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## Army's Proposal of 3 year Tenure for Civilians

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### Why in News

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Recently, the Army has proposed 3 years of voluntary **Tour of Duty** (ToD) for civilians on a trial basis.

### Key Points

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- **Proposal:**

- The Army plans to take civilians on a three- year '**Tour of Duty**' (ToD) or '**Three-year Short Service**' on a trial basis to serve in the force as both officers and Other Ranks (ORs).
- The proposal suggests several measures to incentivise this scheme like a tax-free income for three years and a token lump sum at the end of three years of about Rs.5-6 lakh for officers and Rs.2-3 lakh for ORs.
- However, there will be no severance packages, resettlement courses, professional encashment training leave, ex-Servicemen status, ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) for the ToD officers and other ranks.
- The proposal is a shift from the **concept of permanent service/job** in the Armed Forces, towards **internship/temporary experience for three years**.
- If approved it will be a voluntary engagement and there will be no dilution in selection criteria.
- The Army hopes that this would attract individuals from the best colleges, including the Indian Institute of Technology.

- **Rationale behind the Proposal:**

There is a "resurgence of nationalism and patriotism" in the country and the proposal attempts to tap the feeling of the youths who do not want to join the Army as a profession but wish to experience military life for a temporary duration.

- **Expected Benefits to the Army:**
  - **Reduction of Financial Burden:** The cost of a three-year service per officer will be a fraction of the cost incurred on Short Service Commission (SSC) officers, which includes cost of pre-commission training, pay, allowances, gratuity, leave encashment among others.
  - **Modernisation of Army:** The reduced financial burden will shift the focus towards modernisation of the army in terms of training, arms and equipment.
- **Expected Benefits to the Youth:**
  - It will not only provide a job with higher salary but also ensures a placement in corporate sectors after retirement as the corporate sector will prefer to hire such youths rather than fresh graduates.
  - It has been seen that corporates favour individuals who have been trained by the military at 26 or 27 years of age.
- **Benefits to the Nation:**
  - It will help to channelise the youth energy into positive utilisation of their potential.
  - Rigorous military training and habits inculcation will lead to healthy citizenry.
  - The entire nation will benefit from trained, disciplined, confident, diligent and committed young men or women who have done the three-year service.

**Source:TH**