

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE CADET'S TRAINING WING (CTW) PROGRAMME

1. Punjab has traditionally been known as the 'Sword Arm of India'. Historically, all land invasions of the country came from across the North Western Borders and Punjabis have stood firm in repulsing these invaders. Post-independence, the contribution of Punjab in the defence of our country has been enormous. Officers and men from the state have won large number of awards for gallantry, very much in disproportion to the strength of Punjabis in the Armed Forces, but in proportion to the bravery of the Punjabi. In addition, there have been a great many who have received awards for distinguished service in the Armed Forces.
2. Due to the fact that the number of candidates going to National Defence Academy (NDA) and thence into the forces as officers, from the state reduced considerably over the years, the state government established Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute (MRSAPFI) with an aim to train select candidates for joining the NDA. MRSAPFI has lived up to the requirement spelt out by the government and done well for itself since inception by having 160 of its alumni commissioned into the armed forces and 238 alumni having joined the NDA/equivalent training academies.
3. With time, it was realised that the expertise and experience available at MRSAPFI should be made available to more schools in the state so that a greater number of students benefit. Thus, it was decided to set up the 'Cadet's Training Wing' (CTW) to cater for a greater number of students. Whilst there were some delays in clearances, one officer was appointed as the head of CTW and the programme started in 2021. However, due to the Covid pandemic things came to a grinding halt. Post the pandemic things did come back to normal, however due to lack of approval for the extension of the programme beyond one year, things slowed down considerably. In the interim, the Institute continued to train the students of the various schools on its ambit for the Services Selection Board (SSB) Interview.
4. The aim of the CTW is to reach out to schools and get volunteer students who are interested to take up a career in the armed forces. Once a student gets enrolled, the additional training program will be managed jointly between the school and MRSAPFI. The academic content would be the sole responsibility of the school but MRSAPFI would provide guidance in helping the school to improve the physical standards of their students and guide the school on preparation of their students for the NDA Entrance Examination. The aspect of preparing for the SSB will be completely handled by the staff of MRSAPFI in liaison with the school. The AFPI will also carry out motivational lectures and other lectures of general interest for students with an aim to motivate them further. These special events would be open to all students of the partner school if they so desire.
5. With time, we hope to create adequate expertise at each of the enrolled schools so that the school will be able to manage most of the pre-NDA training on its own. With this, we would be able to take additional schools into our ambit thus expanding our

reach to more schools of the state. For this experiment to succeed we need to have excellent liaison between the schools and this institute. The schools, on their part, also need to motivate as many boys as possible to join this programme and ensure that the boys attend the special training as prescribed without fail.

6. The sanction of the Government for the extension of the CTW for an additional year has been received with the caveat of taking on the Schools of Eminence on its ambit. MRSAFPI is working on this and has started taking introductory classes for groups of these schools. The contours of the programme with the Schools of Eminence are generally vague but the same will get ironed out as the programme gets underway.

7. The Institute is looking forward and is committed to a professionally enriching experience with the schools enrolled and also will ensure that the best of the students is motivated to take up the profession of arms and serve this great nation. Notwithstanding, the lack of approval of extension of the programme beyond the initial one year by the Government, MRSAFPI continued to train students of the affiliated schools who had cleared their NDA written examinations or were fit to apply for the Technical Entry Scheme (TES) for their SSB. Till date the CTW of MRSAFPI has sent total of 6 boys to NDA or equivalent training academies. We aim to increase this strength in time.

8. As on date other than the Schools of Eminence, the following schools are presently on the CTW programme: -

- (a) Yadavindra Public School, Patiala.
- (b) Yadavindra Public School, Mohali.
- (c) Punjab Public School, Nabha.
- (d) Doon International School, Mohali.
- (e) Army Public School, Beas.
- (f) Govt. Senior Secondary School, Patiala.
- (g) Govt. Senior Secondary School, Amritsar.
- (h) Govt. Meritorious School, Sector 70, Mohali.