

Sainik Schools

Let us learn in detail about these prestigious schools and how they shape the personality of their students.

Arundhati Nath



THE ORIGIN

It all began with the then Defence Minister of India, V. K. Krishna Menon, envisaging the creation of a school system in India for correcting class disparity among the officers of the Indian Military. He wanted to start a school to train students and thus help them gain admission into the National Defence Academy (NDA) and the Indian Naval Academy. Thus, the Sainik school system was born.

Sainik schools are established and administered by the Sainik Schools Society. The Ministry of Defence and the respective state governments look after the working of Sainik schools.

At present, there are more than 24 Sainik schools in our country that exist in almost all the states. Names of some prestigious Sainik schools are:

-  Sainik School, Goalpara, Assam
-  Sainik School Rewa, Madhya Pradesh
-  Sainik School Tilaiya, Jharkhand
-  Sainik School Purulia, West Bengal
-  Sainik School, Amaravathinagar, Tamil Nadu
-  Sainik School Kapurthala, Punjab

SYLLABUS

Sainik schools are fully residential and are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi. Moreover, these schools are members of the prestigious Indian Public Schools Conference.

However, in order to gain admission into a Sainik School, students (usually, only boys) have to clear an entrance examination that includes subjects such as Mathematics, Language and Intelligence for Class VI and Mathematics, Science, English and Social Science for Class IX. This is followed by a personal interview and a medical test. Admission to class XI is done on the basis of performance in the class X Board examination. The primary aim of Sainik Schools is to prepare students for the National Defence Academy and, hence, only the Science stream is offered in classes XI–XII. English is the medium of instruction but is not a prerequisite for admission into Sainik schools. Co-curricular activities, National Cadet Corps (N.C.C.), Physical Training (P.T.), all types of sports and games, and socially useful work are an essential part of the lives of students in Sainik schools.

SOME SPECIAL FEATURES OF SAINIK SCHOOLS

- ✍ Almost all Sainik schools are designed for 525 cadets, which consist of students from classes VI to XII, though this may vary at times.
- ✍ Here, Principals are of the rank of Colonel, Headmasters are of the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and Registrars are Majors. These may be of equivalent rank from



the three different services, namely the Army, Navy and Air Force.

- ✍ The Ministry of Defence provides scholarships and central assistance to students who are wards of defence personnel, including ex-servicemen, and state scholarship awardees.
- ✍ NCC training, disciplined living, and PT are compulsory for all students. Stress is laid on in-depth learning and adventure sports, games such as hockey and football, ceremonial parades, pride in uniform and smart turnout, reading, group discussions, debates and cultural activities for the all-round development of the students.

COMPARISON WITH DIFFERENT BOARDS

CBSE	ICSE	IGCSE	STATE BOARDS	SAINIK SCHOOLS
Provides students an opportunity to choose six subjects from 20. The syllabus and paper pattern aim towards the development of logical thinking and a scientific attitude among students.	Does not have a fixed syllabus. Instead, it provides guidelines for each subject, which schools can use to make their curriculum relevant and effective. Also, the Council offers vocational education for classes XI and XII.	Is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group and is recognised in more than 157 countries. It is renowned for its balanced curriculum, which is at par with international standards. The Board focuses on the development of oral and practical skills and gives equal preference to individual assignments and team projects.	Have, so far, seen maximum enrolment. The syllabi cover a blend of theoretical, practical, vocational and value-centric elements. Teachers, textbooks and other resources are frequently updated.	Are affiliated to CBSE but conduct an all-India entrance for admission into classes VI and IX. Only the Science stream is offered in Class XI–XII. The schools aim for the holistic development of the boys and not learning by rote so that they can enter the NDA and become future nation builders. Physical, mental and social development is of utmost importance in these schools.