



WHIRLPOOL OF INDIA LIMITED
(CIN NO. : L29191PN1960PLC020063)

CORPORATE OFFICE : PLOT NO. 40, SECTOR 44, GURUGRAM (GURGAON) - 122 002 (HARYANA), INDIA. TEL: (91) 124-4591300, FAX: (91) 124-4591301.
REGD. OFF. : PLOT NO. A-4 MIDC, RANJANGAON, TAL. SHIRUR, DIST. PUNE 412 220. TEL: (91) 2138-660100, FAX: (91) 2138-232376.
Website : www.whirlpoolindia.com, E-mail : info_india@whirlpool.com

20.06.2022

<p>The Manager Listing Department BSE Limited Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers Dalal Street, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400001</p> <p>Scrip Code: 500238</p>	<p>The Manager Listing Department National Stock Exchange of India Limited Exchange Plaza, C-1, Block G, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400051</p> <p>Symbol: WHIRLPOOL</p>
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Dear Sir,

Subject: Newspaper Advertisement - Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015

Pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, we hereby enclose copy of the Notice for the attention of the shareholders of the Company in respect of Notice of 61st Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held on **Friday, 15th July, 2022 at 11.00 a.m.** (IST) through Video Conferencing ('VC') or Other Audio Visual Means ('OAVM') in the following newspapers dated 20th June, 2022:

1. Financial Express, All India Edition in English; and
2. Loksatta, Pune Edition in Marathi.

You are requested to take the above information on your records.

This is for your information and records.

Yours faithfully

For Whirlpool of India Limited

Roopali Singh
VP - Legal & Company Secretary

Plot No. 40, Sector 44,
Gurugram, Haryana - 122002

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara-691 583, Kollam, Kerala, India
Phone: 91476-2686722 to 733 (12 Lines),
Fax: 91-476-2680101. E-mail: contact@kmmll.com, URL: www.kmmll.com

TENDER NOTICE
Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmmll.com.

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2022_KMML_494782_1	For the supply of Inconel Pipe
2	2022_KMML_493988_1	For the supply of CS Pipe

Chavara 18.06.2022 sd/-DGM(MtIs) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

No.	Tender ID	Items
3	2022_KMML_494541_1	Design supply, Supervision for erection testing & commissioning of new clarifier mechanism with automatic flocculant dosing system at KMML TP Unit, Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala, India
4	2022_KMML_493664_1	Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of new 40 TPH Water tube Boiler plant project at TP unit of KMML

Chavara 18.06.2022 sd/-HOU(TP) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Silicomite

Whirlpool
WHIRLPOOL OF INDIA LIMITED
(CIN: L29191PN1960PLC020063)
Regd. Office: Plot No. A-4, MIDC, Ranjangaon, Taluka-Shirur, Dist. Pune-412220, Maharashtra
Tel No.: 02138-660100; Fax No.: 02138-232376
E-mail: investor_contact@whirlpool.com; Website: www.whirlpoolindia.com

NOTICE OF 61ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the 61st Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held through Video Conferencing/Other Audio Visual Means ("VC/OAVM") on Friday 15th July, 2022 at 11:00 A.M IST in compliance with all the applicable provisions of Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and the Rules made thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("SEBI Listing Regulations") read with General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, No. 20/2020 dated May 05, 2020 and subsequent circulars issued in this regard, latest being General Circular No. 02/2022 dated May 05, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars"), Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/PP/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circular") without the physical presence of members at a common venue. The venue of the meeting shall be deemed to be the registered office of the Company i.e. A-4, MIDC, Ranjangaon, Taluka - Shirur, Dist. - Pune, Maharashtra - 412220.

In compliance with MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular, the Notice of 61st AGM and Annual Report including the Audited Financial Statements for the financial year 2021-22 (including consolidated audited financial statements) have been sent only in electronic mode to Members whose email addresses were registered with the Company/Depositories. Dispatch of Notice of AGM and Annual Report to Members has been completed on Saturday, 18th June, 2022 through electronic mode. The copy of Notice and Annual Report is also available on the Company's website at www.whirlpoolindia.com, website of Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited and is also available on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com. The Registers and documents pertaining to the items to be transacted at the AGM shall also be available for inspection during the AGM upon login at NSDL e-voting system at www.evoting.nsdl.com.

Manner of joining the AGM
A facility to join the AGM through VC/OAVM is available through NSDL e-voting portal at www.evoting.nsdl.com. Members are requested to refer to the AGM notice for detailed procedure for login during the AGM.

Instructions for remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM:

- Pursuant to Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company is pleased to provide the facility to Members to exercise their right to vote by electronic means on resolutions proposed to be passed at AGM. Members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialised form as on Friday, 08th July, 2022 (cut-off date) can cast their vote electronically through electronic voting system of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) at www.evoting.nsdl.com. A person whose name is registered in the Register of Members or Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting, participating in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility and e-voting during the AGM. All the members are hereby informed that the Ordinary and Special Business, as set out in the Notice of AGM will be transacted through voting by electronic means only. Further details relating to e-voting are:
- The remote e-voting period will commence at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday 12th July, 2022 and will end at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday 14th July, 2022. Members shall note that remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond 05:00 PM on Thursday, 14th July, 2022. Once the vote is casted by the member on a resolution, the member cannot modify it subsequently.
- Any person who acquires shares after the dispatch of the Annual Report electronically and is a member of the Company as on the cut-off date, i.e. 08th July, 2022, are requested to refer to the Notice of AGM for the process to be adopted for obtaining the USER ID and Password for casting the vote. However, if a person is already registered with NSDL/CDSL for remote e-voting then existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote;
- Members attending the AGM who have not cast their vote through remote e-voting shall be eligible to cast their vote through e-voting during the AGM. Members who have voted through remote e-voting shall be eligible to attend the AGM, however, they shall not be eligible to vote at the meeting.
- The detailed instructions for remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM have been given in the Notice of AGM.
- In case Members have any queries or issues regarding remote e-voting or need assistance before AGM or during the AGM or e-voting during the AGM, they may:
 - refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual available at download section of the e-voting website of NSDL at <https://www.evoting.nsdl.com/Member>; or
 - call on toll free no. : 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30; or
 - write an email to Ms. Sarita Mote, Assistant Manager - NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in

Manner of registration of email address:
Members who have not updated their email addresses with the Company are requested to update their email addresses in following manner:

- Shares held in dematerialised form:** register their email address with their respective DPs.
- Shares held in physical form:** sending in duly filled and signed Form ISR-1 (Form for registering PAN, KYC details or changes/ update thereof), to the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company - Link Intime India Private Limited at Noble Heights, 1st Floor, Plot NH 2, C-1 Block LSC, Near Savitri Market, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058 (Tel. No. 91-11-41410-592, 593, 594) or via email to delhi@linkintime.co.in.

Book Closure & Payment of Dividend:
The Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Thursday 30th June, 2022 to Wednesday, 6th July, 2022 (both days inclusive). The dividend for the financial year, if approved at the AGM, will be paid to those shareholders whose name appears in the Register of Members as on the close of the business hours on Wednesday, 29th June, 2022. In the event the Company is unable to pay dividend to any member by electronic mode, due to non-availability of the bank account details, the Company shall dispatch the dividend warrant/demand draft to such member at the registered address by post.

Proxy: Members may note that 61st AGM is being held through VC/OAVM and in accordance with MCA Circulars and SEBI Circulars and the physical attendance of Members has been dispensed with, hence, the facility for appointment of proxies will not be available to the Members for attending the 61st AGM.

TDS on dividend
Members may note that the Income Tax Act, 1961 ("IT Act") as amended by the Finance Act, 2020, mandated that dividends paid or distributed by a Company after April 01, 2020 shall be taxable in the hands of the Members. The Company shall therefore be required to deduct Tax at Source (TDS) at the time of making payment of final dividend. In order to enable us to determine the appropriate TDS rate, as applicable, Members are requested to submit the documents in accordance with the provisions of the IT Act at <https://web.linkintime.co.in/formsreg/submission-of-form-15g-15h.html>. The detailed tax rates and documents required for availing exemption from the applicable tax rates are available on the Company's website at www.whirlpoolindia.com and are also provided in the Notice of the AGM. Further, w.e.f. 01st July, 2021, in terms of section 206AB of IT Act a higher rate of TDS will be deducted in case Income Tax Return has not been filed by the eligible Member for the last two assessment years. For detailed communication, please refer to notice of AGM uploaded on Company's website and on the website of the Stock Exchanges.

For Whirlpool of India Limited
Place : Gurugram Roopali Singh
Date : 20th June, 2022 Company Secretary

● **WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

India's interests completely protected: Goyal

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, June 19

Goyal said on Sunday. "In the WTO ministerial conference, we fully protected the interests of farmers, MSMEs and fishermen. There will be no burden on them. We protected their interests," the minister was quoted as saying by PTI at an event where Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the main tunnel and five under-passes of Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor Project.

The fishery subsidy, the continuation of which India has been



PM Narendra Modi with ministers Piyush Goyal, Hardeep Singh Puri and Anupriya Patel in New Delhi on Sunday

multi-lateral body in promoting global trade and India championed the cause of the developing and under-developed countries.

There hadn't been any major headway in the WTO over the last decade due to divergence of views among members on key issues and rising protectionist tendencies.

Members of the Geneva-based WTO on June 17 secured a 'Geneva Package' which included agreements on curbing harmful fishing subsidies and temporary patent waiver for production of Covid-19 vaccines. Talks on including therapeutics and diagnostics, as proposed by India and South Africa, under the purview of this waiver would start after six months.

India's demand for a permanent solution to the issue of public stock holding for food

security will be taken up later and the extant peace clause will continue to protect its current procurement programmes. As for food security declaration, the WTO members agreed to focus on making food available in developing countries while working towards increasing productivity and production.

As for the World Food Programme (WFP), there would be no export restrictions on its purchases for food security in other countries. However, domestic food security will take priority over supplies to the WFP.

"Checks are being placed on illegal fishing in the high seas and our fishermen will have full freedom in our EEZ (exclusive economic zones). Similarly, we have ensured the minimum support price stays and our farmers interests have been protected," he said.

esri India
Esri India Technologies Private Limited
(erstwhile Esri India Technologies Limited)

NOTICE
The general public is hereby notified the updated addresses of Esri India Technologies Private Limited as follows:
Registered Office: Plot No. 8, Elegance Towers, Unit No. 505 & 506, Jasola Vihar, Pocket 1, New Delhi - 110025 and
Corporate Office: Max Towers, 10th Floor, Sector 16B, Noida - 201301.
For Esri India Technologies Private Limited
Sd/- (Navneet Goel) Date: 20th June 2022
Company Secretary Place: Noida

SBI
Anytime Channels, Corporate Centre, 3rd Floor, World Trade Centre Arcade, Cuff Parade, Mumbai - 400005

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Bids are invited by State Bank of India under RFP No. SBI/ACV/2022-23/001 Dated 20.06.2022 from the eligible bidders for procurement of OTC Lock Management Solution and Services for 25,500 Branch Managed CAPEX ATMs / ADWMs on OPEX Model Basis. Bidders, who are interested to submit bids, may visit "Procurement News" at <https://bank.sbi>.
Commencement of download of RFP: From 10:00 am on 20.06.2022
Last date and time of submission of bids: Up to 03:00 pm on 25.07.2022

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager (Implementation & Rollout)

Place: New Delhi Date: 20.06.2022

THE SOUTH INDIA TEXTILE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
13/37, Avinashi Road, Aerodrome Post, Coimbatore-641014, INDIA.
E-mail: purchase@sitra.org.in Website: www.sitra.org.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The South India Textile Research Association invites bids from reputed OEMs / distributors / dealers / agents in TWO BID system for the following:

Tender No. :	SITRA / COE / STA / 001 / 2022
Description :	Supply, Installation, Commissioning of and Training for Simultaneous Thermal Analyzer (STA)
Tender Fee :	Rs.3540/- (inclusive of GST)
Submission due date :	15/07/2022, 16:00 hrs.
Tender No. :	SITRA / CHEM / FTIR / 001 / 2022
Description :	Supply, Installation, Commissioning of and Training for Fourier-Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectrometer
Tender Fee :	Rs.3540/- (inclusive of GST)
Submission due date :	15/07/2022, 16:00 hrs.

Offers are also invited for the sale of a sparingly used HPLC instrument in perfect working condition available at SITRA. Interested parties may inspect the instrument from 27.6.22 to 1.7.22 on any working day between 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Last date for receipt of offers : 15/07/2022

All relevant details and Tender Documents will be available on SITRA's Website from 20/06/2022. Amendment/Corrigendum, if any, will be published only on the Website.

Sd/-
Director

20.06.2022

AKASHDEEP METAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(CIN: L28998DL1983PLC017150) ("AMIL") ("TARGET COMPANY") ("TTC")
Registered Office: 14, Dayanand Vihar, Backside Ground Floor, Vikas Marg, Ext. Delhi, East Delhi, Delhi 110092;
Phone No.: +91-11- 11-27312176 / 5103 / 47055102; Email id: info.akashdeep14@gmail.com; Website: www.akashdeepmetal.in

Recommendations of the Committee of Independent Directors (CID) on the Open Offer to the Shareholders of Akashdeep Metal Industries Limited ("AMIL") or the "Target Company" under regulation 26 (7) of the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 and subsequent amendments thereto ("SEBI (SAST) Regulations")

1. Date	15.06.2022
2. Name of the Target Company	Akashdeep Metal Industries Limited
3. Details of the Offer pertaining to Target Company	Open Offer to acquire up to 27,30,682 Equity Shares of Rs. 10/- each representing 26.00% of the Emerging Equity and Voting Share Capital of the Target Company, to be acquired by the Acquirer, at a price of Rs. 52.50/- per Equity share payable in cash in terms of Regulation 3(i) and Regulation 4 of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011
4. Name(s) of the Acquirer and PACs with the Acquirer	Mr. Sunil Kumar Malik ("Acquirer") along with Mrs. Pooja Malik (PAC-1), Mr. Anshu Agarwal (PAC-2), Anshu Agarwal HUF (PAC-3), Mr. Ramesh Chandra Agarwal (PAC-4), R. C. Agarwal HUF (PAC-5), Mrs. Usha Agarwal (PAC-6), Mrs. Namita Agarwal (PAC-7), Mr. Akhli Bansal (PAC-8) and Mrs. Reena Agarwal (PAC-9) (hereinafter collectively referred to as "The PACs").
5. Name of the Manager to the offer	Navigant Corporate Advisors Limited
6. Members of the Committee of Independent Directors ("CID")	Chairman: Mr. Girish Chadha Member: Mr. Sanjeev Kumar
7. IDC Member's relationship with the Target Company (Director, Equity shares owned, any other contract/relationship), if any	IDC Members are the Independent Directors of the Target Company. Neither Chairman nor Member of IDC holds any equity shares in the Target Company. None of them have entered into any other contract or have other relationship with the Target Company.
8. Trading in the Equity shares/other securities of the Target Company by IDC Members	No trading has been done by the IDC Members in the equity shares/ other securities of the Target Company
9. IDC Member's relationship with the acquirer (Director, Equity shares owned, any other contract/relationship), if any	None of the IDC Members have any relationship with the Acquirer.
10. Trading in the Equity shares/other securities of the acquirer by IDC Members	Not Applicable
11. Recommendation on the Open offer, as to whether the offer, is or is not, fair and reasonable	The IDC Members believes that the Open Offer is fair and reasonable. However, the shareholders should independently evaluate the Offer and take informed decision in the matter.
12. Summary of reasons for recommendation	IDC recommends acceptance of the Open offer made by the Acquirer as the Offer price of Rs. 52.50/- per fully paid up equity share is fair and reasonable based on the following reasons: 1. The Offer price appears to be reasonable considering market prices of Target Company. 2. The offer price of Rs. 52.50/- per fully paid up equity share offered by the Acquirer is more than volume-weighted average price paid by Acquirer during 52 weeks immediately preceding the date of Public Announcement i.e. 25 th September, 2021. 3. The equity shares of the Target Company are frequently traded shares within the meaning of explanation provided in Regulation 2(i) of SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011. 4. The offer price of Rs. 52.50/- per fully paid up equity share offered by the Acquirer is higher than the volume-weighted average market price of shares for a period of sixty trading days immediately preceding the date of the public announcement. 5. The Offer Price of Rs. 52.50/- per fully paid up equity share offered by the Acquirer includes interest @ 10% per annum as prescribed in Regulation 18 (11A) of SEBI (SAST) Regulations for any delay in payment beyond the Scheduled Payment Date Keeping in view above facts IDC is of opinion that Open Offer price is fair and reasonable and is in accordance with the relevant regulations prescribed in the Takeover Code and prima facie appear to be justified.
13. Details of Independent Advisors, if any.	None
14. Any other matter(s) to be highlighted	No

To the best of our knowledge and belief, after making proper enquiry, the information contained in or accompanying this statement is, in all material respect, true and correct and not misleading, whether by omission of any information or otherwise, and includes all the information required to be disclosed by the Target Company under the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. Capitalized terms used in this announcement, but not defined, shall have the same meaning assigned to them in the PA, DPS and LOF.

For Akashdeep Metal Industries Limited
Sd/-
Girish Chadha
Chairman-Committee of Independent Directors
DIN: 01808647
Place: Delhi
Date: 15.06.2022

kept on, has been retained. The scrapping of the subsidies on illegal fishing will have no adverse bearing on India as such practices are absent in the country's territory. Further, there will be no threat to subsidies being given to farmers, calculated as the excess of minimum support prices (MSPs) over benchmarked international price.

Goyal, who led the India delegation for the WTO talks, also said that the decisions taken in the conference will further strengthen the role of the

Ola Electric provides sneak peek of upcoming e-car at customer event

SAJAN C KUMAR
Chennai, June 19



Ola CEO Bhavish Aggarwal

OLA ELECTRIC, WHICH had previously announced its plans to build its first-ever electric four-wheeler in India, on Sunday teased a clip of its upcoming car at a customer event at the Ola Futurefactory in Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu.

The company plans to reveal details about the e-car on August 15 and will provide information as to bookings, in another two months' time.

Bhavish Aggarwal, founder & CEO, Ola, said the company's mission is to put India on the world map of electrification. "We have made a small beginning with an electric two-wheeler, the SI Pro, and over the next few years you will see

many more two-wheelers roll out from our plant. We have a four-wheeler coming soon, everybody knows that we are building a car and also building the core technology on the battery cells. All the technology at Ola is made in India and made by Indians," he said.

Ola Electric had invited all 50,000 of its two-wheeler cus-

tomers to its factory. "The normal practice in the auto industry is to invite the dealers and send them to places like Thailand. We have customers at our core and invited all of them. We have hosted around 3,000 to 4,000 customers at the factory, which is the first of its kind," he said.

Prior to the event, Aggarwal shared a number of videos from inside the facility and said, "Can't wait for ALL our customers to see the Futurefactory today." The event also marked customer celebrations and the debut of the MoveOS 2.

Ola Electric has recently invested in an Israeli battery technology company, StoreDot, a pioneer in batteries with extreme fast-charging (XFC) technology. The investment in

StoreDot is the first of several global strategic investments planned by Ola Electric, as it looks to ramp up its core R&D in advanced cell chemistry & manufacturing, as well as other battery technologies and new energy systems.

As part of the investment in StoreDot, Ola Electric will have access to the company's state-of-the-art XFC battery technology that charges a battery from 0 to 100% in just five minutes. Ola will also have exclusive rights to manufacture batteries integrating StoreDot's fast-charge technology in India. The company plans to set up a gigafactory for manufacturing cells in the country to meet the demand generated by Ola Futurefactory, the world's largest 2W factory.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Over a fourth of stocks hit 52-week low

Among the metals pack, Tata Steel, Hindustan Zinc, Hindalco Industries and SAIL also slumped to their lowest levels in last one year.

After last year's stellar rally, the metal counters are melting sharply with the Nifty Metal Index correcting over 30% over the last two months. The Nifty Metal Index had gained as much as 70% in 2021 against Nifty 50's gain of 24.1% during the same period. While the fear of recession rattled the IT sector, stringent lockdowns in China due to its zero-Covid policy in Q2 of CY22 impacted metal counters.

Kotak Institutional Equities argues that the current phase of the IT sector is intriguing where the attention has shifted towards recession scenarios even as current demand is extremely strong. The brokerage, which reduced its earnings targets for the sector, said, "We moderate our stance and bake in normalised global IT spending growth of 3-4% for CY2023E and 7% for CY2022E. We cut our FY2023-FY2025E revenue estimates by 2-10% for our coverage universe."

The pandemic offered an opportunity to introduce the policy. "Nature or God gave us the opportunity" in the form of the Covid-19 pandemic to carry out the change that the military "have been trying since 1984", he said.

"It (the pandemic) was the least painful opportunity, and somehow we timed it," Puri said.

Asked if the policy could be rolled back, Puri said, "No. Why should there be a rollback?"

Terms and conditions released by the Army on Sunday — as well as a detailed document published by the Air Force earlier — said that the "Agniveers would form a distinct rank" in the forces, "different from any other existing rank". Also, "to encourage and recognize dynamism of youth, a distinctive insignia will be worn by Agniveers on their uniform during their engagement period."

The Agniveers will be eligible for only 30 days' leave in a year, a third of what troops get in the existing system. They will not be allowed to leave the services before four years.

Lt Gen Puri mentioned that even those who had cleared some stages of recruitment in the last two years, whether physical or medical, would have to re-apply under the new policy, as all recruitments would happen through Agnipath.

Puri said that the government's announcements regarding reservations for the Agniveers in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), Assam Rifles, Coast Guard, Defence Public Sector Undertakings, and other departments had been planned in advance, and were not a response to the protests. The only change done by the military was the one-time age relaxation, to give a chance to those who had missed out in the last two years during which the pandemic had prevented recruitments, he said.

The Kargil Review Committee's report had mentioned that "a large number of jawans are in their 30s and officers are getting command much later than in the past", Puri said. "The age factor has become worrisome," the report had said.

The military needs a "youthful profile", Puri said. The policy was "studied for two years" under the country's first Chief of Defence Staff, the late General Bipin Rawat, and the three services chiefs who are now

retired, Puri said.

Models of other countries were studied as well. "In all countries it was seen that the average age (in the military) was 26-28 years", and almost all countries had "multiple entry and exit avenues", he said.

Youth were preferable because they can "take more risks" and have "junoon and jazba (passion and emotion)", Puri said. He said Agnipath would bring down the Sepoy to Non Commissioned Officers (NCO) ratio from 1:1.28 to 1:1, improve the "teeth-to-lit ratio" of the forces, and bring an "ideal mix of youthfulness and experience".

While 50,000-60,000 would be recruited annually over the next four years, this number will ultimately increase to 90,000 to 1.2 lakh, Puri said. "Training infrastructure will need to be enhanced," he said.

The officers in charge of personnel in the three services announced the schedule for the recruitment process. The Adjutant General of the Army, Lt Gen C Bansi Ponappa, said the draft notification would be published by Monday, registration should begin at all centres by July 1, and rallies would begin in the first half of August.

The induction for training will happen in two lots, after rallies are held from August to November. In the first lot, 25,000 Agniveers will be inducted, and the training will begin in the first or second week of December.

For the second lot, the training will begin in the first half of February 2023. Approximately 40,000 Agniveers will be recruited by the Army through 83 rallies this year. "All states will be covered. We will endeavour to touch every last village in the country," Ponappa said.

The Navy's Chief of Personnel Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi said the advertisement would be issued by June 25, and the process would start online. "Within a month we will start the steps needed for recruitment", and training of the first Agniveers in the Navy will begin by November 21, he said. Women will also be inducted in the Navy as Agniveers, he said.

The Air Force will begin the process earlier than the other two services. Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel Air Marshal SK Jha said that the process will begin from June 24, and they would start training their first batch from December 30.

No rollback, Agniveer aspirants must pledge they weren't among protesters

Aspirants, Puri said, have 45-60 days to be "physically prepared" before recruitments start.

Many of the protesters were anyway older than the eligibility ceiling, Puri said. The military had not anticipated the magnitude of protests, he said, as it is "not our job." The protests are an "issue of law and order", and "someone will tackle it", he said.

"Our (the military's) aspiration is to bring change," Puri said. Several reports have recommended a younger military since 1989 to "instill youthfulness." "This was our own aspiration (The Agniveer scheme was) Not done because someone said."

retired, Puri said.

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The officers in charge of personnel in the three services announced the schedule for the recruitment process. The Adjutant General of the Army, Lt Gen C Bansi Ponappa, said the draft notification would be published by Monday, registration should begin at all centres by July 1, and rallies would begin in the first half of August.

The induction for training will happen in two lots, after rallies are held from August to November. In the first lot, 25,000 Agniveers will be inducted, and the training will begin in the first or second week of December.

For the second lot, the training will begin in the first half of February 2023. Approximately 40,000 Agniveers will be recruited by the Army through 83 rallies this year. "All states will be covered. We will endeavour to touch every last village in the country," Ponappa said.

The Navy's Chief of Personnel Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi said the advertisement would be issued by June 25, and the process would start online. "Within a month we will start the steps needed for recruitment", and training of the first Agniveers in the Navy will begin by November 21, he said. Women will also be inducted in the Navy as Agniveers, he said.

The Air Force will begin the process earlier than the other two services. Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel Air Marshal SK Jha said that the process will begin from June 24, and they would start training their first batch from December 30.

