



Concerns of Gorkha Community

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Why in News?

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** convened a meeting in New Delhi with key representatives of the [Gorkha community](#), aimed at addressing their long-pending concerns.

Who are the Gorkhas?

- **About:** The **Gorkhas** (also spelled Gurkhas) are a **martial community originating from Nepal**, known for their bravery, loyalty, and fierce fighting skills.
 - The Gorkhas trace their name from the Gorkha Kingdom in western Nepal. **Prithvi Narayan Shah (1743-75)**, a Gorkha king, unified Nepal and expanded the Gorkha power.
- **Ethnicity:** Gorkhas are not a single ethnic group but include several ethnicities like Gurungs, Magars, Rais, Limbus, and others from the hilly regions of Nepal.
- **Gorkha Regiments:** Their reputation as fierce warriors led them to serve in various armies especially the **British, Indian, and Nepalese** armies.
 - After the **Anglo-Nepal War (1814-1816)**, also known as the Gorkha War, the British recruited them Gorkha into the British Army.
 - The Gorkha regiment has been part of the Indian Army since 1815, following the Anglo-Nepal War.

What are the Concerns of Gorkhas?

- **Demand for Gorkhaland:** The demand for a **separate state of Gorkhaland** encompassing **Darjeeling, Terai, and Dooars** has been at the core of Gorkha identity politics since the 1980s.
 - Gorkha leaders believe that statehood would provide **political recognition, cultural autonomy, and administrative empowerment**.
 - Gorkhas seek constitutional and cultural recognition within India, including protection of their language, customs, and distinct ethnic identity.
- **Scheduled Tribe (ST) Status:** Several Gorkha communities such as Rai, Limbu, Gurung, Tamang, and others have been demanding **ST status** for decades.
 - This recognition would enable social justice, educational opportunities, and affirmative action benefits.
 - Despite repeated assurances by the Centre, the process has seen no meaningful progress.
- **Agnipath scheme:** India's [Agnipath scheme](#), which offers only four years of service with no pension unless retained, raising fears of job insecurity among Nepali Gorkhas.
 - Nepal views this as a violation of the [1947 tripartite agreement](#) that ensured permanent service and pension benefits.
- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Additionally, geopolitical tensions have emerged, with reports (like [Observer Research Foundation](#)) suggesting China's interest in recruiting Gorkhas. Diplomatic resolution remains pending, with hopes resting on high-level talks between India and Nepal.

Read more: [1947 Tripartite Agreement on Gurkha soldiers](#)

Drishti Mains Question:

Analyze the historical and cultural evolution of the Gorkha community in India.

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