



Agneepath, the Scheme For Youth, to Serving the Nation : Advantages & Significance

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ABSTRACT

Although, Agneepath Scheme belonging to Indian Armed Forces is one such scheme in which selected candidates will be enrolled as Agniveer for a period of four years. Perhaps, on completion of a period of four years, these Agniveers will return to the society to pursue a career in the profession of their choice with the aim of finding employment in other sectors as a disciplined, dynamic, motivated and skilled manpower. However, this year the process of recruitment of 46,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen will start on the basis of "All India, All Category" under the Agneepath scheme. This would undermine the professionalism, ethos and fighting spirit of the armed forces, as well as potentially lead to the militarization of civil society. It allows patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the armed forces for a period of four years. Keeping with Agneepath, the youth joining the army will be called Agniveer and the youth will be able to join the army for some time.

KEYWORDS: Overview, Objectives, Advantages, Disadvantages, Significance, Nations, there where compulsory military services.

INTRODUCTION

Though, a new scheme of short-term reinstatement in the Indian Army has been started by the Government of India, namely the Agneepath scheme. Through the Agneepath scheme, now the eighth, tenth and twelfth pass youth will get a chance to serve as a professional soldier for four years as Agniveer in the three wings of the army, the army, the navy and the navy. . With the implementation of Agneepath scheme, all those recruitments whose results are yet to come or whose process is going on have been cancelled with immediate effect. Agneepath Scheme belonging to Indian Armed Forces is one such scheme in which selected candidates will be enrolled as Agniveer for a period of four years. On completion of a period of four years, these Agniveers will return to the society to pursue a career in the profession of their choice with the aim of finding employment in other sectors as a disciplined, dynamic, motivated and skilled manpower.

These Agniveers will be given an opportunity to apply for enrolment in the permanent cadre after they complete their period of engagement as per the organizational requirements and policies announced by the Armed Forces. Out of these, up to 25 per cent Agniveers would be selected to be enrolled in the Armed Forces as a regular cadre. This scheme provides an opportunity to the Indian youth who wish to serve the country to join the armed forces for a short period. This scheme improves the profile of the youth of the Armed Forces.

BACKGROUND

Hence, in Agneepath scheme, soldiers were recruited into the armed forces on tenure of fifteen plus years with lifelong pension. No recruitment was made in the armed forces for three years from 2019.¹ The Indian government cited the COVID-19 pandemic in India for this. Meanwhile, 50,000 to 60,000 soldiers continued to retire annually, leading to a manpower shortage, affecting the operational capability of the armed forces.²

A 'Tour of Duty' scheme was proposed in 2020 for voluntary enlistment in the forces for civilians, so that they can enlist in short service of three years. The proposed scheme was on a trial basis and was designed for 100 officers and the plan was to start with a test group of 1000 soldiers.³

OVERVIEW

Agneepath scheme was approved by the Government of India in June 2022 which was to be implemented from September 2022. The announcement was made on June 14, 2022.⁴ The scheme is open to both male and female candidates in the age group of 17.5 to 21 years. Amid widespread protests against the

¹No recruitment in two years has begun 'pinching' the Indian Army- The New Indian Express

²fullstory (ptinews.com), Civilians Who Join Army For 3 Years May Get Mahindra Jobs (ndtv.com)

³Tour of Duty: What is Tour of Duty Meaning in Indian Army (indiatimes.com)

⁴Amid Massive 'Agnipath' Protests, Centre Announces Big Concessions (ndtv.com)

Agneepath scheme, the central government raised the upper limit from 21 to 23, but only for recruitment in the year 2022.⁵ Through this scheme, recruitment is done twice a year for the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force. The available posts are below the officer cadre.⁶ The only route to serve in the army is the Agneepath scheme.⁷

The recruits, named Agniveer, serve for a four-year tenure which includes six months of training followed by 3.5 years of posting. After retirement from service, they will have the opportunity to apply to remain in the Armed Forces. Not more than 25% of the total number of batches to be retired will be selected for permanent cadre.⁸ Personnel retiring after four years of service will not be eligible for pension but will receive a lump sum amount of approximately ₹ 11.71 lakh at the end of the tenure.⁹ Government of India through this scheme it plans to recruit 45,000 to 50,000 new personnel every year.¹⁰ It is planned to enrol 46,000 youth through this scheme in September 2022.¹¹

OBJECTIVES

Although, it motives to provide an opportunity to the patriotic and motivated youth to join the armed forces with 'Josh' and 'Passion'. However, it is expected to reduce the average age profile of the Indian Armed Forces by about four to five years. The country which is to start Agneepath scheme is believed to be a decision taken in the interest of the country because the military force in the country will be even stronger and in such a system the youth of the country have been given an opportunity to serve the country. If we go, let us tell you the country of Agneepath Scheme.¹²

Thus, any youth, who want to join the army but are unable to join the army recruitment due to some reason, will be, provided a probability to serve the country on a commission basis for 4 years under Agneepath Scheme and the median age of soldiers in the country is 32 years, in such a situation, efforts will be made to reduce the average age by giving jobs to more and more youth who will be between 17.5 years to 21 years.¹³ The youth will get an opportunity to make a better future at an early age, so that they will also be provided with an amount of Rs. 11 lakh 71 thousand in retirement. Perhaps, the country will be recruited in the army and they will also be provided high school training and will also get a chance to live in discipline and lead a trained military life and the country will also get an opportunity to become strong and self-reliant at an early age.¹⁴ Hence, the security system of the country will be strengthened even more by recruiting more and more Agniveers. However, enhancing the youth, image of the armed forces so that they are equipped with their best fighting skills at all times with better risk taking ability with attract their young talent from the society to effectively utilize, adopt and utilize the emerging modern technologies equipped with advanced technological frontiers by taking advantage of the technical institutions of the country.¹⁵ It's a big opportunity to the youth who wish to serve the nation in uniform for a short period of time and consume the zeal, courage, camaraderie, commitment and group spirit of the armed forces among to furnish with potentiality and classification, like discipline, enthusiasm, motivation and efficiency so that they prove to be an asset to us.¹⁶

ADVANTAGES OF AGNEEPATH SCHEME

This scheme will prove to be extremely useful for the Armed Forces, the nation, the individual and the society at large.

First, Nation

Though, national integration based on unity in diversity with equal opportunities to youth including women of all walks of life. It provides, nation building through empowered, disciplined and skilled youth with military values in civil society.¹⁷

Second, the armed forces

Though, better combat preparedness through transformative development with energetic, healthy, diverse, more trained and empowered youth to suit changes circumstances. Thus, the scheme offered, selection of the best talent through a strict and transparent selection process. It also showed a youthful image through maximum balance of youth and experience. The scheme gives efforts to enhance the benefits of Skill India by involving technical institutions.¹⁸

⁵Govt grants age waiver for Agnipath amid stir | Latest News India - Hindustan Times, Upper age limit for Agnipath scheme hiring raised to 23 for 2022 - The Hindu

⁶Agnipath Scheme Eligibility: What is Agnipath scheme, who all can apply? Check eligibility, salary and other details - The Economic Times (indiatimes.com), What is Indian Army's Agnipath scheme? (indianexpress.com)

⁷Opinion: An Army Veteran's 5 Suggestions For Agnipath Scheme (ndtv.com)

⁸Agnipath_Booklet_13-1700.cdr (mygov.in)

⁹Agnipath scheme is proof that Modi govt can bring change for good. But an open mind is key (theprint.in), Playing with fire: The Hindu Editorial on Agnipath - The Hindu

¹⁰Agnipath: Protests over Indian army's new hiring plan intensify - BBC News

¹¹Opinion: An Army Veteran's 5 Suggestions For Agnipath Scheme (ndtv.com)

¹²Agnipath Scheme - GeeksforGeeks

¹³ibid

¹⁴fullstory (ptinews.com)

¹⁵ibid

¹⁶ibid

¹⁷AIR Spotlight - Agnipath Defence Scheme; Download PDF (byjus.com)

¹⁸Agnipath Scheme (drishtias.com)

Third, individual

It provides the opportunity to the youth to join the armed forces and fulfil the dream of serving the nation and imbibe military discipline, motivation, skill and physical fitness. However, it has an easy connectivity to society with a variety of skills, certifications and diplomas/higher education/credits. Scheme has the good financial package makes the youth joining the armed forces more stable than their civil society mates and also creates confident and better citizens through military training, team building, values and camaraderie during tenure.¹⁹

Personality of an Agniveer- The instigation will be so unique that he will stand apart in the mob. They will get fixed employment for a period of three years with good salary along with four years retirement package in keeping with opportunity to serve in the Indian Armed Forces. The Scheme also provides a probability to build an exceptional profile with three years of experience in the Indian Armed Forces. This will help the candidate to get a new job easily. Agniveer will get proper training in warfare and combat skills, and strategy making and will be awarded the rank of a soldier. Selected candidates under Agneepath scheme will also get a chance to be retained by the Indian Armed Forces and become permanent in the Indian Army. Agniveer will also enjoy special facilities of the Indian Armed Forces, such as free medical treatment in Army hospitals.²⁰

Although, if any Agniveer becomes partially or completely disabled during his service then he will be compensated by the government or loses his life in the line of his duty then his family will be offered a sum insured of Rs. One crore. The insurance will be from the government, so the instalments of insurance will not be deducted from the salary of Agniveer and who leave the service after four years will be awarded Agniveer Skill Certificate and some additional credit points.²¹

DISADVANTAGES OF AGNEEPATH SCHEME

Though, Agneepath scheme will provide employment to the candidates for four years and only 25% of the candidates will be made permanent after the training period and another 75% will have to leave the job. The candidate appointed during Agneepath Scheme, 2022 will not get any pension and after four years from the Government Service Fund scheme, out of the lump sum amount, (only 11 lakh) will be available to Agniveers while some amount out of 11 lakh will be deducted from the salary of the recruit on monthly basis.²² However, selected candidates will be recruited only for non-commissioned ranks like Sepoy, Naik and Lance Naik and in keeping view this recruitment is only for the candidates of 17.5-23 years. Perhaps, there is no job security as the candidates will become unemployed again after four years of service and it is mandated there have no additional or basic benefits will be provided to the candidate like other government jobs.²³

SIGNIFICANCE OF AGNEEPATH SCHEME

The Agneepath scheme was first named as "Tour of Duty" and the recruitment of armies in Agneepath will be initially for a period of four years and armies recruited under this scheme will also get good salary. In keeping with this scheme, Agniveers will get a salary of ₹ 30000 per month for three years. At the same time, in the fourth year, a salary of up to ₹ 40000 per month will be available. However, after four years, provision of service fund will also be made for the recruits under this scheme.²⁴ Along with this, 25% Agniveers will be selected as regular cadre on the basis of a centralized and transparent system. Hence, Agneepath scheme, a lump sum 'Sevanidhi' package will be paid on completion of four years of working period of the men and it will be free from income tax. The skills and experience gained by the Agni Veers recruited covered the Agneepath scheme during their service and it will also provide them employment in different sectors.²⁵ Perhaps, in this way employment opportunities will also increase with the Agneepath scheme. The Agneepath Path scheme may be for four years, but in spite of the completion of the period of four years, some Agniveers will be retained but some will be given retirement. At present, the army recruits youth covered the Short Service Commission for an initial tenure of ten years but this is likely to be extended to fourteen years now.²⁶

NATIONS, WHERE THERE ARE PROVISIONS FOR COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE

America: There is a provision of compulsory military service of two years for men in America.

Israel: Military service is compulsory for all in Israel. Men serve in the Israeli Defense Force for three years and women for two years.

South Korea: All men in Korea are required to serve for twenty one months in the Army, twenty three months in the Navy or two years in the Air Force.

North Korea: North Korea has the longest compulsory military service. In this country, eleven years of military service is mandatory for men and seven years for women.

¹⁹What is the Agnipath scheme? - INSIGHTSIAS (insightsonindia.com)

²⁰Agneepath Scheme UPSC: Let's Understand the Challenges and Significance of the Scheme! (upscpathshala.com)

²¹Agneepath Scheme 2022 (Agnipath)- All Details You Need to Know (careerpower.in)

²²Agnipath Scheme - A Fire That Could Singe India | Legacy IAS Academy

²³AIR Spotlight - Agnipath Defence Scheme; Download PDF (byjus.com)

²⁴Agnipath Scheme (drishtias.com)

²⁵Agnipath Scheme: Need, Benefits and Challenges - Explained, pointwise-ForumIAS Blog

²⁶What is Agnipath Scheme? - Civilsdaily

Switzerland: Military service is compulsory in Switzerland for men between the ages of eighteen and thirty four.²⁷

Brazil: Military service is mandatory in Brazil for men eighteen years old who lasts between ten months and one year.

Syria: Military service of eighteen months is mandatory for all men in Syria.

Georgia: Georgia has a provision of compulsory military service of one year, of which combat training is given for three months, while the remaining nine months are served as duty officers.

Lithuania: Compulsory military service has been introduced in Lithuania in 2016. Here men of 18 to 26 years have to compulsorily serve in the army for one year.

Sweden: Compulsory military service system was in force in Sweden since 1910, which was abolished in 2010 after 100 years. But in 2017 it has been decided to start it again.

Norway: There is also a provision of compulsory military service in the European country of Norway.²⁸

CONCLUSION

And last, we have tried to understand the various things about recently launched Agneepath scheme, has the scheme turned out to be a boon for the youth of the country because every youth dreams of joining the Indian Army. In keeping with, this Scheme started for a period of four years in the country will act as an inspiration to the youth and along with that, an attempt has been made to give the objective features of the scheme and all kinds of information related to them. Though, any youth of the country who wants to serve the country by joining the army can take advantage of this scheme and get employment.

²⁷AIR Spotlight - Agnipath Defence Scheme; Download PDF (byjus.com)

²⁸ibid