

## **BRIEF**

### **MAI BHAGO ARMED FORCES PREPARATORY INSTITUTE FOR GIRLS**

#### **General**

1. Mai Bhago Armed Forces Preparatory Institute for Girls has been established by the Government of Punjab in Sector 66, SAS Nagar. The Institute is a visionary initiative of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab for the girl child. It is a unique, only one of its kind Institute in the country where young girls are trained for a career as Commissioned Officers in the Defence Services. This concept was conceived to arouse interest and consequently spur greater representation of Punjab girls in the Defence Services. Given the uniqueness of the concept, the Institute is expected to evolve into a world class training establishment for girls. The Institute was inaugurated by the Defence Minister of India on 25 Jul 2015 marking the commencement of training for the first batch of Lady Cadets. Seventy Six Lady Cadets have so far been enrolled and 74 are still under training. Two Lady Cadets were withdrawn on medical grounds.
  
2. Mai Bhago AFPI is a fully residential Institute laid out on a sprawling 9 acre expanse with state of the art infrastructure and facilities. The Institute features infrastructure of the very best quality and includes Hostel Rooms with attached Toilets, Cadet's Mess, Ante Room, Gymnasium, Office Accommodation, and Library cum Cyber Cafe, Class Rooms and an Auditorium. A modern Kitchen and a Dining Hall have also been constructed as a part of the Hostel complex. Additional infrastructure will come up in due course of time. The Institute has well laid out sports fields like Basket Ball, Volley Ball, Badminton, and Hockey. A jogging track has also been developed.

#### **Charter**

3. The charter of the Institute specifies selection of girls after 10+2 and preparing them for commission into the Defence Forces through various Women Officer Entry Schemes. During the three years training period, the Lady Cadets graduate with BA/ BSc (Med/ Non Med) from MCM DAV College Chandigarh as also imbibe different aspects of training essential for preparation for commission into the Defence Forces. As of now the Lady Cadets will only seek commission into the Army or Air Force in non-technical entries. From 2018 the scope of training has been further enhanced to include two batches per year for Engineering Graduates.

#### **Aims and Objectives**

4.
  - (a) To motivate young girls from Punjab at the 10 plus 2 level for a career in the Defence Services.
  - (b) To impart training to selected eligible girls to appear in competitive examinations for a career in the Defence Services.
  - (c) To build up physical and mental abilities and qualities in the selected girls required to become an officer in the Defence Services.

## **Training Mission**

5. The 'Training Mission' includes building up physical and mental abilities and developing Officer Like Qualities in the Lady Cadets alongside preparing them to appear in competitive examinations for selection through Women Entry Schemes for a career as commissioned officers in the Defence Services. Currently, the Institute has an annual intake of 25 girls. At this scale for a training cycle of three years, the Institute is designed to train upto 75 girls at any one time.
  
6. As an enhanced mission the Institute is embarking on training applicants for technical entry also for 2018 onwards. The programme aims to impact training to women from Engineering Colleges who apply for Short Service Commission (Technical). There are two courses per year in April and October for Army and likewise for Air force. Accordingly two capsules for 8 weeks duration for 25 select women candidates will be conducted in March / April and September/ October in 2018.

## **Training and Academics**

7. (a) Lady Cadets complete 3 years graduation from MCM DAV College Chandigarh in BA / B Com / B SC (Non Medical)
- (b) Apart from academics a lot of emphasis is laid on Personality Development and development of Officer like qualities. To this end a series of Lectures, Group Discussions, Seminars, Presentations and motivational visits to various Military Institutions are undertaken. Structured training is carried out to prepare the candidates for the CDS entrance exam conducted by UPSC and the SSB interviews. Basic Military Training to include Physical Training, Drill and Sports is imparted at the Institute. Area for conduct of Drill is also available. Lady Cadets are encouraged to play games and are put through a physical fitness programme to include Physical Fitness and Toughening Training (PT, Sports/ Games, Yoga, Gym, Archery, Swimming and Horse Riding) as also NCC training. (Drill, Shooting and Adventure Training).

## **Eligibility Criteria**

8. Eligibility criteria for the girl candidates seeking admission into Mai Bhago AFPI is as under:-
  - Domicile of Punjab.
  - Medically fit as per CDS requirements
  - A student pursuing 10+2.
  - Desirous of joining the Armed Forces
  - Age of 16 years or more on 1st Jul of the year of joining MBAFPI.

## **Admission Procedure**

9. Procedure for candidates aspiring to join the AFPI comprises the following steps:-
  - a) Based on advertisements published in the daily newspapers usually in March end, the desirous girls from Punjab studying in class 12 can apply online for the Entrance Test. The Schooling of the girl can be from any Board (ICSE/CBSE/PSEB/IB).
  - b) In Phase I of the Entrance Test a written exam in General English and General Awareness (10+2 level) is conducted in the month of May/Jun every year in various centres in Punjab.
  - c) Based on the performance in the Entrance Test the first 100 candidates are shortlisted.
  - d) The shortlisted candidates are called for Psychometric Test and Interview conducted as part of Phase II of the Entrance Test.
  - e) Selected candidates who clear Phase II test are then put through a Medical Examination.
  - f) Final merit list of 35 candidates is prepared. From this list the top 25 candidates are invited to join the Institute. The 10 candidates are in reserve and could be invited to join in case any one out of selected 25 drops out.
  - g) The training session starts in first week of Jul.
  
10. Aspirants of women entry to SSC Technical capsules will also be on the above pattern except written test. In lieu of written test they will be given weightage for marks scored in graduation in Engineering College

## **Financial Implications**

11. The entire cost of Boarding, Lodging, Dresses/Uniforms and Training is borne by the Punjab Government. Lady Cadets are expected to pay only a nominal amount for the academic course fees. The funding of the Institute is dependent on release of yearly grant of approx 3 crores by the Government of Punjab. The Hon'ble chief Minister of Punjab has sanctioned a corpus of Rs 10 crores which once received will be invested to generate funds so as to become self sustaining.

## **Achievements**

12. In the past Eighteen months the Institute has established itself credibly by achieving the following:-
  - (a) Enrolment of 76 Lady Cadets in three years.
  - (b) Enrolment of 50 Lady Cadets in NCC training who are appearing for Certificate B and C shortly.
  - (c) 8 Lady Cadets have qualified in Air Force Common Admission Test held in August 2017.
  - (d) 9 Lady Cadets of first course have qualified Combined Defence Service Examination held in November 2017
  - (e) In all 13 Lady Cadets who have qualified AFCAT/ CDSE will be appearing for Service Selection Board in March / April 2018.

(f) Excellence in sports, extra curricular activities and academics making them a distinct entity at MCM DAV College, Chandigarh.

(g) Regular sports coaching, adventure activities, personality development, guest lectures and coaching for entrance exams for Armed forces.

### **Conclusion**

13. The Institute is achieving the noble aspect of empowering the girls of Punjab who will ultimately represent the state in the Armed Forces. It is our endeavour to synergise our efforts and resources towards accomplishment of this mission.