



IMPAR
Indian Muslims for Progress and Reforms

REPORT ON

CAREERS IN DEFENCE SERVICES

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Injila Khan, Head- Programs & Media IMPAR

Ms. Injila Khan gave introductory remarks. She welcomed the speaker and the participants to IMPAR's yet another empowerment and reform program "Careers in Defense Services" in order to give directions to our young generation and guide them to a better work area. She gave a concise account of Brigadier Ahmed Ali and directed that the ball is in his court now.



Brigadier Syed Ahmed Ali, Steering Committee Member IMPAR

Brigadier Syed Ahmad Ali is a senior retired officer of the Indian Army. He was the ex-Pro-Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University. He is also IMPAR's Steering Committee Member and is pre-eminent to IMPAR.

The first and the foremost thing Brigadier Ahmed Ali directed the youth to do is to apply. He explains how passion is important to get through the forces, passion to join the forces. He quotes Lord Wavell's book Burma campaign. He mentions about the soldiers who fired. Not every soldier has got good fortune to go on the battle field and actually fire. He expresses how every soldier has the urge to get martyrdom.

Brigadier Ahmed Ali touches the benefits of joining Indian Armed Forces. He illustrates how it feels like to achieve the gratification of getting selected out of millions of people. It is a matter of pride to be called upon by your rank till your last breathe, he illuminates. This is a prerogative enjoyed only by the armed forces, given by the govt of India. It is an honour that the govt entrusts you with the responsibility of the lives of citizens. It is dealing with the human lives and not computers. Even those who have not committed to army have respect for the army men. You enjoy the social status which others do not. Pay and perks are also good, one receives pension after retirement. Everyone will address you in a courteous manner.

He shares his experiences to elucidate the selection process of exam. He does not come from an army background but manages to clear the exam expressing how free and fair is the selection process is. He addresses the concern that if somebody misses the exam then how they can apply for combined exams.

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He explains how things have changed now. The army personnel now go abroad and get opportunity to travel the world. It also serves as an add-on to the qualification. Post retirement benefits are numerous. If someone's fond of adventure, with rigorous training and stringent discipline, the Indian Army offers you to become world-class sportspersons.

Mountaineering, rock climbing, white water rafting, skiing, parachuting, kayaking, horse-riding, paragliding are some sports activities the armed forces engages you in. He mentions other benefits of annual leaves, life insurance, travel concessions not only for yourself but for your entire family. Army canteens are the cheapest in the country. One may encash his/her leaves and get free treatment. Also, one gets access to clubs and memberships. Every post an individual attains, he/she gets incentives.

Brigadier Ahmed Ali then talks about army schools and mentioned a few in Dehradun, Bangalore, Ajmer, Karnataka, and across all parts of the country. He also explains where to apply after 10+2 with age limits. One area is National Defense Academy. One of the best academies in the world is NDA in Pune. Then candidates are sent to Indian Military Academy in Dehradun. He further explains the process of selection how the trainees would be moved to different academies and institutes. He discusses the training criteria for Short Service Commission. He tells about the avenues of promotions within the army. He also states that NDA is the main door for airforce. This was about entries into the army.

The speaker addresses questions in between. He then moves to Services Selection Boards where they check a candidate inside out, whether one is selfish or a team member, the psychologist observes you. It is a five days test where one is checked in terms of intelligence, general knowledge. They judge communication skills. He explains elaborately about how the test is taken and what all tasks one has to execute. He explains what all things they check in the medical. And lastly, a merit list is out and based on the vacancies candidates are asked to join.

Brigadier Ahmed Ali then invites for open house questions that were answered by him comprehensibly in an intelligible manner. He concluded the lecture by advising everyone to tell their children not to be afraid of death. Death comes only once. Even if one dies, they die with pride.

Conclusion

It was a very learned and well expounded lecture motivating the youth to join Indian forces delineating all the benefits audibly. It was a convivial session making it fruitful to the young generation and also there was so much to learn for everyone irrespective of age.

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Dr. M J Khan, President IMPAR

Dr. M J Khan interacts with the hon'ble speaker and clears his doubts on the subject. He enquires if the family background matters in the selection of forces especially the SSBs. He recalls his experience when he appeared for SSB. Brigadier Ahmed Ali explains it very smoothly by giving his own case that the selection process is fair, he got through it without having army background but the take-off becomes smoother if one belongs to services background as the confidence is high because they have grown up listening about army. But the forces do not compromise with the quality and there is no soft corner for anyone. It is the individual's ability to pass through the exam and nothing else.

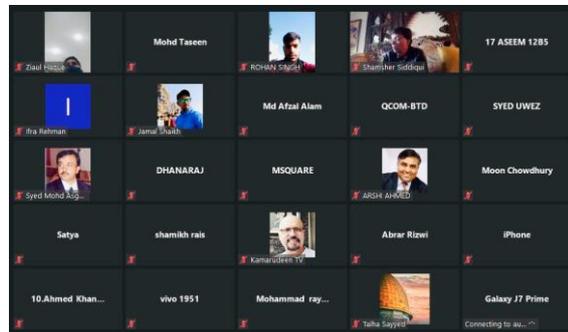
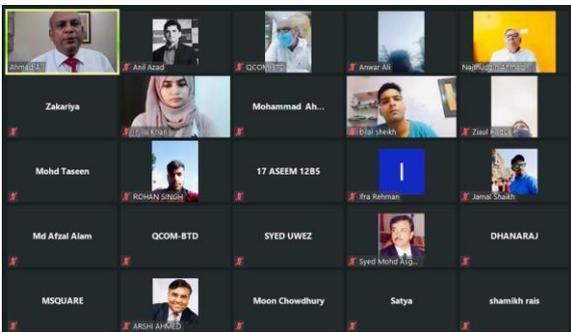
Dr. Khan raises another question about the preference of exams for the entry at officer level out of NDA, CDS or SSB. Without an iota of doubt, he answered, NDA explaining that it's a game who joined earlier. He explains how age and physical fitness are significant factors in army. Most of the people join NDA around 17 years of age. By the time they turn 21, they are already second lieutenants. He illustrated how NDA is the best entry.

Dr. Khan also asks what is more challenging for army soldiers, is it physical training, mental exam or they check their determination. The speaker says that physical strength is of utmost importance for the army jawans. Mental exam is arduous and taxing too but if they could not clear the physical training, they wouldn't be eligible for the mental test.

Lastly, Dr. M J Khan brings the program to a close by sharing his story about NCC and SSB and the admiration he has for the forces. He encourages the youth by giving his view that if people from our community join forces, it would serve as an honour for the entire section and would lead to development. He then proposes a jovial vote of thanks thanking Brigadier Syed Ahmed Ali for having delivered the profuse information and sharing his life experiences impelling the youth to sow the seeds for success as Brigadier Ahmed Ali exclaimed, "The sky's the limit"!

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Glimpses



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