

# Career For Women In Armed Forces As Officers

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## Introduction

India is on the rise. The pillars of power of the nation are its physical size and location in the world, its economy, polity, diplomacy, its technology savvy human resources and its military.

For young lady graduates, the avenues of employment in India are similar to those for their male counterparts, both in Government, public and the private sector. With improving working conditions, safety and social acceptance, the young ladies are today forming the major chunk of the work force ranging from a JCB operator to an executive in an MNC to manning the communications for the Armed Forces in difficult areas like the Siachen.

Armed Forces offer a wonderful, career to young ladies who are interested in serving the nation with “Honour, Courage and Fidelity”. It offers a wide variety of jobs, a life full of outdoor activities, adventure and learning.

At the end of the day, women officers employed in the Armed Forces, sleep in contentment, for having contributed their minuscule bit in nation building. This they do because they, on daily basis, are combating one of the following challenges that threaten the unity and integrity of our beloved nation.

<i>External Threats</i>	<i>Internal Threats</i>	<i>Natural Disasters</i>
China (Economic and Military)	Jammu and Kashmir	Floods
Pakistan (Military and Terrorism)	North East	Earthquake
Sri Lanka (Terrorism)	The Maoist Red Corridor from Bihar to Karnataka	Drought
Bangladesh (Terrorism and illegal migrants)	Ethno-Communal Strife	Famine
Nepal (Terrorism ex Pakistan and Maoists)	Trans Border Migration	
Drug Trafficking and Narco Terrorism	Divisive Politics	
	Drug Trafficking and Narco Terrorism	
	Socio Economic Disparity	

## Career Opportunities in Indian Army

<i>Entry</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Notification</i>
<b>UPSC CDS exam for Short Service Commission(SSC) (NON TECH)</b>	<b>19-25</b>	<b>GRADUATE 50 %</b>	<b>NOVEMBER &amp; JUNE (Successful candidates will be called for Services Selection Board interview)</b>  <b><a href="https://upsc.gov.in/examinations/exam-calendar">https://upsc.gov.in/examinations/exam-calendar</a></b>
<b>SSC (TECH)</b>	<b>20-27</b>	<b>ENGINEERING GRADUATE</b>	<b><a href="http://joinindianarmy.nic.in/how-to-join.htm">http://joinindianarmy.nic.in/how-to-join.htm</a></b>  <b>SSB Interview Selection</b>
<b>NCC SPECIAL ENTRY</b>	<b>19-25</b>	<b>GRADUATE + NCC "C" CERTIFICATE WITH 'B' GRADE</b>	<b><a href="http://joinindianarmy.nic.in/how-to-join.htm">http://joinindianarmy.nic.in/how-to-join.htm</a></b>  <b>SSB Interview Selection</b>
<b>SSCW JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL</b>	<b>21-27</b>	<b>LLB 55%</b>	<b><a href="http://joinindianarmy.nic.in/how-to-join.htm">http://joinindianarmy.nic.in/how-to-join.htm</a></b>  <b>SSB Interview Selection</b>

Now 10 branches of Army offer Permanent Commission for women officers, four years prior to the termination of their short service commission. These are Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Army Air Defence, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Intelligence.

Apart from the above mainstream entries, there are few other entries like Army Medical Corps, Army Education Corps and Military Nursing Service which inducts women on a direct entry basis depending on the availability and requirement.

## Career Opportunities in Air Force

Air Force Common Entrance Test (AFCAT) is conducted twice a year. Notification is published in June and December <https://afcat.cdac.in/AFCAT/>. Successful candidates thereafter undergo Services Selection Board (SSB) interview.

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Type Of Entry</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Qualification</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>AFCAT Flying Branch</b>	<b>19-23</b>	<b>Graduate of any stream with Physics and Maths in 10+2 with 60 % in both or BE / B Tech with 60% or Non AFCAT NCC Special entry with "C" certificate and Commercial pilot License</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>AFCAT Technical Branch (Mechanical Engineering)</b>	<b>19-28</b>	<b>Minimum degree course from a recognized university with aggregate of minimum 60% marks and qualification in at least eight subjects out of eighteen as per notified in the advertisement or cleared Section A and B exam of Associate membership of Institution of engineers or Aeronautical society of India in regular courses</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>AFCAT Technical Branch</b>		<b>Minimum year degree course from a recognized university with aggregate of minimum 60% marks and qualification in at least eight subjects as per notified in the advertisement or cleared Section A and B exam of Associate membership of Institution of engineers or Aeronautical society of India or graduate membership exam of the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers in regular courses</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>AFCAT General Duty (Administration and Logistics)</b>	<b>20-25</b>	<b>Graduate in any discipline from a recognized university with aggregate of 60% marks or a Post Graduate degree/ diploma in any discipline from a recognized university with aggregate of minimum 60% marks</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>AFCAT General Duty (Education)</b>	<b>20-25</b>	<b>PostGraduate/M.Ed/ PhD with minimum 50%.</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>AFCAT General Duty (Legal)</b>	<b>20-26</b>	<b>LLB 55%</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>AFCAT General Duty (Accounts)</b>	<b>20-27</b>	<b>B Com with 60% or M, Com/ CA/ICWA with 50%</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Non AFCAT Entry Meteorology department</b>	<b>20-27</b>	<b>Post Graduate/ PhD in Maths/Statistics/ Geography/CS/EVS/Physics/ Geo Physics with minimum 50% marks and 55% in Maths and Physics in Graduation.  Direct call to Interview at SSB.</b>

In Air Force, Permanent Commission option is available after Ten years' service in all branches including fighter pilots, for women officers.

### Career Opportunities in Indian Navy

Presently the women are recruited as Pilot, ATC, Observers, in Law, Logistics, Education and Naval Architecture. Visit <https://www.joinindiannavy.gov.in/en/page/women-in-the-navy.html>

S. No.	Type of Entry	Age	Qualification
1.	Pilot Maritime Reconnaissance	19-24	BE/B.Tech degree in any discipline with Physics & Maths in 12th standard.
	CPL Holder	19-25	A candidate holding valid and current CPL issued by DGCA (India)
2.	Naval Architecture Exam	19.5-25	B.E/B.Tech in Computer Science, IT, Electrical, Electronics, Mechanical OR M.Sc in Physics/Maths/Computer application with 50% marks
3.	Air Traffic Controller	19.5-25	B.E/ B.Tech (Any Discipline) with 60% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Maths & Physics at 10+2 level.
4.	Observer	19-24	B.E/ B.Tech in any discipline with minimum 55 % marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Maths & Physics at 10+2 level.
5.	Logistics (Logistics Cadre)	19.5-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.Tech/ B.E (Any Discipline)</li> <li>• MBA with First Class B.Sc/ B.Com/B.Sc(IT) with First Class and a Post Graduate Diploma in Material Management/ Finance/ Logistics/ Supply Chain Management</li> </ul>

6.	<b>Logistics: Catering Billets</b>	<b>19.5-25</b>	<b>M.Sc (Hotel Management)/ MBA (Hotel Management)/ BSc or BA with First Class and a Post Graduate Diploma in Hotel Management.</b>
7.	<b>Logistics : Works</b>	<b>19.5 - 25</b>	<b>BE/ B Tech( Civil) / B Tech (Architecture)</b>
8.	<b>Education</b>	<b>21-25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>B.E/ B.Tech/ M.Tech in IT/ Computer Science Engg / Electrical &amp; Electronics/ Electronics &amp; Telecommunication/ Electronics &amp; Instrumentation / Mechanical / Electronics and Communication/ Instrumentation/ Telecommunication.</b></li> <li>• <b>M.Sc (Maths) with Physics in B.Sc / M.Sc (Physics) with Maths in B.Sc / M.Sc (Operational Research)/ M.Sc (Analysis).</b></li> <li>• <b>MCA (Physics or Maths at Graduation Level).</b></li> <li>• <b>M.A (English) / M.A (history).</b></li> </ul>
9.	<b>Naval Armament Inspector</b>	<b>19.5-25</b>	<b>BE/B Tech in one of the following streams: -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Electrical</b></li> <li>• <b>Electronics</b></li> <li>• <b>Mechanical</b></li> <li>• <b>Production</b></li> <li>• <b>Instrumentation</b></li> <li>• <b>IT</b></li> <li>• <b>Chemical</b></li> <li>• <b>Metallurgy</b></li> <li>• <b>Aerospace Engineering</b></li> </ul>
10.	<b>Law</b>	<b>22-27</b>	<b>LL.B</b>

In Indian Navy, all women officers can apply for Permanent Commission after 10 years of service.

### Career Opportunities in Indian Coast Guard

Coast Guard is an Independent Indian Armed Force under Ministry of Defence. Women are recruited in Coast Guard only as officers in General duty, General Duty (Pilot / Navigation) and General Duty (CPL Holders, Short Service entry) branches. The enrolment is on Short Service basis for eight years extendable to 14 years. Age limit relaxation for SC/ST is five years and three years for OBC. Visit <https://joinindiancoastguard.gov.in/officerentry.html>

S. No.	Type Of Entry	Age	Qualification
1.	SSC Assistant Commandant: (General Duty )	21-25	Bachelor's Degree in any discipline with Mathematics and Physics as subjects upto class XII of 10+2+3 scheme of education
2.	SSC Assistant Commandant General Duty Branch (Pilot-CPL)	19-25	12th or equivalent and should possess current Commercial Pilot License on the date of submission of application.
3.	Assistant Commandant Law	21-30	A degree in Law desirable or a post graduate degree in Law.  Knowledge / experience assignment connected with International Law/ Maritime Law

### Pay and Allowances

The Indian Armed Forces not only offers an opportunity to serve your nation, learn more skills, enhance your education, provides you with a good standard of life but it also offers good remunerations as follows: -

S. NO.	Army	Airforce	Navy	Pay Scale
1	General	Air Chief Marshal	Admiral	2,50,000
2	Lieutenant General	Air Marshal	Vice Admiral	1,82,200-2.24,100
3	Major General	Air Vice Marshal	Rear Admiral	1,44,200-2,18,200

4	Brigadier	Air Commodore	Commodore	1,39,600-2,17,600
5	Colonel	Group Captain	Captain	1,30,600-2,15,900
6	Lieutenant Colonel	Wing Commander	Commander	1,21,200-1,12,400
7	Major	Squadron Leader	Lieutenant Commander	69,400-2,02,700
8	Captain	Flight Lieutenant	Lieutenant	61,300-1,93,900
9	Lieutenant	Flying Officer	Sub Lieutenant	56,100-1,77,500

In addition to the above, Armed forces officers get military service pay, transport allowance, house rent allowance and specialised personnel get qualification allowance, non-practising allowance, flying allowance etc. In case the officer is posted to a difficult area then allowances like Siachen, high altitude, field, counter insurgency and many such like allowances are applicable for the duration of her deployment in these regions.

During initial training period, a stipend of Rs 56100 per month is paid.

### Life in Armed Forces

Life in Armed Forces exposes a person to constant professional action in operations, training and administration. It ensures professional growth by enhancing a person's skill and education. It offers not only on the job adventures in the most rugged terrains and adverse weather but also encourages adventure activities such as hang gliding, para sailing, sky diving, mountaineering, white water rafting and much more. An officer not only sees nearly the entire nation very closely during her career but also gets the opportunity to serve overseas in various UN missions. Facilities of horse riding, golf, tennis, swimming, library, swimming pools, canteen facilities, superb housing, excellent quality health care for her and her family, good education facilities including professional engineering, medical, dental, law etc makes the quality of life unmatched. And undoubtedly in our nation, the Armed Forces personnel are the most respected, whether serving or retired.

The following is a comparison of the Armed Forces career with the corporate world: -

<b><i>Armed Forces</i></b>	<b><i>Corporate</i></b>
<b>Good Pay</b>	<b>Excellent Pay</b>
<b>Minimal Expenses</b>	<b>Exorbitant expenses</b>
<b>Lifelong High Status</b>	<b>Temporary Paid Status</b>
<b>Active Life</b>	<b>Desk Job</b>
<b>Job Security</b>	<b>No Job Security</b>
<b>Enhances Qualification</b>	<b>Learning Stagnation</b>
<b>On the job Adventure</b>	<b>Pays for Adventure</b>
<b>Unmatchable Quality of Life</b>	<b>Average Quality of Life</b>
<b>Very High Degree of Job Satisfaction in Serving the Nation and meeting its Challenges head on.</b>	<b>Average degree of Job satisfaction and in perennial lookout for greener pastures.</b>

## **Conclusion**

Therefore, young ladies, do you want to be a person who is an officer and a gentlewoman first and till death, who is epitomised by the following qualities till eternity: -

- **A person trained and tasked to lead men to battle or to complete any task assigned to her.**
- **A leader, a commander, a friend and a guide for her men.**
- **A manager of human, material and technological resources.**
- **A model of character, virtue and valour.**
- **An epitome of Compassion and determination – an iron fist in a velvet glove.**
- **And an Achiever. A person who does a difficult task immediately and for the impossible, takes a little more time.**

Therefore, young ladies, this nation is asking you “Do You Have It in You?”