



MILITARY VETERANS
KARNATAKA

*The Safety, Honour and Welfare of Bharat Come First,
Always and Every Time.*



JAI KARNATAKA



Veteran Col SS Rajan,
Convenor,
Military Veterans Karnataka
Tele No. 080-26729490
Cell No. 9449043770
Email: colonelrajan44@gmail.com
exservicemen.karnataka@gmail.com

Flat No. C-002
Skyline Ambrosia Apartments, Near
State Bank of India (Hosakerehalli
Branch) on Kerekodi Main Road,
D'Souza Nagar, Hosakerehalli,
BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085

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No. IC-15090/SSR/Agnipath Scheme/PM/0824/1

The very thought of denying Pension to Soldiers is a SIN.

A Country in which its rulers and people (or their representatives) do not respect or show concern for its Soldiers and Veterans; it has no moral right to exist as a Nation; and such a Country would soon disintegrate.

Anyone who meddles with the Armed Forces and does anything that would lower or adversely affect its Defence potential, can be safely termed as a DESH DROHI.

To,
Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
South Block,
New Delhi-110001

AGNIPATH SCHEME: A SELF INFLICTED INJURY. IT IS NOT ONLY UNETHICAL AND IMMORAL; BUT ALSO A SURE RECIPE FOR MILITARY DISASTER IN THE OFFING

*Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Jai Hind & Namashkar.*

1. I, IC-15090 Colonel SS Rajan, a proud Citizen of Bharat; 13 October 1944 born; June 1963 commissioned in the Bombay Sappers of the Corps of Engineers; and a Veteran of the 1971 War in the Eastern Theatre, culminating in the defeat and surrender of Lt Gen AAK Niazi, the C-in-C of the Pakistan Armed Forces in East Pakistan alongwith 93000 troops and the liberation of Bangladesh on 16 Dec 1971; consider it an honour & a privilege to address this letter to you, **our Hon'ble PM, whom I hold in high regards & esteem.**

Democracy in India and the Armed Forces its central and strongest pillar of support

2. One often hears that Democracy in India rests on three pillars, viz. *the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary*. Well, even if one of the three pillars fail, Democracy in India would cave in and the whole edifice of Democracy would come down crashing. The fact that it has not happened, but on the contrary, Democracy in India is thriving, vibrant & pulsating, despite all its ills, is because there is yet one more pillar which is holding Indian Democracy aloft. **And that is the central pillar, the strongest pillar of them all, the Armed Forces of this Country**, which stands guard 24x7x365, ie. year after year, decade after decade, safeguarding our far flung borders in most inhospitable terrain and extreme weather conditions. If not for the devotion, dedication & valour of the Officers & Jawans of the Indian Army, India would have lost Kashmir, long ago. This is borne out by the fact by the number of Officers & Jawans getting killed in the line of duty, even now in J&K, fighting Pakistan trained terrorists. Would anyone like to dispute that?

Enemies and the Nation

3. **BEWARE**, your enemies and enemies of the Country are not abroad; but standing right next to you & around you; **yes**, amongst the coterie of **YES MEN**, you have assiduously built in the past ten years. Amongst people surrounding you, your enemies and enemies of the Nation are the wily IAS Bureaucrats; who day in day out, din into the ears of every Prime Minister starting from Nehru; and now you, that one has to keep the Army under tight leash; or else, the Army Chief, given half a chance would carry out a Coup d'état and overthrow the duly elected Govt of the day; like what has been happening with predictable regularity in our neighborhood, viz. Pakistan, Bangladesh & Burma. And thus, the wily IAS Bureaucrats leave no stone unturned to malign the Armed Forces in your eyes and in the eyes of the Public.

A War Veteran's Duty and Loyalty to the Nation

4. Being a proud Citizen of Bharat; and one who holds you, the Hon'ble PM, in high regards & esteem, ***I consider it my duty & as part of my loyalty to the Nation, to apprise you, our Hon'ble PM***, of the deleterious consequences of the Agnipath Scheme evolved and set in motion by your Govt.

5. Agnipath Scheme has nothing to do with maintaining a youthful profile of the Armed Forces comprising young men in the age group of 18-25 years; **but, it is all about saving money for the Govt. by denying Pension to its Soldiers. Fine; but at what cost? Believe me, the Nation shall pay a very heavy price in the form of repeat of 1962**; ie. humiliation & defeat in the battlefield. And that is not what you, our Hon'ble Prime Minister wish or the 1.4 billion people of Bharat wish.

6. Please bear in mind that "***Khuda na kare, ie. God Forbid***, in case the Armed Forces suffer a 'reverse', **only YOU and YOU ALONE** shall be held responsible for the Catastrophe; and in that event, "***Na Raam rahega; na Raam Mandir rahega***". It will be a colossal catastrophe with unimaginable consequences, not only for you, our Hon'ble Prime Minister; but for the entire Nation. **And do you, our Hon'ble Prime Minister, ever want that to happen? The answer is: NO, NO and a resounding NO.**

Setting up of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)

7. To save the Nation from the Military Disaster in the offing; I, a War Veteran with over 33 years' service in the Indian Army and a concerned Citizen of this Country most earnestly appeal to you, our Hon'ble Prime Minister, to set up a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)**, tasked to study:

- (a) the circumstances leading to the evolution of the Agnipath Scheme and its implementation;
- (b) efficacy of the Agnipath Scheme & its ramifications on Defence & National Security;
- (c) examine various steps recommended in Para 68 of the attached paper on Agnipath Scheme; and finally,
- (d) recommend comprehensive Terms & Conditions of service of Soldiers, with a view to ensuring that the Army, Navy & Air Force produce well trained Soldiers who are totally Motivated & exude Morale of the highest order, ever ready to take on the enemy at a moment's notice, keeping in mind the cardinal principle that, '*No soldier shall ever be deprived of his Pension*'; with the proviso, where all 'Stake Holders' shall have the privilege of deposing before the Committee.

Presentation to the Hon'ble PM on Agnipath Scheme & its dangerous ramifications

8. In order to facilitate setting up of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), I request:

- (a) Please go through my attached Paper on the Agnipath Scheme, terming it a self-inflicted injury.
- (b) **I may please be granted me 60 minutes** to render a Presentation to you, our Hon'ble PM, on the subject of Agnipath Scheme and its dangerous ramifications on Defence & National Security.
- (c) **The PMO may please be asked to invite** the following Eminent Veterans, who have shown the gumption to express their dissonance with the Agnipath Scheme, to the Presentation scheduled to be rendered by me:
 - (i) **Admiral Arun Prakash**, former Chief of Naval Staff, author of the Article, '*Agnipath, between the lines*'. Cell No. **9960584966**; Email ID: **<arunp2810@yahoo.com>**
 - (ii) **Admiral Karam Bir Singh**, former Chief of Naval Staff, author of the Article, '*Agnipath will degrade Army's combat effectiveness*'. Cell No. **9971438314**; Email ID: **<kbnavyin03@gmail.com>**
 - (iii) **Lt Gen Vijay Oberoi**, former Army Commander Western Command and later Vice Chief of Army Staff, author of the Article, '*Will Agnipath corrode the finest institution of india?*' Cell No. **9988212541**; Email ID: **<genoberoi@gmail.com>**

- (iv) **Lt Gen Harwant Singh**, former GOC 16 Corps and later Deputy Chief of Army Staff, author of the Articles, '*The rationale behind the Agniveer System is unclear: change for change's sake, can result in failure*' and '*Agnipath scheme must be dumped*'. Cell No. **9815183160**; Email ID: **<genharwant@gmail.com>**
- (v) **Lt Gen PG Kamath**, former Commandant Army War College, Mhow, author of the Article, '*Agnipath: a path towards self-immolation?*' Cell No. **8105149081** Email ID: **<pgkamath11@yahoo.com>**
- (vi) **Lt Gen Prakash Katoch**, a Veteran of the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and former DG Information Systems; author of the Article, '*Bound to burst- the Agnipath bubble*'. Cell No. **9953999031**; Email ID: **<prakashkatoch7@gmail.com>**
- (vii) **Aslo to be invited:**
- (aa) **Lt Gen SK Bahri**, 1st Course JSW, December 1952 commissioned & former MGO; and, **Chairman, National Alliance of Ex-Servicemen Organisations**, Gurugram. Cell No. **9810002800**; Email ID: **<skbahri1@yahoo.com>**
- (ab) **Maj Gen Dr Sandeep Sandeep Sharma, PhD**, former Commandant, College of Defence Management, Secunderabad. Cell No. **8527655777**; Email ID: **<sandveen@gmail.com>**
- (ac) **Brig Inder Mohan Singh**, President, Indian Ex-Services League, Chankyapuri, New Delhi-110001. Cell No. **9216919004**; Email ID: **<brig.ims@gmail.com>**
- (ad) **Brig CS Vidyasagar**, Chairman, Tri-Services Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association (TSEWA), Secunderabad. Cell No. **7569513350**; Email ID: **<csvidyasagar@gmail.com>**

With best regards,

yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Sandeep', with the rank 'Col' written below it. The signature is written over a set of diagonal lines.

Copy to:

1. Shri Rajnath Singh - For information please
Hon'ble Raksha Mantri
104, South Block, New Delhi -110011
2. Gen Anil Chauhan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM - For information please
Chief of Defence Staff & Secretary, Dept of Military Affairs
Central Secretariat, The South Block, New Delhi-110011

3. General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM
Chief of the Army Staff
Integrated HQs of Ministry of Defence (Army)
South Block, New Delhi-110011 -For information please

4. Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM
Chief of the Naval Staff
Integrated HQs of Ministry of Defence (Navy)
South Block, New Delhi -110011 - For information please

5. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC
Chief of the Air Staff
Integrated HQs of Ministry of Defence (Air Force)
Vayu Bhawan, New Delhi 110011 - For information please