opening, not eligible.
Potentially cancerous conditions	Not eligible.
Submucous fibrosis	With or without the restriction to mouth opening, not eligible.
Poor oral health status	In the form of gross visible calculus or bleeding from gums or periodontal pockets, not eligible.
Loose teeth	More than two mobile teeth, not eligible.
Cosmetic or post-traumatic Maxillofacial surgery/trauma	Candidate will be considered unfit for at least 24 weeks after the surgery/injury, whichever is later.
Malocclusion of teeth	Hampers structured mastications, the maintenance of oral hygiene, general nutrition, or duties performed well, not eligible.

CDS Exam Eligibility - Chest Conditions

The candidates will get rejected if they do not follow specific criteria related to chest conditions. Details are given below, which should be known to the candidate if they are going to be medically tested. Check the below points:

- Tuberculosis, or evidence of tuberculosis, lesions of lungs and heart, also if Musculoskeletal lesions of the chest wall are found.
- Abdominal and Genitor-urinary System: Problems like Hernia, Varicocele, Organomegaly, Solitary kidney, Horseshoe kidney & Cysts in the kidney/liver, Undescended testis, stones in the gall-bladder, Renal and Ureteric stones, Lesions/Deformities of urogenital organs, Sinuses, Lymphadenitis/Pathy, and Piles

CDS Exam Eligibility - Nervous System

- Tremors, speech impediments, and imbalance entail rejection.
- Skin Problems: Vitiligo, Warts, Dermatitis, Corns, skin infections, Haemangiomas
- Growths and Hyperhidrosis of the nervous system.

CDS Eligibility - Physical Fitness

Candidates who are going for a medical check-up are advised to keep themselves in good physical condition. A candidate can follow some daily routine which is below-mentioned. Check the suggestions and try to follow to get the final selection, as it will be the last stage:

- Running: Try to complete 2 to 4 km running in 15 minutes
- Pushups & Sit-ups: Minimum 20 each

- Chin-ups: Min. 8
- Rope Climbing: 3 to 4 meters
- Skipping