



New Colonel of the Regiment of Garhwal Rifles

Why in News?

Lieutenant General Dinesh Singh Rana, Commander-in-Chief of Andaman & Nicobar Command, has officially taken over as the **23rd Colonel of the Regiment of Garhwal Rifles** in a ceremony held at the [Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre in Lansdowne](#), Uttarakhand.

- He **succeeds Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani**.

Key Points

▪ Garhwal Rifles:

- The Garhwal Rifles is an infantry regiment of the [Indian Army](#), **established in 1887** as the **39th (Garhwal) Regiment of the Bengal Army**.
 - It became part of the British Indian Army and was later incorporated into the Indian Army after India's independence.
- The soldiers of the Garhwal Rifles mainly come from the **seven Garhwal districts of Uttarakhand**:
 - Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Tehri Garhwal, Dehradun, Pauri Garhwal, and Haridwar.
 - The Garhwal Scouts are **stationed at Joshimath** and are **nicknamed "The Snow Leopards."**
- It has a **strong legacy of valor, courage, and service to the nation**, reflecting the proud tradition of Garhwali warriors.
 - The regiment earned distinction in both [World Wars](#) and in multiple post-independence conflicts.
 - It played a **significant role in the 1962 Sino-Indian War and the Indo-Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971**.
- The Garhwal Rifles is **famous for its role in peacekeeping missions**, such as [Operation Pawan](#) in Sri Lanka.
- The **regiment's motto is "Yudhaya Krit Nishchaya" (Fight with Determination)**.
 - The regiment's insignia features a **Maltese cross**, similar to the defunct Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own).
- The Garhwal Rifles has won several prestigious awards, including three **Victoria Crosses** and one [Ashoka Chakra](#).