

AGNI PATH

The Agnipath Scheme is a new scheme launched by the Government of India on 14 June 2022, for the recruitment of soldiers below the rank of commissioned officer in the three services of the armed forces. The Agnipath Scheme will be the only route for recruitment into the military. All recruited will be appointed for four years only. Personnel recruited under this system are called Agniveer's, which will be a new military term. The introduction of the project has been criticized for a lack of consultation and public debate. The project is scheduled to become operational from September 2022.

The scheme will bypass many things including long tenure, pension and other —

benefits that were there in the old system. Opposition parties in India have criticized and expressed concern over the consequences of the new scheme. They asked for the scheme to be shelved and the scheme to be discussed in the Parliament.

On 16 June 2022, violent protests broke out in several Indian states where army hopefuls, angry with the new scheme, called for its rollback and damaged government property. By June 17, 12 trains were set on fire and 300 trains were disrupted. 214 trains were cancelled, 12 diverted and 90 stopped before reaching their destination.

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