

# Process to induct women into NDA by May 2022: govt.

## UPSC will add women in notification

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The government has informed the Supreme Court that it proposes to have the 'mechanism' to induct women cadets into the National Defence Academy (NDA) for entry into the armed forces to be ready in May 2022.

The Ministry of Defence told the court in an affidavit that the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) would include women in its NDA exam notification expected to be published in May 2022.

"The government hereby places on record the clear and categorical stand that the women candidates shall be considered for entry in the three defence services, in the existing streams, through the National Defence Academy... Entrance examinations for entry into NDA are held twice a year. The government proposes to have the necessary mechanism in place by May 2022, i.e., the time by which UPSC is required to publish the first notification of 2022 for entrance exam for entry to NDA," a short affidavit by the Ministry said.

With this, the path is clear for women to train



Any dilution of physical training and service subjects like parameters of firing, endurance training, field craft and living off the land for women cadets will invariably impact the battle worthiness of the armed forces

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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along with men at the NDA, considered a male bastion.

After the Supreme Court judgment last year which led to permanent commission for women officers, this is the second time that the court has nudged the armed forces towards gender equality.

On September 8, the government assured the court that the induction of women into the NDA was already under consideration by the armed forces. A Bench, led by Justice S.K. Kaul, had urged the armed forces and the government to "take a proactive approach in gender equality issues rather than leave it unattended and calling for the court to interfere".

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