



Tour of Duty Scheme

Why in News?

The **Department of Military Affairs** is moving towards finalising the “**Tour of Duty (ToD)**” scheme.

- Under this scheme, **youngsters will be recruited as soldiers only for three years.**
- This is being done in the backdrop of the urgent need **to curb the ballooning salary and pension bills** that are adversely impacting military modernization.

What is the “Tour of Duty (ToD)” scheme?

- **Background:** The scheme was being **pushed by the late [Chief Of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat](#).**
- **About:** It involves recruiting soldiers, which will be called **Agniveers**, for a fixed period of three years.
 - It will be a **voluntary engagement.**
 - It is also known as the **Agnipath entry scheme.**
 - It is for youths who “**do not want to make defence services their permanent vocation, but still want to experience the thrill and adventure of military professionalism**”.
- **Benefits to Soldiers:** The soldiers would be given a **payout** along with **priority in recruitment to certain government jobs**, including the **[central armed police forces](#).**
 - An effort is also on to **nudge corporate India** into hiring such **ex-ToD recruits for specific lines of work** in the private sector on a priority basis.
- **Benefits to Government:** Tour of Duty’, will help not only resolve the **issue of shortages of personnel but also reduce the burden of pay rises and pensions.**
 - As per the original ToD proposal, the “prospective life-term saving” in the cost of engagement of a single jawan who leaves after **17 years of service with pension and other benefits**, as compared to a **ToD jawan will be Rs 11.5 crore.**
 - The cumulative money saved in **pay and gratuity payouts** can consequently be used **for the much-needed military modernization.**

[Source: ToI](#)