

Journey of Lt. Updesh from an Agniveer to a Commissioned Officer in the Indian Army

From Agniveer to Lieutenant in just two years, the journey of Lt. Updesh is a tale of sheer determination and consistency that turned setbacks into stars

On 6 Sep 2025 among the 210 officer cadets who became Lieutenants in Indian Army was Lt Updesh Kumar, whose journey from an Agniveer to an officer in just two years was full of challenges and immense determination. In this article, we present the real life story of Lt. Updesh Kumar, commissioned into 314 Medium Regiment on 06 Sep 2025, whose journey from an Agniveer with 13 Fd regiment to a commissioned officer is a testament to patience, perseverance and the right guidance. His path shows that failures are never final and if one learns from them they can be stepping stones towards success. Our team spoke to Lt Updesh to understand his journey and draw inspiration for the hundreds of youth who are not able to clear SSB. The excerpts of the interview are as follows:-

Q: How did your journey towards the armed forces begin?

Updesh: From my very childhood, I had grown up seeing my father serving in the Army. He retired in 2014 as a Subedar (AIG) after 30 years in the Regiment of Artillery. So, it was always my dream to join the forces. I first appeared for NDA twice, but I couldn't clear the written exam.

Q: How did your college years shape your preparation?

Updesh: While pursuing my B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Government Engineering College, Sundernagar, Mandi, I enrolled in NCC. I passed my 'C' Certificate with 'A' grading in 2021. Alongside academics, I was preparing for defence exams like AFCAT and CDS and I kept myself physically fit through running, push-ups, chin-ups and other activities.

Q: Tell us about your experience as an Agniveer and your SSB attempts during that tenure?

Updesh: When the Agnipath scheme was launched in 2022, I applied for Agniveer (CLK/SKT), as it was my last chance. I cleared the ground tests and medicals and around the same time I also cleared CDS and AFCAT. I went for my AFCAT (Flying) SSB at Dehradun in November 2022 but got conference out. In the same year, I cleared the written exam for Agnipath and had to report to Artillery Centre Nashik for Basic Military Training (BMT) in December. Just before that, I had my 2nd SSB for NCC Spl Entry at Allahabad, where I was screened out. I completed my BMT at Arty Centre NRC for 10 weeks. During BMT, I appeared for my 3rd SSB for CDS IMA Course 155 at 22 SSB Bhopal in which I got conference out. Then we moved to CMM Jabalpur for our Advance Military Training for 24 weeks. During AMT, I appeared for my 4th SSB for NCC Spl Entry in which I again got conference out from 32 SSB Jalandhar. I then joined 13 Field Regiment at Missamari, Assam as an Agniveer.

Q: How did you prepare for your 6th SSB?

Updesh: In my unit I did all my duties diligently. In between my duty hours whenever I got some time I prepared for written exams as well as SSB. After my 4 unsuccessful attempts of SSB I really could not decipher where I

was going wrong. So, I decided to join AMAS, Greater Noida for a 21-day SSB course in May 2024 and I was part of AMAS 71 Batch. It wasn't about spoon-feeding answers but about helping me understand the SSB process, polish my natural qualities and improve my weaknesses. I understood every task in detail during my 3-weeks at AMAS. I kept practicing what they taught even after the course ended. I regularly revised the notes, repeated the exercises and stayed mindful of the feedback I received there. Finally, in June 2024 at 24 SSB Bangalore, I gave my 6th attempt for SSC (Tech) – 63 and I got recommended.

Q: How did things progress after your recommendation?

Updesh: Since I had done well in my SSB, after clearing medicals I got good position in SSC Tech merit list. I was very elated. I thanked my parents, mentors at AMAS and my unit officers for giving me this opportunity. I applied for Premature Retirement (PMR) through proper channel. My discharge was approved by Directorate General of Artillery on 17 September 2024. Then I joined OTA Gaya on 26 September 2024, completed 11 months of rigorous training and finally got commissioned into 314 Medium Regiment on 06 September 2025.

Q: What advice would you like to give to other serving candidates who aspire to join the armed forces as an army officer?

Updesh: Stay consistent with your preparation every day. Take a good mentorship that can guide you. Knowing about yourself is important in SSB. And it is very much possible for a serving soldier to devote time for SSB and balance both the duties and preparation. Also, fully utilise your one month leave and casual leave for preparation. Be good in your communications skills as well as update your General Knowledge and upgrade your military knowledge. It's very important for soldiers to spend some time on OIR too which plays an important role in getting screened in. Learning about various SSB tasks like GTO, Psychology and interview is not difficult when you have good communication skills and good general knowledge.