

Name of the cadet	Cdt. Chaitanya Konnur	City/State	Pune, Maharashtra
Selected For NDA	Army	All India Rank	NA
UPSC Score	NA	SSB Interview Score	NA
Attempt Number	1st Attempt	SSB Centre	17 SSB Bangalore
Where I Prepare for NDA?	Services Preparatory Institute		
My Schooling Details.	Completed my 10th from New India School, Pune. Completed my 11th and 12th from PSBA English School, Aurangabad		
My Interest and achievement in Sports	I have been playing Basketball for over 6 years and have represented my school at district level. I can also play Volleyball, Hockey, Handball, and Boxing quite well		

1. How I came to know NDA? How I Set My Goal?

The National Defence Academy is situated at Khadakwasla, Pune. Through various school trips to NDA, I came to know more about this Academy. In my 10th I visited the Passing Out Parade of the 134th course NDA. This was very fascinating and motivated me further to set my goal to join the Armed Forces.

2. How I Started NDA Preparation?

In my 10th I further inquired about the ways to join the NDA. This was when I came across SPI.

The Services Preparatory Institute is the only Institute backed by the government of Maharashtra which trains the cadets to crack the UPSC and enter the NDA/NA. After clearing the entrance and the interview i joined SPI and got a step closer to my aim. So, from my 11th itself i started my preparation for NDA

3. What Problems I Faced Initially?

I faced many problems during my preparation. It was very difficult to cope up with different subjects at the peak hour. The main focus was given to maths and social studies. I also faced problems to complete my Maths paper in the given time limit in various mock tests I gave.

4. Which Books I found useful for prep?

Arihants Pathfinder, Arihants Mathematics for NDA/NA, GK 2020, Lucent's GK, NCERT Books for Social Studies, last year question papers for practice.

5. What was My Strategy For Mathematics?

I had given a lot of importance to maths during my preparation. I used to give atleast an hour or two daily. Trigonometry, Calculus, Algebra were my strengths. I never left any topic undone. I never liked Geometry but I had practised basic types of questions which are likely to be asked. Last 10 to 15 days I just solved Practice papers and devised a strategy the way I would solve in the actual exam and solve maximum questions.

6. What was My Strategy For English?

I never took English lightly as 50 questions are asked in the GAT paper and it the the best way to increase the score. I gave importance to solving the the grammer exercises by their rules. I solved many GAT papers especially to improve my English. I gave atleast an hour a day to English.

7. What was My Strategy For Science?

Science has got the same importance as of English. But the Questions asked are quite simple and based on the theory of 10th, 11th and 12th. So I decided to study Physics and Chemistry for my Boards and simultaneously solved the MCQs of previous year. So by the end I was ready with my Boards and for my UPSC as well.

8. What was My Strategy For History And Geography?

As I was weak in my social studies, I gave it more importance. I referred many books like GK 2020, Lucent's, Pathfinder, NCERT books and prepared notes. I kept reading these notes regularly and simultaneously solved MCQs of Lucent's and previous year question papers. Preparing maps for geography helped me remember things better. I analysed the question papers along with my teacher and could find that maximum questions of Modern History were asked. So according to that I gave more importance to Modern History.

9. How I Prepared For Current Affairs?

I had a habit of reading newspapers, but I couldn't remember the facts and figures. So I made a habit of noting down important events going around the world. I even referred to various channels on youtube like Finology Legal, Study IQ etc for regular updates of current affairs. Before the exam I referred the MCQs of previous 6 months current affairs on Study IQ.

10. My Thinking About SSB and Plan To Prepare For It.(Details)

According to me the SSB checks your Personality, General awareness, coordinating skills, intelligence, confidence etc. It is always better not to fake your personality during SSB and act natural. There are a few things you could prepare before you appear for the SSB like the general awareness, speaking skills, stage confidence, preparing for the group discussions. It is better to know about the process before you appear for the SSB.

Psychology- You can practice solving TAT,WAT,SRT in time. Try to write quality sentences and decent stories. Try to attempt all.

Interview- Know about yourself, your family and friends, hobbies . Current affairs are important. Have decent information about armed forces. GTO- Practise speeches, Have a good fact file about the current issues, practise speaking in group be confident.

11. How To Revise everything in Last Month or two? Importance Of Revision

Revision is very important to brush up with all you have done till the exams.Going through every thing you have already studied gives confidence and helps you remember better. However last minute revision must be avoided.

I had prepared notes for all subjects including the formulas of Maths. I kept reading my notes daily and solving question papers.

12. How Test Series Are Importance For UPSC NDA?

Giving tests regularly is very important as it helps you form a strategy as to how will you solve the paper in the actual exam. It keeps you cool and composed during the exam and it feels that it is normal for you. Solving maximum papers gives you an idea of the type of questions asked in the paper and helps you focus more on those type. Analysis of previous papers is also very important.

13. UPSC-NDA Exam Day? How To Perform? And Mindset

Don't get nervous. Keep cool and calm. After giving various test series it feels as if it is a normal exam. Try to attempt maximum questions. Do not attempt any question you don't know as there is negative marking. Try to motivate yourself the previous day and avoid the last minute revision.

Try to improve you score in GAT.

15. What I Did Till Result is announced?

- I prepared for my CBSE practicals and Boards till the results were announced.
16. My Reaction After Result?
I was very happy and proud of myself as I saw my name in the list of Candidates selected for the SSB. It felt as if all my endeavors and sacrifices were fruitful. I could actually see NDA before my eyes.
17. My SSB.
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| Day 1 | Screening Test |
| Day 2 | Psychology Test and Interview |
| Day 3 | GTO |
| Day 4 | GTO |
| Day 5 | Conference |
18. What I Can Suggest To New NDA Aspirants?
Set your goal and keep reminding yourself about it. Always keep making some progress everyday
Keep reminding yourself that many hopes are pinned upon you. If you ever get tired, just remember why you started. Keep motivating yourself.
19. What Mistakes One Should Not Do During Preparation?
Try to practice Maths more. Before the UPSC try to solve sample papers. Dont be afraid of bad results in your test series. do not avoid english.
20. My Further Plans.
Perform well.