Agniveer Pathway Revamped

One issue. 4 GS papers. 3 dimensions. 1 force structure test.

11 NOVEMBER 2026

CURRENT AFFAIRS → MULTIDIMENSIONAL THINKING

⚡THE ISSUE IN 30 SECONDS

FACT	WHY IT MATTERS
All Agniveers can seek regular service	The Cabinet cleared the revamp, and 25% are still selected on merit first
Remaining 75% get a two-year extension	They can then join as regular soldiers if they meet the criteria
Over three lakh Agniveers in training	About 2.8 lakh are in the Army across different stages
CDS says it is not regular recruitment	The Agnipath scheme continues, with the new changes

CORE IDEA: The revamp widens the path to regular service for every Agniveer after a total six-year tenure while keeping merit selection, so its test is whether it balances operational readiness, a youthful force profile and fair career security.

🌍THINK BEYOND

Agnipath starts with a four-year tenure → **First batches near completion** → **Merit selects the first 25%** **Others get a two-year extension** → **All can seek regular service** → **Readiness and fairness need balance**

Can a short-tenure model deliver both a youthful force and career security?

🔗UPSC CONNECT

🌍 GS1 · SOCIETY
Youth aspirations, careers and social security

Use in: Youth • Careers

🏛 GS2 · GOVERNANCE
Cabinet decisions, defence policy and public employment

Use in: Cabinet • Policy

⚡ GS3 · SECURITY
Defence manpower, military readiness and force structure

Use in: Defence • Readiness

⚖ GS4 · ETHICS
Fairness, merit and duty to those who serve

Use in: Merit • Fairness

🎯OPTIONAL CONNECT

PUB ADMIN
Recruitment policy and **HR** design

PSIR
Defence **manpower** and security policy

SOCIOLOGY
Youth, **military** careers and society

ECONOMICS
Pensions and **fiscal** impact

✏HOW CAN I USE THIS IN MAINS?

ESSAY *"A strong force is built on trained people and trusted careers."*
GS3 *Use this to discuss defence manpower, military readiness and force structure.*
GS2 *Use it to discuss defence policy, cabinet decisions and public employment.*
GS4 *Use it to discuss merit, fairness and duty to those who serve.*

👤THINK LIKE AN OFFICER

★ KEY SECTION

CASE: You are a Joint Secretary in the Defence Ministry. The first Agniveer batches are completing their tenure, and you must communicate the revamped options clearly while protecting force readiness.

YOU HAVE 60 SECONDS: WHAT DO YOU DO?

☐ Leave details to media reports ☐ Ignore Agniveer concerns

☐ Publish clear pathways and timelines ☐ Change rules without notice

MODEL ADMINISTRATIVE APPROACH

1 · CLARIFY PATHWAYS
Explain merit, extension and exit options simply

2 · PROTECT READINESS
Plan manpower so units keep trained strength

3 · SUPPORT TRANSITION
Provide skilling and Seva Nidhi guidance

4 · TRACK OUTCOMES
Review retention, morale and selection data

🔑3 THINGS TO REMEMBER

01 · CONNECT
Readiness and fairness together

02 · THINK
Clarity builds trust

03 · APPLY
Apply this across GS1-4, Essay and optionals