

COLLEGE OF DEFENCE MANAGEMENT

DATATHON - 2026

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

General

1. Data analytics play a crucial role in military decision-making, empowering military leaders with insights into information related to operations, logistics and resource allocation. By analyzing data, military commanders can make more informed decisions. Additionally, data analytics enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of military intelligence by identifying patterns and trends in global environment, aiding in the estimation of future actions with greater assurance levels.
2. The CDM started its journey of Data Analytics in 2017 by introducing it in the training curriculum. The inaugural Datathon - A Data Analytics Competition was conducted by the CDM in the year 2023 and three editions of Datathon have been conducted since. The fourth edition of 'DATATHON-2026' is being conducted on similar lines under the aegis of HQ IDS for all Armed Forces personnel. The competition aims to proliferate a culture of data-driven decision-making at all levels.

Aim

3. To promote the culture of decision-making based on data analytics and to identify new and more effective ways of analysing data, which can ultimately improve the accuracy and speed of decision-making.

Objectives

4. Envisaged objectives are as follows: -
 - 4.1. Proliferate a culture of data-driven decision-making in the Armed Forces.
 - 4.2. Identify and encourage new talent within the military, which can ensure the availability of skilled personnel needed to effectively analyse data and assist in informed decisions making.
 - 4.3. Encouraging innovation and experimentation within the organisation, which can help us identify new and creative ways of using data to improve decision-making and operational effectiveness.
 - 4.4. Identifying new techniques and approaches for analysing data, which can help us stay ahead of competitors and potential adversaries for better response in a contest.

Eligibility & Scope

5. The competition will be open to all serving personnel of the Armed Forces from all three services & will be organized in two phases. Participants will be provided with datasets under four different themes mentioned in para 6. They are also permitted to utilize any other opensource dataset pertaining to one of the themes. The aim is to derive maximum insights & recommendations as part of the analysis. The competition will be judged by an assessment panel of internal and external Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who will evaluate the submissions.

Themes

6. Aligned with the aim to promote the culture of decision-making based on data analytics and to identify new and more effective ways of analysing data, which can ultimately improve the accuracy and speed of decision-making, the selected themes are unclassified, contemporary and have potential to draw pertinent insights and throw open important lessons and recommendation for India in general and Armed Forces in particular. The themes for 2026 are as follows: -

6.1. Contested and Congested – Growth of Satellites in Outer Space. The growing number of satellites has crowded the space domain. Participants can delve into the satellite datasets to derive insights into the space domain proliferation and derive trends and predictions towards future trajectory.

6.2. Global Conflicts – Impact on Supply Chains. Participants can delve into the datasets of global shipping and derive insights into the impact of conflicts across the world on the global shipping and supply chains. Participants can also identify AIS dead zones to predict AIS dark spots and correlate the same with an identification crisis emanating from localised conflicts similar to the Black Sea/ Persian Gulf necessitating switching off of the Automatic Identification Systems (AIS).

6.3. Proliferation of Chinese Fishing. This theme for our data analytics competition tracks Chinese Fishing Fleet deployment across the globe and derive insights into the trends, patterns and exploitation of global commons by China.

6.4. Resilience of Indian Trade/ Financial Markets. This theme for our data analytics competition challenges participants to derive insights in the resilience of Indian Stock/ Financial Markets to global challenges over the past few years.

7. Participants are encouraged to explore datasets uploaded on the website and go beyond the uploaded datasets and present unexplored perspectives under the selected themes.

Participants will also be at liberty to use any other relevant datasets along with citation of source, to explain their insights as per the selected themes.

Methodology

8. The competition is proposed be conducted in the following manner: -

8.1. The datasets under relevant themes have been uploaded on the CDM Website, **www.cdm.gov.in**. Participants can access these datasets to download. All participant desirous of participating in Datathon 2026 have to register by informing to the Coord Officer on email **datathon.ids@gov.in**, along with personal details as per format at **Appendix A**.

8.2. Participants will have two months' time to submit their analysis containing details of insights & screenshots of data analytics software used. The solutions will be mailed at **datathon.ids@gov.in** in PDF format, along with output files in Power BI file (*.pbix) format only, along with personal details, earlier but not later than **30 Sep 26**.

8.3. Any queries or clarifications may be coordinated with the Coord officer on **datathon.ids@gov.in**.

8.4. The competition will be judged by an Assessment Team comprising of officers at CDM and external assessors. Top 10 selected participants will present their work of data analytics in front of panel of experts at CDM between 01 – 10 Nov 26. Awards to the top five participants will be bestowed during the CDM annual seminar in end Nov 26.

8.5. The criteria for assessment and proposed distribution of weightage is attached at **Appendix B**.

9. Datathon-2026 will be conducted in two phases – Online submissions followed by individual presentations by selected 10 participants at the CDM as per the following timeline:

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Event a.	Timeline b.	Remarks c.
Uploading of Data-sets on CDM Website along with General Instructions	Early Aug 26	
Data Analytics by Participants	10 Aug – 30 Sep 26	

Event a.	Timeline b.	Remarks c.
Assessment at CDM (internal + external assessors)	01 Oct – 31 Oct 26	
Presentation by Select 10 Participants at CDM	02 Nov – 07 Nov 26	
Finalization of Results	Mid Nov 26	Top Five Participants
Felicitations of Awardees (presentation of sponsored awards)	Feb 27	During CDM Annual Seminar

Conclusion

10. In furtherance of the objectives laid down by HQ IDS, CDM will continue its efforts to foster management thought in the three services. Datathon 2026 is an attempt to promote a culture of data driven decisions in the Armed Forces.

APPENDIX A

(Refers to Para 8.1 of General Instructions)

INDIVIDUAL DETAILS

Service No:	
Rank :	
Name:	
Mobile No:	Calling No: Whats app No:
Email ID:	
Experience in Data Analytics (Yrs) including previous participation:	
Unit:	
Formation:	
Address with Pincode:	
Any other Platform/ Software being Used:	
Dataset chosen:	

(To be submitted on datathon.ids@gov.in)

APPENDIX B

(Refers Para 8.5 of General Instructions)

DATATHON: ASSESSMENT SHEET

Participant Information

1. Participant's Rank & Name :
2. Theme :
3. Date of Assessment :

Scoring Criteria

4. Data Analytics (40 points)

- 4.1. Ability to understand and define the problem (08) :
- 4.2. Quality of data preprocessing and cleaning (08) :
- 4.3. Selection of appropriate analytical techniques (08) :
- 4.4. Depth and accuracy of analysis (08) :
- 4.5. Use of relevant visualizations and insights (08) :

5. Technical Skills (25 points)

- 5.1. Proficiency in programming languages/platform/software (05) :
- 5.2. Utilization of libraries and frameworks (07) :
- 5.3. Efficient data manipulation and transformation (08) :
- 5.4. Application of statistical methods (05) :

6. Creativity and Innovation (20 points)

- 6.1. Uniqueness and originality of the approach (06) :
- 6.2. Creative problem-solving techniques (06) :
- 6.3. Innovative use of data and methods (08) :

7. Communication (15 points)

- 7.1. Clarity and organization of the report/presentation (05) :
- 7.2. Ability to convey complex ideas concisely (05) :
- 7.3. Engaging and informative data storytelling (05) :

8. Overall Impact

- 8.1. Rate the overall impact on a scale of 1-10 :