

SHORT BRIEF ON
AGNIPATH
SCHEME

RESTRICTED TILL IT IS ANNOUNCED PUBLICALLY

BRIEF ON AGNIPATH SCHEME

1. New HR methodology has been introduced in the Armed Forces i.e. the Agnipath Scheme. Under this scheme, Agniveers would be selected to serve the IAF for a duration of four years. The new scheme provides a golden opportunity for India's youth to experience military life without having to make a long term commitment. This period of four years of active service provides the Agniveers with the much required time to resolve inhibitions if any, with respect to the services way of life and towards enabling them to decide upon Armed forces as a permanent career option.

2. The new scheme gives the IAF an opportunity to tap and attract the best talent available in the country to serve the Indian Air Force with pride. A short tenure in the IAF will facilitate military training to a large section of our society and inculcate amongst them the qualities of leadership, patriotism, determination, discipline, maturity, courage, camaraderie, orderliness and sense of time management.

3. Our endeavor would be to enroll Agniveers from all parts of the nation through an All India competitive examination process utilizing contemporary technology, practices and systems, specialized rallies and campus interviews at technical institutes and will also be resorted to select the most capable candidates. The selection process will continue to be maintained as per existing norms of the service and hence would ensure that quality of youth being enrolled is maintained and they are from all over the country.

4. Today, the youth of our country are better educated and possess a higher exposure to technology as compared to earlier times. Apart from the general population, the scheme envisages enrolment of ITI students, National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) candidates as well as NCC cadets ensuring that the Agniveers have a better starting point and thus, more compatible to the technology intensive needs of the Indian Air Force. These Agniveers would be exposed to an improved tailor made training curriculum which will enable them to transit quickly and effectively in to the Air Force environment. Moreover, the Agniveers who would be joining the IAF as Regular Cadre would require lesser time

for settling down and specialist training for manning tech intensive equipment. Post serving the IAF for four years, certain percentage of Agniveers would be given an opportunity to re-enroll themselves into regular cadre. The remaining Agniveers would be joining the civil life to pursue their careers in other organizations or work as dynamic entrepreneurs, thereby continuing to contribute to the overall development of the nation. The Seva Nidhi of approx. 10.04 Lakhs would aid the Agniveer to settle and lead a decent lifestyle as a young entrepreneur/ start a second career.

5. We are proud that we have been chosen as flag bearers to train and motivate youth and contribute towards the overall betterment of the nation.

FAQ

This will be available in open domain from 1300hrs tomorrow. (thereafter can be used freely)



FAQs

1 What is the Agnipath scheme and what are its advantages?

Ans: **AGNIPATH Scheme** in the Indian Armed Forces is a scheme wherein **selected candidates** will be enrolled as Agniveers for **four years period**.

On completion of the four year period, Agniveers will **go to the society as disciplined, dynamic, motivated and skilled work force** for employment in other sectors to pursue their career in job of their choice.

Based on organisational requirement and policies promulgated by the Armed Forces, **100% of the Agniveers** after completing their engagement period, **will be offered an opportunity** to apply for enrolment in the permanent cadre. Of these **25% of Agniveers will be selected to be enrolled in the Armed Forces as a regular cadre**.

The scheme provides an avenue to Indian youth, desirous of serving the country to get recruited in the Armed Forces for a short duration.

The scheme enhances the youth profile of the Armed Forces.

Advantages

This proposal envisages providing opportunity to **the youth to serve in the military for short duration**.

It will also lead to a much more **youthful and technically adept war fighting force** by ensuring a fine balance between youthful and experienced personnel in the Armed Forces.





2. What are the broad objectives of the Scheme?

Ans: The broad objectives of the Scheme are:

- a. To enhance **youthful profile** of the Armed Forces so that they are at their fighting best at all times with increased risk taking ability.
- b. To **attract young talent** from the society to effectively exploit, adopt and use emerging modern technologies with enhanced technical thresholds of intake while leveraging Technical Institutions of the country.
- c. To provide an opportunity to the **youth who may be keen to serve the Nation** in uniform albeit for a **short period of time**.
- d. To imbibe The Armed Forces **ethos, courage, camaraderie, commitment and teamwork** in the youth.
- e. To provide **abilities and qualities such as discipline, dynamism, motivation and work-skills** so that the youth remains an asset.

3. What benefits are envisaged to be accrued from the scheme?

Ans: The scheme would be a win win situation for the Armed Forces, Nation, individuals and the society at large.

Nation

- **National Integration** based on unity in diversity with equal opportunity to youth including women from all regions.
- **Nation Building** through empowered, disciplined & skilled youth with military ethos in civil society.

Armed Forces

- **Improved battle preparedness** through transformative evolution with energetic, fitter, diverse, more trainable and resilient youth suited to the changing dynamics.
- **Selection of the Best** with rigorous and transparent selection process.
- **Youthful Profile** by optimal balance of youth & experience.
- **Harness benefits of SKILL INDIA** by induction from Tech Institutes.

Individuals

- **Opportunity for Youth** to fulfil dream of joining the Armed Forces and serve the Nation.
- **Imbibe** military discipline, motivation, skill and physical fitness.
- **Smooth integration into society** with skill sets, certification and diplomas/ higher education/credits.





- **Good financial package** making him more stable than his civilian counterparts.
- **Confident & better citizens by** military training, team building, ethos & camaraderie forged over the years.
- **Resume so unique** that an Agniveer will stand out in the crowd.

4. What would be the impact of the scheme on the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces?

Ans: There would be no impact of the implementation of the scheme on the operations preparedness of the Armed Forces. By having a younger profile which is more fighting fit with less encumbrances, it is expected that the risk taking capability of these personnel would be higher. With the infusion of technology and revamping of the training programmes, the Armed Forces would ensure that the **personnel inducted under the scheme have the same skill sets** which are **required to meet the operational challenges**. Since the **training standards are clearly defined**, and monitored by the highest authorities in the Armed Forces, it would be ensured that the Agniveers meet the highest professional standards.

5. The Scheme envisions younger age profile of the Armed Forces. Is the Age eligibility criterion for enrolment under the Scheme different from the earlier practice?

Ans: Candidates between **17½ to 21 years** of age meeting other educational, physical and medical criteria would largely be **enrolled as Agniveers**. The Scheme also aims to **harness the "Skill India"** initiative by enrolling candidates qualified in **ITI/Diploma holders** in future with the necessary skills for certain technical trades.

6. Can the Agniveers opt for enrolment in the Permanent Cadre?

Ans: Based on organisational requirement and policies promulgated by the Armed Forces, 100% of the Agniveers after completing their engagement period, **will be offered an opportunity** to apply for enrolment in the permanent cadre. These applications will be considered by a centralised transparent rigorous screening system which would be based on merit and demonstrated performance during service. **25% of the Agniveers** would be selected for enrolment in the permanent Cadre as per the existing Terms and Conditions. Selection of Agniveers for further enrolment into the Armed Forces will be the **exclusive jurisdiction of the Government** through **laid down policies**.

7. How does the scheme compare to the other nations?

Ans: A **careful analysis** of the methodology of induction, retention and release of Armed Forces personnel in **various developed countries** was carried out to **adopt the best practices** being followed in these countries. The analysis revealed the following:

- a. **Primarily Volunteer Model.** All countries including those who have conscription have a volunteer Armed Forces once the mandatory time stipulation is over.





- b. **Enrolment Procedures.** Majority of the countries follow multiple enrolments models at various stages of military career enabling soldiers to voluntarily continue or exit service.
- c. **Retention.** All countries after the initial compulsory service period, retain soldiers based on their choice and a meritorious selection process.
- d. **Training.** All countries have a shorter initial training period. Specialised training is imparted once the soldier is selected for service for a longer duration.
- e. **Incentivisation of Exit.** These incentives vary from country to country but generally are in the following fields:
 - i. Relaxation/Incentives to pursue higher education.
 - ii. Financial package on exit.
 - iii. Credits in education qualifications for type and duration of service rendered.
 - iv. Advantage for recruitment in the permanent cadre.
 - v. Some assurance of job on exit.
- f. The Agnipath scheme aims to follow the same model and similar incentives as have been given in the developed countries.

8. Regimental Izzat is one of the primary motivating factors for soldiers and officers to bond and perform beyond the call of duty during wartime. Won't induction of Agniveers dilute this spirit?

Ans: The traditional culture of units have been built over the years and have a strong foundation which cannot be diluted easily. To retain the Regimental Izzat depends on strong leadership of the officers and other senior supervisors in the units. Further, since the scheme envisages selecting the best of the Agniveers and only those who proved their mettle, the cohesiveness of the unit would be ensured by these personnel. Further, these aspects would be focussed upon and accentuated by training received once the Agniveer reaches the unit.

9. Since there is going to be a limited training period, would it be adequate to meet the operational challenges?

Ans: Youth today eat better, run faster and longer, are more adept to technology and adept more easily to change. The aim to exploit the talent of the present day generation in our training patterns while simultaneously utilizing technology such as simulators to ensure an effective training programme. Since the basic qualification and qualities available with the youth have improved over the years, it gives us an opportunity to restructure the training pattern with more time being available for both physical and technical training. It also gives us an opportunity to review our present training pattern to make them contemporary, technology based and tailor made for the requirements of the Armed Forces.





10. Is the Agnipath scheme likely to be opened to women?

Ans: It is envisaged that in future women will be joining the Armed Forces under the Agniveer scheme.

11. How will this scheme ensure recruitment from all over the country?

Ans: The present scheme is based on unity in diversity with equal opportunity to youth including women from all regions of the country to serve the Nation. The scheme aims to capitalize on the broad based talent pool of the Nation and select the best for a career in the Armed Forces. The **present pattern of selection** in to the Armed Forces is **not being changed** with the introduction of the scheme. The **only change** that is happening is in the **Terms and Conditions** of service. As you all are aware, that the three Services are having **well established selections centers** spread over the country which have enabled them to recruit people from even the remotest part of the Nation. Since these very selection centers would continue to undertake the responsibility of recruiting personnel, we expect that the **all India representation would not be affected** by the introduction of the scheme.

12. What is the financial package offered to an Agniveer in the Armed Forces?

Ans: Composite Monthly Package

- 1st year package - ₹30,000/-.
- Upgradation upto ₹40,000/- in 4th year.

Allowances

- Risk & Hardship, Ration, Dress, Travel allowances as applicable.

SevaNidhi

- 30% of monthly emoluments to be contributed by individuals.
- Equal amount matched & contributed by the Government.
- Corpus of ₹10.04 Lakhs plus accrued interest, exempted from Income Tax, after four years.

Death Compensation

- Non-contributory life insurance cover of ₹48 Lakhs.
- Additional Ex Gratia of ₹44 Lakhs for death attributable to service.
- Pay for unserved portion upto four years including 'SevaNidhi' component.

Disability Compensation

- Compensation based on % disability laid down by medical authorities.
- One time ex-gratia of ₹44/25/15 Lakhs for 100%/75%/50% disability respectively.

