Defence & Security · GS - III

Discuss the objectives and challenges of the Agnipath scheme in India. How can reforms in military recruitment improve operational readiness and the career prospects of Agniveers?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 04/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Youth recruitment, military modernisation, short service tenure, training and experience, permanent enrolment, post-service employment, reskilling and veterans' support.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Agnipath scheme was introduced to recruit young personnel into the Indian Armed Forces for a defined period, with the objectives of maintaining a youthful profile and improving personnel management.

Objectives and Potential Benefits

The scheme seeks to reduce the average age of military personnel, create a disciplined and skilled workforce, and manage long-term salary and pension commitments. Agniveers gain military training, technical skills and experience that may support future employment.

Key Challenges

A short service period may limit the return on training investments and raise concerns about operational experience and continuity. Uncertainty over post-service employment, reskilling and social security can also affect recruitment attractiveness and morale.

Way Forward

Any change in service tenure should be supported by clear official rules, operational assessments and adequate training. Stronger industry partnerships, recognised skill certification, transparent recruitment into the regular cadre and effective rehabilitation programmes can improve career transitions. Claims of a tenure extension should be confirmed through an official government notification or authoritative announcement before being treated as an implemented policy change.

Conclusion

Military recruitment reforms must balance youthfulness and fiscal sustainability with operational effectiveness, institutional experience and dignified post-service opportunities.