

**Status of the week**  
 Sometimes we know we shouldn't be doing certain things, and that's exactly why we do them! I am no different, as I do likewise!  
 Akash Chaudhary, Amity Institute of English Studies & Research, Amity University, UP

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## AMITEpoll

Should service in the army be made compulsory?

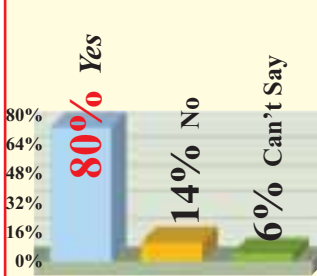
- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Can't say

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## POLL RESULT

for GT issue January 2, 2012

Should we make New Year resolutions?



Results as on January 13, 2012

# Serve de rigueur?

Should service to the army be made compulsory in India? Will it help instill a sense of patriotism in the youth or be a dissipation of human resources? GT finds out

“Do you have it in you?” asked the Indian Army, a while ago as it set on a public awareness spree. What if it had instead, ordered, “Make sure you have it in you.”? What if service in the army was an obligatory rather than a voluntary profession; a concept called conscription akin to many nations? On this Army Day, GT asks, “Should service in the army be made compulsory in India?”

## Fall In

“Compulsory military service for the youth will bring about a sense of discipline, punctuality, love for the nation and a sense of dignity and sacrifice. Citizens will be able to deliver a lot more then, in terms of eradicating social hurdles, which hamper the country’s development.”

Sagar Datta, Ex Indian Air Force Officer

## Step forward

“The growing deficiency in the Officer Cadre of the Indian Army is rather worrying. But, conscription, certainly is not the solution. Army needs high-spirited volunteers capable of withstanding all odds and not unwilling soldiers. The security of the nation can be trusted only in the hands of those who genuinely feel for the country.”

Dr (Mrs) Shabnam Pandit, Principal, Amity Indian Military College

## Forward march

“Conscription is simply not a practicable proposition in a country as large as ours. The National Youth Policy stipulates that



Walk with pride  
 Students of Amity Indian Military College

every student must devote 1/5th of the total time spent in an educational institution on outdoor activities. Amity has taken a lead in organizing youth oriented activities like Amity Cadet Corps, Amity Indian Military College and Amity Green Horns Military Camps, which are totally in sync with the Govt policy.”

Lt. General Bopanna, DG, Amity Indian Military Education Society

## Salute

“Instead, of mandatory service in the army, make NCC compulsory. NCC training is not just less expensive but is also more feasible, as its not possible to train everyone in countries with a large population base. Besides NCC training offers more or less similar benefits to military training – instilling accountability, discipline, self pride and enhancing physical fitness.”

Col B S Ahluwalia, Sports advisor, Amity Group of Schools

Compulsory enlistment in military service, also known as **conscription** is emulated by several nations across the world – Turkey, Russia, Switzerland, Singapore amidst many others. South Korea has even enlisted military service as one of the Four Constitutional Duties. Followed under different names in various countries, the tenure of service varies from one country to the other.

Read more on

‘Concept Conscription’ on Page 7

# “Medicine is my passion and not my profession”



Dr Pradeep Chowbey, President, IFSO & Joint MD, Max Healthcare India in a conversational mood

**P**admashree Dr Pradeep Chowbey, a pioneer laparoscopic surgeon in India has worked to develop, evaluate and propagate Minimal Access Surgery in India. Join Kriti Chopra & Pragati Priya, AIS Saket in a tête-à-tête with the passionate practitioner

*Congratulations on becoming the president of IFSO. How has the journey been so far?*

The journey that started 21 years back has been persistent and pleasant. For me, medicine is my passion, not my profession. As the president of IFSO, my biggest step would be to sensitize people across the world towards obesity. I will also make an action plan to keep a track on B.M.I. in schools and hospitals.

*You have performed 54,000 surgeries. Do you still feel anxious before entering the OT?*

Not really! But, a certain level of anxiety always exists because of the uncertainties involved, which I think is essential to perform well.

Surgery requires a lot of concentration, almost to the level of meditation because all the surgical instruments are by and large destructive-



Kriti

Pragati

scissors, knife, laser and the like.

*Share your most challenging assignment.*

We performed a very complex gall bladder surgery on K R Narayanan, the former President of India. When the President is being operated you need to adhere to the Blue Book Protocol, which states the protocol to be followed when the president is under anesthesia. Apart from the pressure of sticking to the protocol, I had the pressure of operating a high risk surgery on a high profile patient, which I overcame by being extra vigilant and careful.

*What are the challenges that lie ahead for the country in the medical field?*

The biggest challenge that India faces in the medical field is the high cost of surgery and

### HONOURED

- President, International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity & Metabolic Disorders (IFSO)
- Featured in Limca Book of Records from 2000 to 2009 consecutively for most minimal access surgery & Guinness Book of Records in 1997
- Rashtriya Rattan Award & Gold Medal
- Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award,
- Dhanvantari Award
- Awarded Gold Medal by Indian Medical Association as “Young Investigator of India 95”

medicine, which can be attributed to the use of sophisticated equipments that have increased the overall costs. Also, a lot of time and money is spent on R&D of medicines, which companies try to recover by increasing the cost. Thus, while India has medical facilities that are at par, it needs to make them available to the masses.

*Any message for the students aspiring to opt for the medical stream?*

Enter the medical stream only if you are passionate about it. It is a tough career option that does not have fixed timings. The job requires 100% commitment - physical and mental. Besides, success in the field does not come easy. There is a long gestation period before one becomes a renowned doctor. However, it is also a very gratifying profession.