BLOGS

Joining the Indian Army JAG Branch via CLAT PG (2027)

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The Indian Army does not conduct its own written entrance exam for the JAG Entry Scheme; instead, unmarried male and female law graduates are shortlisted directly for the 5-day SSB interview based on their CLAT PG score. This article helps you understand how to become a JAG via CLAT PG 2027.

As the legal arm of the Indian Army, JAG officers handle court-martial proceedings, military justice, operational legal advice, and disciplinary matters. Selected candidates join the

Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai, for a 49-week pre-commissioning training and are commissioned as **Lieutenants** under a Short Service Commission (SSC).

1. Important Dates & Notification Cycles (2026-2027)

The Indian Army releases JAG notifications twice a year (for April and October courses). Each recruitment cycle strictly requires the **specific year's CLAT PG score** mentioned in the notification.

Recruitment Cycle / Course	Course Start	CLAT PG Score Required	CLAT PG Exam Date	JAG Online Application Window	SSB Interview Period
JAG 124th Course	October 2026	CLAT PG 2025	Conducted Dec 2024	27 Jan 2026 - 27 Feb 2026	May - June 2026
JAG 125th Course	April 2027	CLAT PG 2026	07 Dec 2025	17 Jul 2026 - 17 Aug 2026	Nov - Dec 2026
Upcoming Cycle (Oct 2027 Course)	October 2027	**CLAT PG 2027**	**06 Dec 2026** (2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)	Expected Jan - Feb 2027	Expected May - June 2027

Current Status (November 2026): Applications for the JAG 125th Course (April 2027 batch) are closed and SSB interviews are underway. If you are targeting the **2027 JAG entries**, appearing for **CLAT PG 2027 on December 6, 2026**, is mandatory.

2. Vacancies & Category-Wise Seat Rules

Unlike civil services or university admissions, the **Indian Army has no caste-based or category-wise reservation (SC/ST/OBC/EWS)**. All seats are filled strictly on open, all-India merit.

- **Gender-Neutral Combined Merit Pool:** Starting with recent notifications (JAG 124th and 125th Courses), the Indian Army shifted to a **combined merit list for unmarried men and women** rather than fixed separate quotas.
- **Recent Vacancy Counts:**

3. Eligibility Criteria for JAG Entry

To apply on the official Join Indian Army Portal, you must satisfy all five criteria:

- **Nationality:** Citizen of India (or eligible subjects of Nepal/Bhutan/Tibetan refugees as per standard Army norms).
- **Age Limit: 21 to 27 years** as on the reckoning date specified in the notification (e.g., 01 July for October courses; 01 January for April courses).
- **Marital Status:** Strictly **unmarried** (both men and women). Candidates are also not permitted to marry during the 49-week training period.
- **Educational Qualification:** Minimum **55% aggregate marks** in an LL.B. degree (either a 3-year degree after graduation or a 5-year integrated law degree) from a college/university recognised by the Bar Council of India (BCI).
- **Bar Council & CLAT PG:**

4. How the Entrance Exam (CLAT PG) Is Conducted

Because CLAT PG serves as your written filter for JAG, understanding its format is essential. Conducted by the Consortium of National Law Universities, the exam tests legal comprehension

rather than rote memorisation.

Exam Pattern & Marking Scheme

- **Mode of Exam: Offline (Pen-and-Paper)** using an OMR answer sheet.
- **Duration: 2 Hours** (120 minutes).
- **Medium:** English only.
- **Total Questions & Marks: 120 Objective Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)** carrying **120 Marks** (no subjective/essay section).
- **Marking Scheme:**

Question Format & Syllabus

- **Passage-Based Design:** You are given extracts of **300–450 words** from landmark Supreme Court judgments, statutes, or legal regulations, followed by 3–5 MCQs testing your ability to apply legal principles to factual scenarios.
- **Core Subjects Covered:**

Important Tip on CLAT PG Cut-Offs: Unlike NLU admissions or PSU recruitments (which demand top-100 ranks), the JAG shortlisting cut-off is usually much more achievable. However, you must carry your official **CLAT PG Scorecard and Admit Card** to the SSB centre for mandatory verification.

5. Step-by-Step JAG Selection Process

Once you appear for CLAT PG, the Army's selection unfolds in five distinct stages:

Step 1: Online Registration & Application

When the JAG notification opens on Join Indian Army, create an Officer Entry profile, fill in your LL.B. aggregate percentage, and enter your **CLAT PG Application/Roll Number and Score**. There is **no application fee** for the JAG entry form.

Step 2: CLAT PG Cut-Off Shortlisting

The Directorate General of Recruiting sets a cut-off score based on the pool of applicants and their CLAT PG marks. Shortlisted candidates receive an email/SMS notification to select their preferred **SSB interview dates** on the portal.

Step 3: 5-Day Services Selection Board (SSB) Interview

SSB interviews are conducted at one of four Selection Centres: **Prayagraj (Allahabad), Bhopal, Bengaluru, or Jalandhar**.

- **Day 1 (Stage I - Screening):** Includes the **Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR)** test (verbal and non-verbal reasoning) and the **Picture Perception & Discussion Test (PPDT)** (writing a story on a hazy image followed by group narration and discussion). Candidates who do not clear Stage I are routed back on Day 1.
- **Days 2-5 (Stage II - Comprehensive Assessment):**

Step 4: Medical Examination

Recommended candidates undergo a thorough medical check-up (lasting 3-5 days) at a Military Hospital covering eyesight, hearing, height-weight standards, and general physical fitness.

Step 5: Final Merit List & OTA Training

- **Merit List:** Your CLAT PG score is **only used to shortlist you for the SSB**. The final All-India Merit List is prepared **solely on your SSB Interview marks** (subject to medical fitness).
- **Training & Pay:** Selected candidates undergo **49 weeks of training at OTA Chennai**, receiving a stipend of **₹56,100/month** during training and commissioning as a **Lieutenant** (Level 10 pay matrix, approx. **₹17–18 LPA CTC** including allowances).