# Defence & Security · GS - III

**Examine the implications of a possible extension of Agniveers' service tenure for military preparedness, personnel management and the objectives of the Agnipath scheme.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026 | GS - III | Defence & Security |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Agnipath scheme; four-year service tenure; military preparedness; retention and experience; personnel costs; recruitment policy; performance-based selection; policy clarity; career transition**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

The Agnipath scheme was introduced to recruit Agniveers into the Indian Armed Forces for a fixed service period. The reported proposal to extend their tenure by up to two years raises questions about military preparedness, personnel management and long-term career planning.

### Potential Benefits

An extension could help retain trained personnel, preserve operational experience and reduce the need to replace experienced recruits with newly trained personnel. It may also provide greater continuity in units requiring specialised skills.

### Challenges

A longer tenure could affect personnel expenditure, recruitment cycles and the scheme’s original manpower objectives. If extensions are restricted to selected individuals, transparent eligibility criteria and fair performance assessments would be essential. Uncertainty regarding tenure may also affect career planning for Agniveers.

**Way Forward**

The government should assess operational requirements, training investments, fiscal implications and the experiences of the initial batches before deciding. Any revised framework should clearly specify eligibility, selection procedures, service conditions and career-transition support for those not retained.

**Conclusion**

A service-tenure extension should be guided by evidence on military effectiveness, transparent personnel policies and a balance between operational needs and the career expectations of Agniveers.

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