



DEFENCE · MAP #26

Agniveer — four years in the Army, and the one-in-four chance that decides the rest



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Join the Army at 18 on a four-year term, draw ₹21,000 in hand from month one, and leave at 23 with about ₹11.71 lakh tax-free. Or be one of the 25% kept on for a full soldier's career. The first batch finds out in October 2026.

Last reviewed 13 August 2026

THE 30-YEAR JOURNEY

The first four years are the same for everyone. You train for 31 weeks, join a unit, and serve as a soldier on a fixed term. What splits this career is what happens at the end of year four, when up to a quarter of your batch is taken into the regular cadre and the rest go home. That cap is the number under review right now, and the first batch reaches it in October 2026.

SALARY PROJECTION

If you joined today

Figures as of August 2026

Agniveer package per the 2022 Cabinet decision, 30% to the Corpus Fund. Regular-cadre rungs on the 7th CPC defence pay matrix with Military Service Pay ₹5,200 and DA @ 60%. CAPF constable figures carry no MSP.. This projection stops at ten years on purpose. The retained path can be traced because it runs on a published pay matrix. The path most people take cannot, because after year four it is a lump sum and a civilian life, and putting a salary line on that would be a guess dressed as a projection. The Agniveer package has not changed since 2022. We update this every year.

YEAR	MILESTONE	THE 75%	THE 25%
		Not retained. Seva Nidhi, then a quota seat if you win one	Retained into the regular cadre, pension at the end
0	Agniveer, year one	Yr 1 · ₹21k Both paths identical so far · Agniveer	
3	Agniveer, year four	Yr 4 · ₹28k Both paths identical so far · Agniveer	
4	The fork	One-time · ₹11.71L Seva Nidhi paid, service ends A one-time payment, not a salary. ₹10.04 lakh of contributions, about ₹11.71 lakh with interest, tax-free under Section 80CCH.	L3 · ₹43k Sepoy, regular cadre Basic ₹21,700 plus MSP ₹5,200, with DA at 60% on both. Lower basic than the year-four package, higher in hand, and a pension at the end.

YEAR	MILESTONE	THE 75% Not retained. Seva Nidhi, then a quota seat if you win one	THE 25% Retained into the regular cadre, pension at the end
10	Six years on	L3 · ₹40k CAPF Constable (GD), if you win a quota seat Conditional on clearing CAPF recruitment under the ex-Agniveer quota, which is notified for BSF and pending for the other forces. No MSP. Derived figure.	L4 · ₹48k Naik Years-to-promotion through the soldier ranks are not published and vary by arm and vacancy, so the year on this row is indicative only.

In-hand figures are derived from basic, MSP and DA @ 60% and are not quoted from a pay order. The 75% column shows the CAPF quota seat because it is the landing the government designed, not because most ex-Agniveers get one. Snapshot dated August 2026.

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Visual career maps for government jobs in India. Each map shows the full 30-year path: pay at every stage, promotion timelines, and the costs nobody mentions.

Salaries and rules change. Read the latest version:

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