



# TECHNICAL ENTRY SCHEMES IN THE DEFENCE FORCES

Army • Navy • Air Force

*A commissioned officer's briefing for engineering aspirants — TGC, TES, SSC Tech,  
Navy Technical Entries and the IAF's GATE Score route.*

**VISHVASNIYA EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

A Promise of Trust

Prepared by Group Captain PS Kaushik (Retd.), Indian Air Force

*Structural reference: - TGC Entry 2026, UPSC Notifications, careers in the Indian Navy and  
Indian Air Force official websites encompassing all the three Services.*

# CONTENTS

---

1. Why the technical route deserves an engineer's serious attention
2. The technical entry landscape — all three Services, September 2026
3. Indian Army — TGC, TES and SSC Technical
4. Indian Navy — 10+2 B.Tech Cadet Entry and SSC Technical
5. Indian Air Force — Technical Branch via AFCAT, and the GATE Score route
6. Selection process: shortlisting, SSB/AFSB, medical and merit
7. Choosing between entries — permanent vs short service, graduate vs 10+2
8. How to prepare — technical, personality and physical
9. Common mistakes and questions I am asked most often
10. Where each cycle stands today, master checklist and official sources

# 1. WHY THE TECHNICAL ROUTE DESERVES AN ENGINEER'S SERIOUS ATTENTION

---

Too many engineering students still treat the Services as a fallback if the campus placement season goes badly. I want to correct that thinking at the outset. The technical entry schemes of the Army, Navy and Air Force are not a consolation prize — they are a deliberate route by which the Armed Forces recruit domain experts and hand them command of the most advanced systems in the inventory, from armoured platforms and satellite communication to naval propulsion and combat aircraft.

A technical officer is not confined to a workshop or a maintenance bay. He or she leads troops, takes tactical decisions under pressure, and carries exactly the same command responsibility as any other commissioned officer — with the additional weight of keeping complex equipment mission-ready. If you are an engineering aspirant wondering whether your degree can translate into military leadership, this guide answers that question Service by Service, with every figure re-checked by deep search against the notifications live or most recently closed as of 1 September 2026.

## **Note (September 2026):**

This edition has been reviewed cover to cover. The genuine change in the landscape flagged in the previous edition stands confirmed: the Indian Air Force's GATE Score entry into the Technical Branch is a real, live scheme, exempting GATE-qualified candidates from the written AFCAT examination. On the Army side, the correction on the University Entry Scheme (UES) also stands — it has not run since UES-27 and should not be budgeted into your planning. One further correction has been made in this edition: the Navy's 10+2 (B.Tech) Cadet Entry Scheme is a Technical-Branches-only route (Mechanical Engineering and Electronics & Communication Engineering), not a combined Executive-and-Technical intake as the previous edition stated — see Section 4 for the corrected detail.

## 2. THE TECHNICAL ENTRY LANDSCAPE — ALL THREE SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 2026

| Entry                         | Service | Who it targets                                | Written exam                         | Commission                               |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| TGC                           | Army    | Engineering graduates (B.E./B.Tech)           | None — direct SSB                    | Permanent, from day one                  |
| TES                           | Army    | Class 12 PCM students, pre-degree             | None — merit + JEE (Main) rank       | Permanent, after integrated training     |
| SSC Tech                      | Army    | Engineering graduates, men and women          | None — direct SSB                    | Short Service (extendable)               |
| 10+2 (B.Tech) Cadet Entry     | Navy    | Class 12 PCM students, pre-degree             | None — JEE (Main) CRL * shortlisting | Permanent, after 4-year B.Tech at INA    |
| SSC Technical                 | Navy    | Engineering graduates, men and women          | None — merit-based shortlisting      | Short Service                            |
| Technical Branch (AFCAT)      | IAF     | Engineering graduates                         | AFCAT written exam                   | Permanent/Short Service per notification |
| Technical Branch (GATE Score) | IAF     | Engineering graduates with a valid GATE score | None — written exam exempted         | Permanent/Short Service per notification |

### Note (September 2026):

Read this table as a map, not a menu you must choose from one. Many engineers legitimately keep two doors open in the same season — for example, an engineering graduate can apply to both Army TGC and IAF Technical Branch (via AFCAT or GATE) in the same cycle, since these are independent Service processes.

**JEE (Main) CRL Shortling:** Refer 4.1 Section for details.

## 2.1 Pay and Stipend at a glance

Every technical entry in this guide sits on the same 7th CPC pay architecture, but the point at which the training stipend actually starts is not identical across entries — the Navy's 10+2 (B.Tech) Cadet Entry is a notable exception, and is flagged separately below.

| Entry                                 | Stipend during training                                                                                                      | Pay on commissioning                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TGC / TES / SSC Tech (Army)           | Rs. 56,100/month (Level-10 starting pay)                                                                                     | Lieutenant, Level 10 (Rs. 56,100–Rs. 1,77,500) + MSP Rs. 15,500/month                     |
| 10+2 (B.Tech) Cadet Entry (Navy)      | No stipend up to 6th term; Rs. 56,100/month from 7th term, plus fully sponsored fees, books, clothing and messing throughout | Sub Lieutenant, Level 10 + MSP Rs. 15,500/month, on commissioning after the 4-year B.Tech |
| SSC Technical (Navy)                  | Level-10 training stipend, as per current cadet entitlements                                                                 | Sub Lieutenant, Level 10 + MSP Rs. 15,500/month                                           |
| Technical Branch — AFCAT / GATE (IAF) | Rs. 56,100/month (Level-10 starting pay)                                                                                     | Flying Officer, Level 10 + MSP Rs. 15,500/month                                           |

### Note (September 2026):

Figures are drawn from the live notifications for each Service's current cycle and are subject to periodic revision. Allowances beyond MSP — Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, Transport Allowance, Technical Allowance, Children Education Allowance, field/hardship allowances and free medical cover for self and dependents — apply on top of the figures above and vary by posting, so treat this table as a floor, not the full package. Starting CTC across these entries typically works out to roughly Rs. 17–18 lakh per annum once allowances are added.

## 3. INDIAN ARMY — TGC, TES AND SSC TECHNICAL

---

### 3.1 Technical Graduate Course (TGC)

TGC is designed specifically to recruit qualified engineers directly into the Army as executive officers with a Permanent Commission from day one — a genuine lifelong career, not a fixed-tenure stint. There is no written competitive examination for this route; your engineering degree and academic record are your ticket to a direct SSB call-up.

- **Current cycle:** TGC-144, course commencing January 2027; online applications ran 13 May to 11 June 2026; 30 tentative vacancies across streams including Civil, Computer Science, Electrical, Electronics and Mechanical. As of this edition, the application window has closed and the cycle is at the shortlisting/SSB stage.
- **Age:** 20 to 27 years as on 1 January 2027 for the current cycle (born between 1 January 2000 and 1 January 2007).
- **Eligibility:** unmarried male candidates with a recognised B.E./B.Tech degree, or final-year candidates who can submit proof of passing by the notified deadline. Candidates with a live academic backlog in any semester are not eligible to apply.
- **Shortlisting** is by cumulative semester percentage, stream-wise, set by Army HQ each cycle — there is no fixed universal cut-off, so keep your transcripts current and accurate.
- **Training:** Approximately 49 weeks at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, with one year of ante-date seniority granted to TGC officers from the date of commission. Recommended candidates who fall outside the 30 allotted vacancies may be offered a place on the SSC (Tech) course instead, subject to eligibility.
- **Stipend:** Rs. 56,100 per month during training (Level-10 starting pay), fully government-funded. On commissioning as Lieutenant, pay sits in Level 10 (Rs. 56,100–Rs. 1,77,500) plus Military Service Pay of Rs. 15,500/month — see Section 2.1 for the full pay comparison across entries.

### 3.2 Technical Entry Scheme (TES) — the 10+2 route

TES recruits directly from Class 12, before the engineering degree is even begun. Selected candidates undergo an integrated four-to-five-year programme that combines military training with an engineering degree, emerging as commissioned Permanent Commission officers with a B.Tech in hand.

- **Current cycle:** TES-56, course commencing January 2027; 90 provisional vacancies; online window ran 13 May to 12 June 2026 — closed as of this edition.
- **Age:** 16½ to 19½ years as on the course-commencement reference date for the cycle (01 January 2027).
- **Eligibility:** unmarried male candidates who have passed or are appearing in Class 12 with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics, minimum 60% aggregate in PCM, and who have appeared in that year's JEE (Main) examination — this is compulsory, with no waiver

regardless of board percentage.

- There is no separate written test; shortlisting for the SSB call runs purely on the JEE (Main) 2026 All India Common Rank List.
- Vacancies are distributed across the three Cadets Training Wings — CME Pune, MCTE Mhow and MCEME Secunderabad — with final allotment decided by the Army.
- Training stipend during the programme is paid at Level 10 of the Pay Matrix (Rs. 56,100/month), the same rate as the Army's graduate-entry technical courses, when they join IMA in the 7<sup>th</sup> term (or first term at IMA) — see Section 2.1.

### 3.3 Short Service Commission (Technical) — SSC Tech

SSC Tech is the Army's graduate-entry technical route for a Short Service Commission rather than a Permanent one, open to both men and women, and — like TGC — free of any written examination.

- **Current cycle:** 68th SSC (Tech) Men and SSCW (Tech) Women, course commencing April 2027; 381 vacancies notified — 350 for men, and 31 for women (29 women's vacancies plus 2 reserved for widows of defence personnel).  
**Application windows:** 8 July to 6 August 2026 (women) and 9 July to 7 August 2026 (men) — both closed as of this edition.
- Age: 20 to 27 years as on 1 April 2027 (born between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2007), consistent with the graduate-entry bracket used across technical courses.
- Eligibility: unmarried male and female engineering graduates in a notified stream; no application fee is charged for any category.
- Selection: stream-wise shortlisting on cumulative marks percentage against the vacancy ratio, followed by a two-stage SSB and medical examination.
- Training: 49 weeks at the Officers Training Academy, Gaya, from April 2027 to March 2028.
- Stipend: Rs. 56,100 per month during training (Level-10 starting pay). On commissioning as Lieutenant, starting CTC is approximately Rs. 17–18 lakh per annum including Military Service Pay and allowances — see Section 2.1.

#### **Note (September 2026):**

A correction worth making plainly: the Army's University Entry Scheme (UES), which recruited pre-final-year engineering students through campus interviews, has not run since UES-27 around 2017–18. Several coaching and career websites still describe it in the present tense — do not plan your final years of college around it. TGC, TES and SSC Tech remain the live technical routes into the Army today. Separately, an unconfirmed report from September 2025 suggested a possible merger of the Army Education Corps into a Tri-Services Education Corps; this concerns the non-technical AEC stream, not the technical entries in this guide, and remains unverified — it is flagged here only so you do not confuse the two threads.

## 4. INDIAN NAVY — 10+2 B.TECH CADET ENTRY AND SSC TECHNICAL

---

### 4.1 10+2 (B.Tech) Cadet Entry Scheme

This is the Navy's equivalent of the Army's TES — a direct-from-Class-12 route into a fully sponsored four-year B.Tech at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, with the degree conferred by Jawaharlal Nehru University. There is no separate written test; shortlisting runs entirely on your JEE (Main) All India Common Rank List.

- Current cycle: for the January 2027 course, the Navy has notified 60 vacancies, split evenly between the two Technical Branches on offer - 30 in Mechanical Engineering and 30 in Electronics & Communication Engineering. Of these, up to 7 candidates from the Mechanical Engineering stream may be re-streamed into B.Tech Naval Architecture & Shipbuilding at the Naval Construction Wing, Kochi, based on performance during training at INA — this decision is made by the Navy during training, not at the time of joining. Online applications ran 29 May to 18 June 2026 (extended to 29 June 2026 in the final window) and are now closed. A separate July 2026 intake also ran earlier in the year with its own vacancy count.
- A maximum of 8 seats are reserved for women across the January 2027 cycle — 4 in Mechanical Engineering and 4 in Electronics & Communication Engineering.
- Age: born between 2 July 2007 and 1 January 2010 (approximately 17 to 19½ years) as on the course reference date for the January 2027 cycle — this bracket shifts by a few months each cycle, so check the live notification.
- Eligibility: Class 12 pass with at least 70% aggregate in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics, and at least 50% in English (Class 10 or 12); appearance in that year's JEE (Main) is compulsory and CRL Shortlisting.
- **JEE (Main) CRL shortlisting:** CRL Shortlisting in Indian Navy Selections refers to shortlisting candidates for the SSB interview primarily on the basis of their JEE Main Common Rank List (CRL), particularly for the 10+2 B.Tech Cadet Entry Scheme. There is no separate Navy written examination. Candidates meeting the prescribed academic eligibility; including 70% aggregate in PCM in Class 12 and 50% in English in Class 10 or 12, are considered based on their CRL rank. Naval Headquarters fixes a cut-off depending on applications and vacancies, and candidates with a CRL rank within the cut-off are called for the 5-day SSB interview. Successful candidates thereafter undergo medical examination, followed by preparation of the final merit list based on selection criteria and medical fitness.
- SSB interviews for this entry have recently been held at centers including Bhopal, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Kolkata and Visakhapatnam — the Navy assigns the center; there is no option to request a change.
- Stipend: cadets receive no training stipend up to the 6th term of the 4-year programme, in line with fees, books, clothing and messing being fully sponsored throughout. From the 7th term onward — the final phase before commissioning — cadets receive the standard Rs. 56,100/month training stipend, the same point at which OTA, AFA and other INA cadets on shorter courses begin drawing theirs. On commissioning as Sub Lieutenant, pay moves to Level 10 plus Military Service Pay of Rs. 15,500/month — see Section 2.1.

**Note (September 2026):** The July 2026 course was still notified as a combined Executive-and-Technical intake (44 vacancies, branch decided at INA). The live January 2027 notification has moved to a Technical-Branches-only intake — Mechanical Engineering and Electronics & Communication Engineering, with the further Naval Architecture sub-stream decided during training. Branch choice for the current cycle is fixed at application/allotment between the two notified engineering streams, not decided later at the Academy's discretion between Executive and Technical roles. Aspirants who specifically want the Executive (seaman) branch should look instead at NDA or CDS entry, not this scheme — and should re-check each new notification, since the Navy has evidently revised this scheme's branch structure within the same year. On stipend: these cadets do not draw a monthly stipend from day one of training — it begins only from the 7th term, alongside every other INA, OTA and AFA cadet on a comparable course.

## 4.2 Short Service Commission (Technical)

Navy SSC Technical is the graduate-entry route for engineers, open to men and women, built into the standard SSC officer notification alongside the Executive and Education branches.

- Eligibility: engineering graduates, or final-year students able to submit proof of 60% aggregate marks by the notified deadline, in a discipline recognised for the branch/cadre applied for.
- Shortlisting is on normalised marks in the qualifying degree, using the Navy's own normalisation formula, rather than a flat aggregate comparison across boards and universities.
- NCC 'C' Certificate holders (Naval, Army or Air Wing, minimum 'B' Grade, at least two years' Senior Division service) continue to receive a 5% relaxation in the SSB shortlisting cut-off, exactly as set out in Vishvasniya's NCC Officer Entry Guide.
- Stipend and pay follow the same Level-10 training-stipend and post-commission structure as the Navy's other SSC entries — see Section 2.1.

## 4.3 A note on the Navy's University Entry Scheme

Unlike the Army's UES, the Navy continues to list a University Entry Scheme for pre-final and final-year engineering students on its selection portal, historically run through campus selection at AICTE-recognised institutions for both Permanent Commission (Executive) and Short Service (Executive and Technical) entry. On re-checking for this edition, I still cannot confirm a detailed notification for this scheme within the current 2026 cycle, so treat it as a route to watch rather than one to plan around — verify directly on [joinindiannavy.gov.in](http://joinindiannavy.gov.in) before assuming it is running in a given year.

## 5. INDIAN AIR FORCE — TECHNICAL BRANCH VIA AFCAT, AND THE GATE SCORE ROUTE

---

### 5.1 Technical Branch through AFCAT

The IAF's standing route into the Technical Branch runs through the AFCAT written examination, conducted twice yearly alongside Flying Branch and Ground Duty (Non-Technical) selection.

- Current cycle: AFCAT 2/2026, for courses commencing the first week of July 2027; the written examination was held on 8 August 2026 and the notification carried 379 tentative vacancies across Flying Branch and Ground Duty (Technical & Non-Technical). Age bracket for Ground Duty Technical: 20 to 26 years as on 1 July 2027 (born between 2 July 2001 and 1 July 2007).
- Eligibility: a BE/B.Tech degree with a minimum of 60% aggregate marks in a notified engineering discipline, or equivalent qualification as specified for the Technical Branch that cycle.
- Selection: written AFCAT examination, followed by AFSB testing, medical examination and final merit. Training for Flying and Ground Duty Technical branches runs 62 weeks at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, and Air Force Technical College, Bengaluru.
- Stipend: Rs. 56,100 per month during training (Level-10 starting pay). On commissioning as Flying Officer, pay sits in Level 10 plus Military Service Pay of Rs. 15,500/month — see Section 2.1.

### 5.2 Technical Branch entry via GATE score

This remains the single most significant change in the technical-entry landscape, and it is now confirmed as a genuine, functioning scheme rather than a proposal. The IAF has introduced a parallel route into the Technical Branch (Officers Cadre) for candidates holding a valid GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering) score. Candidates with a qualifying GATE score are shortlisted directly for AFSB testing, with the written AFCAT examination exempted for this route.

- The GATE Score scheme was formally announced by the Ministry of Defence on 26 May 2026 and ran alongside AFCAT 2/2026, registration for both closing on 19–21 June 2026 (dates varied slightly by source; verify the exact closing time in the notification for the next cycle).
- The GATE Score scheme applies exclusively to the Ground Duty Technical Branch — it does not extend to Flying or Ground Duty (Non-Technical) entry.
- Educational qualifications for the GATE route mirror the existing Technical Branch criteria under AFCAT; age, nationality, medical and physical standards are unchanged. There is a full application fee waiver for GATE-entry candidates.

- A detailed list of acceptable GATE subjects/papers has been published in the AFCAT Notification 02/2026, available at the official portals [careeriaf.gov.in](http://careeriaf.gov.in) and [afcat.edcil.co.in](http://afcat.edcil.co.in).
- AFCAT continues in parallel as the standard admission route for the Technical Branch — a candidate may choose either pathway, or, where eligible, apply under both in the same cycle (separate registration is required for each).

**Note (September 2026):**

If you are an engineering graduate who has already sat GATE for a postgraduate application, or are planning to, treat that score as a live second door into the IAF Technical Branch — check the exact GATE-cycle validity and subject-paper eligibility in the AFCAT 1/2027 notification, expected around November 2026, before assuming your score qualifies for the next cycle.

## 6. SELECTION PROCESS: SHORTLISTING, SSB/AFSB, MEDICAL AND MERIT

---

Whichever Service and entry you pursue, the underlying architecture is the same. Your degree gets you to the door; the Selection Board decides whether you walk through it.

| Stage                      | Purpose                                                                     | What carries you through                                    | Outcome                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Shortlisting               | Screens applicants on academic record (and JEE/GATE rank, where applicable) | Cumulative percentage, stream match, complete documentation | SSB/AFSB call-up letter                   |
| Screening (Day 1)          | Basic intelligence and initial group evaluation                             | OIR test performance, PPDT narration and discussion         | Screened-in for the full assessment       |
| Psychology, GTO, Interview | Assesses personality, leadership and technical grounding                    | Genuine Officer Like Qualities, not memorised answers       | Board recommendation                      |
| Medical examination        | Confirms physical and medical fitness for commission                        | Fitness against Service-specific standards                  | Medical clearance                         |
| Merit list                 | Final selection within available vacancies                                  | Overall SSB/AFSB score, stream-wise or branch-wise          | Joining instructions for training academy |

Your engineering knowledge only secures the interview call. From that point, selection depends entirely on how convincingly you demonstrate the qualities the Board is trained to look for — clear articulation, spatial and practical reasoning, composure under pressure, and genuine team spirit. Strong marks open the door; they do not walk you through it.

## 7. CHOOSING BETWEEN ENTRIES — PERMANENT VS SHORT SERVICE, GRADUATE VS 10+2

| Question                                                 | Early, integrated route                                                                                                 | Graduate-entry route                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| When do I want to commit?                                | TES (Army) or 10+2 B.Tech Cadet Entry (Navy) — straight after Class 12, before choosing a civilian engineering college. | TGC, SSC Tech (Army); SSC Technical (Navy); Technical Branch via AFCAT or GATE (IAF) — after completing or nearly completing your degree.                         |
| Do I want the Services to fund my engineering education? | Yes — TES and the Navy 10+2 entry both fund a full engineering degree during training, at no cost to the candidate.     | Not applicable — you complete your degree independently, then apply on the strength of it.                                                                        |
| Do I want a Permanent Commission from the outset?        | TES and the Navy 10+2 entry both lead to Permanent Commission after training.                                           | TGC (Army) grants Permanent Commission immediately; SSC Tech (Army/Navy) and most IAF Technical Branch commissions begin as Short Service, extendable per policy. |
| Have I already sat JEE (Main) or GATE?                   | A strong JEE (Main) rank is the gateway for TES and the Navy 10+2 entry — there is no other written test.               | A qualifying GATE score now opens a written-exam-free route into the IAF Technical Branch; TGC and SSC Tech remain written-exam-free on academic merit alone.     |

There is no universally 'better' choice here — only a better fit for where you are and what you want from a Service career. An 18-year-old certain of the uniform loses nothing by locking in early through TES or the Navy's 10+2 entry. A final-year or recently graduated engineer who wants to test the field first, or who only discovered this calling after choosing engineering, has just as direct a door through TGC, SSC Tech, or the IAF's AFCAT and GATE routes.

## 8. HOW TO PREPARE — TECHNICAL, PERSONALITY AND PHYSICAL

---

Effective preparation for any technical entry is a balancing act between three things, and I have seen candidates fail at the Board for neglecting any one of them.

### Your core engineering concepts

- Be genuinely clear on your final-year project and the practical applications of your core subjects — not memorised theory, but the ability to explain it simply to a non-specialist.
- Stay current on technological developments relevant to your stream and to defence applications broadly.

### Your personality development

- Work daily on effective intelligence, decision-making, social adaptability and self-awareness — this is a discipline built over months, not crammed in the final week before your SSB.
- Practise clear narration, group discussion and lecturettes on current affairs and technical themes alike.

### Your physical conditioning

- SSB is not a purely mental evaluation — GTO tasks and outdoor group activities genuinely test your stamina, so build running endurance and general fitness well ahead of your call-up.

The single biggest mistake I see repeated across every technical entry: over-focusing on theoretical recall while neglecting communication skills and general awareness, or worse, attempting to fake responses in the psychological tests. Trained assessors catch a rehearsed answer instantly, and it works against a candidate far more than an honest, imperfect one ever would.

## 9. COMMON MISTAKES AND QUESTIONS I AM ASKED MOST OFTEN

---

### **Is there a written examination for any of these technical entries?**

Not for Army TGC, TES, or SSC Tech; not for the Navy's 10+2 B.Tech Cadet Entry or SSC Technical; and not for the IAF's GATE Score route into the Technical Branch. The IAF's standard Technical Branch entry through AFCAT remains the one route among these that still requires a written examination.

### **Can I apply for both Army TGC and IAF Technical Branch in the same year?**

Yes. These are independent Service processes with separate notifications, application portals and selection boards. Many engineering graduates apply to more than one in the same selection season.

### **Is the Army's University Entry Scheme (UES) still an option for my pre-final year?**

No. It has not run since UES-27, around 2017–18. Do not build your final years of college around it — TGC, TES and SSC Tech are the Army's live technical routes today.

### **Does a GATE score guarantee me a spot in the IAF Technical Branch?**

No. A qualifying score exempts you from the written AFCAT exam and secures a direct AFSB call — the same personality, medical and merit standards apply as for every other candidate.

### **Can women apply for these technical entries?**

Yes, for Army SSC Tech, the Navy's 10+2 B.Tech Cadet Entry and Navy SSC Technical, and the IAF's Technical Branch through AFCAT or GATE. Army TGC and TES currently remain open to unmarried male candidates only — verify this against the live notification for the specific course you are applying to.

### **Does the Navy's 10+2 B.Tech Cadet Entry also commission Executive-branch officers?**

No — this is a correction from the previous edition. The scheme commissions officers exclusively into the Technical Branches (Mechanical Engineering and Electronics & Communication Engineering, with a further Naval Architecture sub-stream decided during training). Aspirants seeking the Executive branch should apply through NDA or CDS instead.

### **What happens if I have a backlog in any semester?**

For the Army's technical entries, a live academic backlog in any semester at the time of application or campus/board interview generally disqualifies a candidate — clear your backlogs before you apply, not after.

## 10. WHERE EACH CYCLE STANDS TODAY, MASTER CHECKLIST AND OFFICIAL SOURCES

### Cycle status as of 1 September 2026

| Entry                          | Cycle           | Application window      | Status today                                        |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| TGC-144                        | Jan 2027 course | 13 May – 11 Jun 2026    | Closed — shortlisting/SSB under way                 |
| TES-56                         | Jan 2027 course | 13 May – 12 Jun 2026    | Closed — shortlisting/SSB under way                 |
| SSC (Tech) 68th / SSCW (Tech)  | Apr 2027 course | 8/9 Jul – 6/7 Aug 2026  | Closed — shortlisting/SSB under way                 |
| Navy 10+2 (B.Tech) Cadet Entry | Jan 2027 course | 29 May – 18/29 Jun 2026 | Closed — shortlisting/SSB under way                 |
| AFCAT 2/2026 + GATE Score      | Jul 2027 course | 20 May – 19/21 Jun 2026 | Written exam held 8 Aug 2026 — AFSB stage under way |

Every application window covered in this edition has now closed. If you are reading this after 1 September 2026, treat the figures above as a benchmark for the next cycle — TGC-145, TES-57, the 69th SSC (Tech) course, the Navy's July 2027 10+2 intake, and AFCAT 1/2027 — and re-verify vacancies, dates and age brackets against the live notification before you apply.

### Master checklist

- ☐ I know which Service, and which specific technical entry, fits my stage of education right now.
- ☐ I have checked the latest official notification rather than relying on old eligibility tables or discontinued schemes such as the Army's UES.
- ☐ My date of birth falls within the exact notified age bracket for the course I am applying against.
- ☐ My academic percentage, stream and semester documentation meet the requirement, with no live backlog.
- ☐ If applying through TES or the Navy's 10+2 entry, I have appeared in the correct year's JEE (Main) and know my Common Rank List position.
- ☐ If applying to the IAF Technical Branch via GATE, I have confirmed my GATE paper is on the notified acceptable-subjects list and that my score is valid for the current cycle.
- ☐ I have scanned and organised all documents — marksheets, degree/provisional certificate, JEE/GATE scorecards, and identity proof.

- I understand the SSB/AFSB process and I am preparing personality, communication and fitness together, not just technical recall.
- I understand that recommendation, medical fitness and merit are all necessary — and that none alone is sufficient.

## Official and reference sources

- Indian Army selection portal — [joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://joinindianarmy.nic.in) — for TGC, TES and SSC Tech notifications.
- Indian Navy — [joinindiannavy.gov.in](http://joinindiannavy.gov.in) — for the 10+2 B.Tech Cadet Entry, SSC Technical, and University Entry Scheme status.
- Indian Air Force — [careeriaf.gov.in](http://careeriaf.gov.in) and [afcat.edcil.co.in](http://afcat.edcil.co.in) — for AFCAT and the GATE Score Technical Branch entry, including the notified list of acceptable GATE subjects.
- National Testing Agency — for JEE (Main) and GATE score verification.

### **Source note:**

— Selection rules are revised periodically — verify every application against the notification current on the day you apply.

**Compiled by Group Captain PS Kaushik (Retd.),  
Indian Air Force**

*Vishvasniya Education Foundation — A Promise of Trust*

**JAI HIND**