

Agniveer

Agnipath scheme is introduced by the government of India on 14 June, 2022 for recruitment of soldiers below the rank of commissioned officers into three services of the armed forces. The Agnipath scheme will be the only youth for recruitment into the military.

Eligibility Criteria: The educational qualification is 10th pass for soldiers and 10+2 with the combination of either physics, chemistry, maths in the Airforce and Navy.

About the scheme: Under the scheme the youth joining the army will be called Agniveer. Youth will be able to be recruited into the army for a ~~three~~ term 4 years.

Under the new scheme, around 45000 to 50000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave the service - within 4 years.

However, after four years, only 05% of the batch will be recruited back into their respective services, for a period of 15 years.

Objectives of the scheme: It aims at providing an opportunity to the patriotic and motivated youth with the 'Josh' and 'Jasba' to join the Armed Forces.

It is expected to bring down the average age profile of Indian Armed Forces by about 4 to 5 yrs. The scheme envisions that, the average age in the Forces is 32 years today, which will go down to 26 in six to seven years.

Advantages of Agnipath scheme: Upon the completion of 4 yrs of services, a one-time 'Seva Nandi' package of Rs. 11.11 lacs - will be paid to the Agniveer that will include their accrued interest the same.

They will also get a Rs. 48 lakh life insurance cover for the four-years.

In case of death, the payout will be over Rs. 1 Crore, including pay for the unexpired tenure.

The government will help rehabilitate soldiers who leave the service after four years. They will be provided with skill certificates and bridge courses.

Disadvantages of Agnipath scheme: After the service of four years it will be extremely difficult for the Agniveers to find other jobs.

There is also no pension benefits and the health/hospitals benefits for the Agniveers. The most serious disadvantage of the scheme is that the force will lose experienced soldiers as their training may remain untillaged.

Significance of Agnipath scheme: The importance of this scheme is to create 'future ready' scheme. It helps to create more employment opportunities. Besides all the benefits and the disadvantages of the Agnipath scheme is that it teaches/forges the importance of discipline into the soldiers who will just go out of the force after completing their tenure of 4 years. It teaches the youths to give their best in every field, it teaches them the art of competition and most importantly it teaches them to maintain a healthy body which will come into use for the nation during the time of crisis that the nation can face at any moment of time.