




Word of the day

RECRUITMENT



When the government adds new soldiers to the armed forces of a nation.

The Indian government has launched a new **recruitment** program, **Agnipath**, for India's soldiers. That's right. Agnipath covers all the young soldiers who want to join India's army, navy, or air force. Under this program, almost 50,000 young soldiers between the ages of seventeen and twenty-one will be **recruited** each year for a short four-year period.

This is a rather massive change from the past. Until now, the army recruited far fewer soldiers for a whopping 15-year period. And this lengthy stay with the Indian army didn't simply mean continued employment. Nope, it also meant a **cornucopia** of extra perks, such as good retirement pay and even free healthcare. Now, these benefits will be reserved for 25% of the 50,000 soldiers who get selected to stay on for another 15 years.

So, why does the government want soldiers around for a shorter time?

Well, first of all, the government wants a younger and fitter army. And secondly, they want to save money. See, every year, our government collects taxes and earns money. That money is then **budgeted** and spent on various services for the country. Lakhs of crores of rupees(Yup, the government is loaded) are spent on making the country safer and better to live in. But what the government found was that it was spending a huge chunk of its money on all these benefits for retired soldiers. Now, while that's not bad on its own, India's borders are being increasingly threatened. And the government would rather spend money on strengthening its weapons and improving its national security strategy.

While some have welcomed this change with open arms, others fear that soldiers who aren't chosen to continue on with the army will be left penniless and jobless after four years. The government insists it has several plans and **schemes** to prevent such a **desolate** fate. Nonetheless, people's fears continue to grow, and the protests have sprung up across the nation.