

USI OF INDIA

CENTRE FOR IN SERVICE COURSES



DSSC (IAF) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

JUL 2026

COURSE GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Notes

- 1. Please read these instructions carefully as they contain important information regarding the conduct of course.*
- 2. Your Course Index Number is*
- 3. Please quote this Index No along with your Personal/Service Number, Rank, Name, e-mail add and Parent Unit in all correspondence addressed to the United Service Institution.*

General

1. The United Service Institution of India (USI) will conduct **two** courses for the IAF officers to assist officers of the IAF to prepare for the Defence Service Staff College (DSSC) Entrance Examination to be held in July 2026. They are **Correspondence Course** for Military History & Employment of Air Power (CA) and Current Affairs, National Security & Geopolitics(**MH**) as also an **ONLINE** course for **CA** only. The courses have been modeled with a simple **registration process**, wherein an officer can **register for the course on internet**. Officers are advised to go through USI of India website **Sections/ Courses** for details.

Aim

2. The aim of the **Correspondence** course and the **Online** Course is to assist IAF officers to prepare for DSSC Entrance Exam in a systematic and comprehensive manner, through guidance, correction and lectures including issue of study material.

Syllabus and Subjects

3. The **syllabus** as intimated by Air HQ is attached as **Appendix 'A'** for your reference.
 4. The following **subjects** will be covered: -
 - (a) Military History and Employment of Air Power (MH and AP).
 - (b) Current Affairs, National Security and Geopolitics (CA).
 5. Fee structures are as under: -
 - (a) **Military History & Emp of Air Power - Correspondence Mode.**
 - (i) Course fee - Rs 3000 + *Rs 1500
 - (b) **Current Affairs, National Security & Geopolitics.**
 - (i) **Correspondence Course Fee** - Rs 3000 + *Rs 1500
 - (ii) **USI DSSC ASPIRE 2026 (ONE & TWO) ONLINE** Course Fee - Rs 2500 + *Rs 1500 (early bird incentive of Rs 250/- for registration by **22 November 2025** and **25 April 2025** for ASPIRE ONE & TWO respectively).
 - (c) Register by e-mail earliest and pay by Link provided / Net banking to gain max benefit. See USI of India website 'Courses' sub-section under 'Sections' vertical.
- Note.** * Rs 1500 is the USI Course membership fee if not a Life / Ordinary member already. To be paid only once for the year which will cater for both subjects and type of courses.

Duration

6. (a) The **Correspondence** course will be conducted from 2nd week of **December 2025** to second week of **June 2026**. The entrance examination is scheduled in July 2026.
- (b) **USI DSSC ASPIRE ONE & TWO (CA Leg for IAF)** will be held in the **first half** of **December 2025** and **May 2026** respectively.

Conduct

7. The courses are essentially oriented towards preparing you for a competitive examination in a planned and sequential manner. The conduct of the **correspondence** course is through dispatch of test papers for all/chosen subject(s) at regular intervals. These test papers are set by experienced DS who are updated, on the pattern of the actual examination and cover all important aspects of subject(s) in a graduated manner. **Online** classes of USI DSSC ASPIRE ONE & TWO for the IAF officers who subscribe for it will be conducted for CA along with Army Officers. This will involve presentations on current topics and Question Answer Sessions for clarifying doubts. Dates for CA leg of USI DSSC ASPIRE 2026 ONE & TWO will be intimated later.

8. **Study Material.** Apart from question and answers, Specially prepared add on study material will be issued to all **Correspondence Course & ASPIRE ONE & TWO** registrants. It may be appreciated that this material is only to assist comprehension and does not claim to substitute the prescribed/recommended books/periodicals/publications. **Sharing or proliferation** of study material with others who are **not** registered with the USI of India for **this course** is **unfair practice**. Details below -

(a) **CA.**

(i) International & Domestic Scene – Commencing from quarter Oct-Dec 2025. The updates will be sent every quarter after commencement of the course.

(b) **MH.**

(i) Handouts are planned to be issued for some of the **important** campaigns in the syllabus.

(ii) Some Pamphlets may also be issued.

(iii) Link for latest IAF Doctrine to be downloaded from Internet.

(c) The officers undertaking the USI DSSC ASPIRE 2026 TWO Course will be issued a **Mock Test** paper to write and have it corrected along with a suggested answer.

9. The USI may issue some relevant study material mainly on current issues to the student officers as soft copies.

Correction of Papers

10. To derive full benefit from the **Correspondence Course**, students should answer the test papers under exam/near exam conditions and send their answer books to USI of India for correction by the Directing Staff (DS). Guidance contained in **Appendix 'B'** should be noted while answering questions in the test paper(s).

11. The answer papers on receipt at the USI will be corrected by experienced and qualified instructors and returned to the concerned student. Suggested answers will be sent along with other course material. You would appreciate that merely reading an answer can never teach you how to answer a given question in required No of words, in given time. Hence, the importance of writing.

Interactive Nature

12. The Courses has been **modeled on 'Interactive Nature'**. **Enrolment to correspondence/Online courses entitles the students, free of cost detailed clarification and amplification on subject(s) raised by the students via emails.** All such correspondence/email should be addressed to the Director Courses of USI of India in the mail add provided quoting their course **Index No** and **Mob Nos**. Answers to common questions may be issued as handouts.

Tentative Course Material Dispatch Schedule for Correspondence Course

13. One set of Question Papers each will tentatively be dispatched every month from **Jan** to **May** 2026. In all **five** sets will be dispatched. **Last** Current Affair Paper will be sent in **June 2026** to cover issues as late as possible.

Dispatch of Course Material

14. Course material will be dispatched by Registered / Speedpost. **The USI will not be responsible for any loss of material.**

15. Ensure **correct address** given to the USI of India during registration. This is expected to avoid loss of study material, facilitate tracing, fixing accountability for the delay and enable you to track the dispatch online through tracking ID based on Mob No given.

Change of Address

16. **Change** of address should be notified to the Director Courses USI of India **well in advance** or **immediately** on occurrence by **email**. This is very important as otherwise the course material is likely to get delayed or even get misplaced.

Withdrawals

17. **First and Foremost**, please check and ensure your **eligibility** (as per your service condition) for **particular course**. Withdrawal from a course is **NOT** normally permitted. However, if a student is unable to continue the course, either due to major health issues / exigencies of service or circumstances beyond his/her control, the withdrawal request may be considered, on a **case to case** basis. In such cases, the student will be required to: -

- (a) Make an application giving detailed reasons for withdrawal from the Online / Correspondence course.
- (b) Return all the study material issued to him/her.
- (c) Pay actual expenses incurred by USI. This amount will be decided by the USI in each case. The decision of USI will be final.
- (d) No refund will be allowed to a student if he wishes to withdraw from the Correspondence Course after two months of its commencement.

18. In the event of a student's withdrawal from a course, Course Membership fee will **not** be refunded. After deducting appropriate amount as per sub para (c) above and after receipt back of the study material, the balance **may** be refunded, at the discretion of USI of India.

19. In case the course is cancelled due to any reason, fees paid may be refunded to the extent decided by USI of India.

Security and Copyright

20. The course material issued to officers is the **copyright of USI of India, New Delhi**. Its **reproduction** by any means and/or further **proliferation/sharing** with others under any **condition** is **prohibited**. It is issued to **indl officers only for their personal use, who are resp for its security**. Sharing with others who have not **regd** with USI for that course, amounts to **Unfair Prac**. **The Precs will be watermarked with Index Nos to fix accountability in case of any proliferation**.

Correspondence

21. As **only** individual members can take the USI correspondence courses (and **NOT units/libraries/ formations**), officers should correspond with USI of India in their individual capacity and **not** through units. Units/formations **cannot** subscribe to a course for/on behalf the officer(s) of the unit; this will be an infringement of the USI rules.

22. All answer papers and correspondence should be sent to the following address :-

The Director Courses
United Service Institution of India
Rao Tula Ram Marg,
Vasant Vihar PO, P B No. 8,
New Delhi – 110 057

23. **Location**

USI of India Complex
Opposite Signals Enclave and DGIS
(Adjacent to AWWA Hostel / and IDSA)
Delhi Cantt – 110 010

(a) Tel : 20862320 Extn 207(Director Courses)
208 (DS Coord) and
210 (Supdt Course Sec)
email : dircourses@usiofindia.org

(b) Tel : 20862325 (Director Courses Direct Line)

(c) M : 8447961959/ 9315601332 – Senior Clerk

Conclusion

24. The success of the **Correspondence** Course and **USI DSSC ASPIRE 2026 (Online)** Course to help the student officers and the extent of the benefit derived from it, essentially depends on the students. The add on course material sent should be only considered as a supplement to the prescribed study material as given in the syllabus. It is **emphasized** that in order to derive max benefit from the course, students should adhere to the time-schedule and answer the test papers. Unless this is done, effectiveness of the courses and further improvements cannot be planned. Also, by adhering to the instructions, students will benefit through receipt of personalized guidance, which will ultimately empower them to do well in the DSSC entrance examinations.

**RECOMMENDED STUDY MATERIAL: MILITARY HISTORY
AND EMPLOYMENT OF AIR POWER**

1. Recommended study material forming a part of '**Must know**' category is annotated below: -
 - (a) Arab-Israeli Wars of 1967, 1973 and Bekka Valley Operation of 1982.
 - (b) Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm 1991).
 - (c) Gulf War II.
 - (d) Operation Enduring Freedom.
 - (e) Operation Opera (Strike on Osirak).
 - (f) Operation Thunderbolt (Raid on Entebbe).
 - (g) Armenia – Azerbaizan War.
 - (h) Armed conflict in Kosova.
 - (j) IAF Doctrine.
 - (k) Air Defence organization in India (Inclusive of air space management in the TBA).
 - (l) IAF Transport and Helicopter operations.
 - (m) Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971.
 - (n) Op Safed Sagar (Kargil).
 - (o) Employment of air Power for CI Ops/ LICO.
 - (p) ISR Techniques and their employment in modern warfare.
 - (q) Targeting for effects (EBO).
 - (r) Drone and anti Drone warfare.
 - (s) Space based assets 7 exploitation in modern warfare.
 - (t) IAF Operation in Kashmir (1947-48).
 - (u) IAF History.
 - (v) India's Space Program, space-based weapons and impact on air warfare.

2. Recommended study material forming a part of '**Should Know**' category is annotated below:-
 - (a) Development of aircraft, weapons, organization and doctrine since the First World War.
 - (b) Military strategists and thinkers like Chanakya, Sun Tsu, Clausewitz, Guderian, Boyd and Mahan and their important theories.
 - (c) Air power thinkers like Douhet, Mitchell, Trenchard and Warden and their important theories.
 - (d) Battle of Britain.
 - (e) Falklands War.
 - (f) German Campaign for Crete with emphasis on air ops.
 - (g) Strategic Bombing Campaign in World War – II.
 - (h) Op Market Garden.

- (j) Op Overlord.
 - (k) Attack on Pearl Harbour.
 - (l) Battle of Midway, Guadal Canal and Coral sea.
 - (m) Indo-China war of 1962.
 - (n) Air War in Vietnam.
 - (o) Op Cactus (Male).
 - (p) Op Pawan.
 - (q) Concept of employment of AWACS/ AEW systems.
 - (r) Aerospace Power capabilities of China & Pakistan.
 - (s) Recent Technological Developments that transformed Air Power.
3. Recommended study material forming a part of ‘**Could Know**’ category is annotated below: -
- (a) Beginning of military aviation in Europe and USA and the use of Air Force during the First World War.
 - (b) Peace Keeping and Peace Enforcement operations through Air Power.
 - (c) The importance and techniques of Electronic & Information Warfare.
 - (d) Indian Guided Missile Development Program.
 - (e) India’s Nuclear Doctrine.
 - (f) Organisation of HQ IDS.
 - (g) Emerging technologies like AI, Quantum computing, Big data analysis, Nano technology etc and their applicability in future combat systems.
 - (h) Aerospace Power capabilities of Modern Air Forces.
4. In addition to the books listed in the CAS reading list, following books may be referred.
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| (a) The Arab Israeli Wars | - Chaim Herzog |
| (b) Battles of the Falkland War | - Smith |
| (c) Critical Analysis of Gulf War | - Harry Summers |
| (d) Battle of Britain | - Colle B |
| (e) Full Spectrum: India’s Wars, 1972-2020 | - Arjun Subramaniam |
| (f) Air campaign: planning for combat | - Col John Warden III |
| (g) 1962: The War that Wasn’t | - Shiv Kunal Verma |
| (h) India’s Wars: A Military History 1947-1971 | - Arjun Subramaniam |
| (j) Air Warfare in the Missile Age | - Lon O Nordeen |
| (k) Kargil 99 | - Air Cmde Jasjit Singh |
| (l) Eagles over Bangladesh: IAF in 1971 War | - Jagan Mohan/ Samir Chopra |
| (m) Nuclear India | - Air Cmde Jasjit Singh |
| (n) Air Power at 18000: IAF in Kargil War | - Benjamin S Lambeth |
| (o) Air Power in 1947-48, 1962 & Srilanka | - Air Mshl Bharat Kumar |
| (p) World War II | - JFC Fueller |
| (q) Review of Air Power in CI Ops | - Air Cmde AK Tiwary |

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| (r) Modern War in an Ancient land | - Edmund Degen |
| (s) Arthashastra | - Chanakya |
| (t) Air Power and the Ground War in Vietnam | - Dr Donald J Mrozek |
| (u) Raid on the Sun | - Roger W Claire |
| (v) Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War | - Thomas de Waal |
| (w) Operation Cactus: Anatomy of one of India's Most Daring Military Operations | - Ashok K Chordia |
| (x) Operation Pawan: Role of Air Power with IPKF- | Air Mshl Bharat Kumar |
| (y) On War | - Clausewitz |
| (z) The Art of War | - Sun Tsu |
| (aa) The Command of the Air | - Giulio Douhet |
| (ab) IGMDP | - DRDO |
| (ac) India's Space Programme: India's Incredible Journey from the Third World Towards the First | - Gurbir Singh |
| (ad) Pakistan Insights | - Tilak Devashar |
| (ae) Defence from the Skies | - Jasjit Singh |
| (af) War in the Indian Ocean | - Mihir Roy |
| (ag) From Surprise to Reckoning | - K Subramanyam |
| (ah) The Spread of Nuclear Weapons | - Scot Sagan & Kenneth Waltz |
| (aj) The transformation of American Air Power | - Benjamin Lambeth |
| (ak) The First World War | - Hew Strachan |
| (al) My Years with the IAF | - PC Lal |
| (am) A History of Air Warfare | - John Olsen |
| (an) Air Power and Armies | - Slessor |
| (ao) Space : The Frontier of Modern Defence | - KK Nair |
| (ap) A Military History of China | - David Graft & Robin Higham |
| (aq) Pursuit of Power | - Willam McNeill |

5. **Periodicals**

- (a) USI Journal
- (b) IDSA Journal
- (c) Strategic Analysis
- (d) Indian Defence Review
- (e) Air Power by CAPS
- (f) Aviation week and space technology
 - (i) Military Technology
 - (ii) The Chanakya Aero space & Marine Review

RECOMMENDED STUDY MATERIAL: CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Recommended study material forming a part of '**Must Know**' category is annotated below: -
 - (a) Major Defence organisations and treaties in the world.
 - (b) UN role in Peacekeeping/Peace enforcement operations.
 - (c) Defence R&D and Defence production in India in the backdrop of Atmanirbhar initiative.
 - (d) 'Five Trillion economy' dream of India.
 - (e) Higher Defence Organisation.
 - (f) Current events in the world and India with history of development of the issue/problems/events and its current status/position.
 - (g) Personalities in the news.
 - (h) The current trend of boundary dispute settlement through aggression (Russia-Ukraine, Armenia-Azerbaijan) & its impact on India's prospects.
 - (j) OBOR/BRI.
 - (k) Oil, water & renewable energy-problems and prospects.
2. Recommended study material forming a part of '**Should Know**' category is annotated below:-
 - (a) Centre – State relations.
 - (b) Insurgency in India.
 - (c) Arms control and Arms Limitation talks, treaties, problems and prospects including Major Nuclear Treaties e.g. NPT/CTBT ect.
 - (d) India's Economic Survey – Defence Budget and expenditure.
 - (e) Major aspects of current Indian foreign policy.
 - (f) QUAD and ANKUS.
 - (g) India's foreign policy initiatives with immediate neighbours.
 - (h) India's permanent membership in UNSC.
 - (j) Industrial and technological breakthroughs.
 - (k) Multilateral organisations e.g. ASEAN, SCO, G-14, BIMSTEC, UN, World Bank, IMF, WTO, OPEC, Commonwealth, KYOTO Protocol, G-20 etc.
 - (l) Environmental pollution and degradation with special emphasis on natural resources.
3. Recommended study material forming a part of '**Could Know**' category is annotated below:-
 - (a) Major political ideologies and systems e.g. Democracy, Dictatorship, Communism, Socialism, Monarchy etc.
 - (b) Parliamentary government, Party system, Presidential system of government.
 - (c) Major sports events in India and abroad.
 - (d) Five year plans and Niti Ayog.
 - (e) Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

4. **Recommended Reference Books/Material.**

- (a) Centre/ State Relations (Sarkaria Commission Report) (This is a voluminous report. Only abridged Abstracts need to be read)
- (b) Military Year Book - Jayant Baranwal
- (c) Economic Survey of India (for last 2 years)
- (d) Year book on Indian Foreign policy - Any good publisher
- (e) Year books - Manorama
- (f) Dailies, Weeklies, Fortnightlies and monthly magazines - Reputed publishers
- (g) Periodicals on current affairs - Reputed publishers
- (h) Union Budget (for last 2 years)

GUIDANCE FOR ANSWERING TEST PAPERS

1. General Instructions for answering test papers of all subjects are given below:-
 - (a) Write your No, rank, name and Index No and Mobile No on the top right hand corner of your answer book. Leave the rest of the page blank.
 - (b) Do not write on the first page of the answer book. The DS will use it for writing his personal comments on your effort.
 - (c) Write only on one of the answer sheet. Opposite side will be used for answer wise comments.
 - (d) All questions normally will be obligatory unless indicated in the test paper.
 - (e) Answer the questions in their serial order and in your own hand.
 - (f) If you do not answer a question or wish to answer it later, write its question No, leave the appropriate blank space for it and go to the next question.
 - (g) Limit your answers to word limits as indicated.
 - (h) Do not write the questions on your answer book.
 - (j) Tag the answer book properly. Do not leave loose sheets otherwise transit loss may occur.
 - (k) Follow Staff Duties and abbreviations given in Joint Services Staff Duties Manual, Vol I.
 - (l) Try and answer the paper in three hours. However, if you take extra time, draw a red line indicating the portion covered in three hours. Also indicate at the end the total time taken. If you cannot sit continuously for three hours do a couple of questions – note the time taken and later carry on. This is not a good method as the tempo is broken, but it is better than nothing.
 - (m) Answer papers under exam like conditions, without taking outside help.
2. These instructions will not be repeated subsequently. Therefore do not misplace them. If there are any specific instructions, these will be given in respective papers. The total number of questions in test papers will also be indicated, there in.
3. Answer sheets will only be corrected which are received before **30 days** of the actual exam.