



Agniveers to Join Indian Army's Gorkha Rifles

Why in News?

Recently, in Varanasi, **Agniveers** from the third batch marched on to the parade ground of the **39 Gorkha Training Centre (GTC)**, crossing the 'Antim Pag' to join the **3 & 9 Gorkha Rifles** of the [Indian Army](#).

- 3 & 9 Gorkha Rifles are **Gorkha infantry regiments of the Indian Army**.
- These are among the **seven Gorkha regiments** of the Indian Army. The other regiments are **1 GR, 4 GR, 5 GR (FF), 8 GR and 11 GR**.

Key Points

- **Agnipath Scheme** was launched in 2022. It allows patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years. The youth joining the army will be called **Agniveer**.
 - Under the scheme, around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave the service in just four years.
 - It provides for recruiting youths between the age bracket of 17-and-half years and 21 for four years with a provision to retain 25% of them for 15 more years.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - It is only for personnel below officer ranks (those who do not join the forces as commissioned officers).
 - Commissioned officers hold an exclusive rank in the Indian armed forces. They often hold a commission under the president's sovereign power and are officially instructed to protect the country.
 - Aspirants between the ages of 17.5 years and 23 years are eligible to apply.
- **Objectives:**
 - It is expected to bring down the average age profile of the Indian Armed Forces by about 4 to 5 years.
 - The scheme envisions that the average age in the forces is 32 years today, which will go down to 26 in six to seven years.