# Defence & Security · GS - III

**Discuss the objectives of the Agnipath Scheme. Examine the significance of changes in service conditions for the welfare and career prospects of Agniveers.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| DAILY PRACTICE 22/11/2026 | GS - III | Defence & Security |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 15 | ~250 words |

## Answer Hint

**Military manpower reform, short-term recruitment, youth employment, operational readiness, extended service, marriage and maternity provisions, gender inclusion, post-service rehabilitation.**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

The Agnipath Scheme, introduced in 2022, seeks to transform military recruitment by inducting young personnel, known as Agniveers, for an initial four-year period. Reported changes in service conditions indicate an evolving framework for their career and personal welfare.

### Objectives of the Scheme

1. **Younger force profile:** Maintain a youthful and dynamic military workforce.
2. **Manpower flexibility:** Provide flexibility in recruitment and long-term personnel management.
3. **Defence expenditure:** Manage the salary and pension burden over time.
4. **Skill development:** Equip young recruits with military training and transferable skills.

## Significance of Revised Service Conditions

- **Personal welfare:** Relaxation of the marriage restriction during an extended service period can support personal and family life.
- **Gender inclusion:** Maternity-related provisions for women Agniveers can strengthen service-related welfare protections.
- **Career continuity:** Extended service opportunities may provide greater professional experience and income stability.
- **Institutional adaptability:** Periodic revisions can help address emerging welfare and retention concerns.

## Concerns and Way Forward

The scheme must ensure transparent extension criteria, adequate grievance redressal, gender-sensitive facilities and effective post-service employment support. The balance between short-term recruitment and institutional experience also requires continuous assessment.

## Conclusion

The Agnipath Scheme represents a significant change in military manpower policy. Its long-term effectiveness will depend on balancing operational requirements with the welfare, dignity and career security of Agniveers.

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