

### Why Nepali Gorkhas May No Longer Serve In Indian Army

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The Gorkha Regiment, known for their fierce loyalty and unmatched courage, served in the armies of three nations – India, the UK, and Nepal – for over 200 years. However, this longstanding relationship is now facing a significant rupture, with Nepal halting the recruitment of Nepali Gorkhas to the Indian Army.
- ❖ This shift is poised to fundamentally alter the composition of the Indian Army's Gorkha regiments, potentially leaving them without a single Nepali Gorkha within the next decade.



- ❖ Gorkhas are soldiers from Nepal and India who are known for their bravery, loyalty, and professionalism. They are associated with the khukuri, a distinctive curved knife. Gurkhas are traditionally recruited from the hill people of Nepal, who trace their roots right back to an 8th century Hindu warrior, Guru Gorakhnath.

ଭାରତର ପୂର୍ବତନ ସେନାଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ଫିଲଡ୍ ମାର୍ସାଲ ଶାମ୍ ମାନେକସ୍‌ଆ ଥରେ କହିଥିଲେ ଯେ ଯଦି ଜଣେ କହୁଛି ଯେ ସେ ମୃତ୍ୟୁକୁ ଭୟ କରେ ନାହିଁ, ତେବେ ସେ ମିଛ କହୁଛି ଅଥବା ସେ ଜଣେ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ।

ଭାରତୀୟ ସେନାରେ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀମାନଙ୍କ ସ୍ଥାନ ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ । ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଅନେକ ବୀରତ୍ବର ଗାଥା ରହିଛି । ଭାରତୀୟ ସେନାରେ ଦୁଇ ପ୍ରକାରର ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ଅଛନ୍ତି, ଗୋଟିଏ ବର୍ଗ ହେଉଛି ନେପାଳୀ ଆସୁଥିବା ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟ ବର୍ଗଟି ହେଉଛି ଭାରତୀୟ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଭାରତୀୟ ସେନାରେ ଧୀରେ ଧୀରେ ନେପାଳୀ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀଙ୍କ ଆଗମନ କମିବାରେ ଲାଗିଛି ଓ କୁହାଯାଉଛି ଯେ ଆସନ୍ତା ୧୦ ବର୍ଷରେ ଭାରତୀୟ ସେନାରେ କୌଣସି ନେପାଳୀ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ନଥିବେ । ଏହା ସହିତ ଗତ ୨୦୦ ବର୍ଷର ଏକ ଗୌରବୋଜ୍ଞ ପରମ୍ପରାର ଅନ୍ତ ଘଟିବ ।

- ❖ Sam Bahadur, whose real name was Sam Manekshaw- closely associated with the

8th Gorkha Rifles and was given the nickname "Sam Bahadur" by its soldiers:

- ❖ At the time of Indian Independence in 1947, as per the terms of the Britain– India–Nepal Tripartite Agreement, six Gorkha regiments, formerly part of the British Indian Army, became part of the Indian Army and have served ever since.
- ❖ The troops are mainly from ethnic Gurkha communities of Nepal. A seventh Gorkha Rifles regiment was re-raised in the Indian Army after Independence to accommodate Gorkha soldiers of the 7th Gurkha Rifles and the 10th Gurkha Rifles who chose not to transfer to the British Army.
- ❖ Since 2019, not a single Nepali Gorkha has been recruited to the Indian Army, and the number of Nepali Gorkhas in active service has dwindled. As Gorkha soldiers retire, the lack of new recruits from Nepal has become increasingly noticeable.
- ❖ According to experts, this trend could result in a complete absence of Nepali Gorkhas in the Indian Army's Gorkha regiments within the next 10 to 12 years. At present, the Gorkha Regiment has seen a reduction of around 150 to 200 Nepali Gorkhas in its battalions.
- ❖ To fill the void, the Army has started recruiting soldiers from the Kumaon and Garhwal regions of Uttarakhand. While these soldiers bring their own pride and valour, the absence of Nepali Gorkhas is a significant change for the regiment, which was traditionally made up of Nepali recruits.
- ❖ Nepal's decision not to send its citizens to serve in the Indian Army is believed to be linked to India's introduction of the Agnipath scheme, which has faced significant controversy in Nepal.
- ❖ Since the scheme's introduction, Nepal has refused to allow any recruitment rallies in its territory, making it increasingly difficult for the Army to replenish its Gorkha regiments with Nepali soldiers.

- ❖ The situation has become so dire that some military analysts predict that within a decade, there will be no Nepali Gorkhas left in the Indian Army's Gorkha Regiment. As Nepal's ties with India become more strained, other countries are turning their attention to the Gorkha community.
- ❖ Reports suggest that China has shown interest in recruiting Nepali Gorkhas for its own military. With China and Nepal's relationship improving, the possibility of Nepali Gorkhas joining the Chinese army is no longer out of the question.
- ❖ If this were to happen, it could pose a significant challenge to India's military strategy in the region.

**Trump confirms he will declare 'national emergency', use 'military assets' to deport illegal migrants**

**Key Points:**

- ❖ President-elect Donald Trump on Monday confirmed he would declare a national emergency to carry out his campaign promise of mass deportations of migrants living in the U.S. without legal permission. Overnight, Trump responded to a social media post from Judicial Watch's Tom Fitton, who said earlier this month there are reports the incoming administration is preparing such a declaration and to use "military assets" to deport the migrants.
- ❖ Trump has already chosen several loyal allies for top roles overseeing immigration and deportation policy, including Kristi Noem who has been nominated to lead the Department of Homeland Security, and former ICE chief Tom Homan who Trump has named his "border tsar".
- ❖ Trump's team have so far released few details about how the plan will be executed. He has previously said that he plans to declare a national emergency, which would authorise him to deploy troops on US soil.
- ❖ The majority of illegal immigrants come from Mexico. Studies have shown that 40 million foreign born residents live in the US 11.7 million of that population is illegal.
- ❖ Illegal immigration, or unauthorized immigration, occurs when foreign nationals, known as aliens, violate US immigration laws by entering the United States unlawfully, or by lawfully entering but then remaining after the expiration of their visas, parole or temporary protected status.
- ❖ Between 2007 and 2018, visa overstays have accounted for a larger share of the growth in the illegal immigrant population than illegal border crossings, which have declined considerably from 2000 to 2018.
- ❖ In 2022, only 37% of illegal immigrants were from Mexico, the smallest share on record. El Salvador, India, Guatemala and Honduras were the next four largest countries.
- ❖ There are about 725,000 Indian illegal immigrants in the U.S. — the third largest population of unauthorised immigrants after Mexico and El Salvador — according to new Pew Research Centre estimates.
- ❖ As of 2021, the country's 10.5 million unauthorised immigrants represented about 3% of the total U.S. population and 22% of the foreign-born population, the Washington-based think tank said.
- ❖ Trump wants to use a 226-year-old law to deport millions of undocumented migrants. The 1798 Alien Enemies Act is a potential tool the U.S. president-elect has said he will use to try to make good on one of his key campaign pledges that otherwise could be stalled significantly by the legal machinations of the deportation process.
- ❖ "If Trump were to try to use the normal procedures, it would [be to] round up a lot of people and put them into immigration court proceedings," said Stephen Yale-Loehr, a professor of immigration law at Cornell University.

### Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve notified 56th Tiger Reserve

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve of Chhattisgarh as the 56th Tiger Reserve of India.
- ❖ The Ministry issued the notification on 18 November 2024. The apex Tiger conservation body, the National Tiger Conservation Authority, had given its approval in 2021, and the Ministry has issued the notification now.



### Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve of Chhattisgarh

- ❖ Tiger reserve area 2,829 square km area;
- ❖ Spread in Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Korea, Surajpur, and Balrampur districts of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The reserve's core tiger habitat is 2049.2 square km, comprising the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary, and has a buffer of 780.15 square km.
- ❖ It is contiguous to Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh), and both reserves cover approximately 4500 sq. km.
- ❖ In the East, it is connected to the Palamau Tiger Reserve (Jharkhand), and in the west, to the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh).

### Third Largest Tiger Reserve in India

- ❖ The largest is the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh (3296.31 square km).

- ❖ The second largest is Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam (2837.10 square km).
- ❖ Third largest Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh (2,829 square km).

### Flora Fauna in the Reserve

- ❖ The Guru Ghasidas -Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve is geographically spread mainly over the Chota Nagpur plateau and partially over the Baghelkhand plateau. Seven hundred fifty-three species, including 365 invertebrates and 388 vertebrates, are found in the reserve. Two hundred thirty species of birds and 55 species of Vertebrate mammals are found in the reserve.

### Fourth Tiger Reserve In Chhattisgarh

- ❖ The Guru Ghasidas Tiger Reserve is the fourth Tiger reserve in the state. Other are
  - Udanti-Sitanadi,
  - Achanakmar and
  - Indravati

### National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- ❖ The central government set up the National Tiger Conservation Authority in December 2005 as the apex body for strengthening tiger conservation in India. It is a statutory body set up under the provision of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ It is an administrative body under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the chairperson of the NTCA.

### Tiger Reserves List

- ❖ The central government has designated specified areas as the Tiger Reserves to protect the endangered species in India. Following is the list of the Tiger Reserves in India.



- ❖ Following is the list of the Tiger Reserves, their areas, the year of notification and the State where they lie.

S. No.	State	Name of Tiger Reserve	Year of Notification	Total area (In Sq.Kms)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjunsagar Srisaillam	2007	3296.31
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Namdapha	1987	2052.82
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Pakke	2012	1198.45
4	Arunachal Pradesh	Kamlang	2017	783
5	Assam	Manas	2008	2837.1
6	Assam	Nameri	2000	464
7	Assam	Kaziranga	2007	1173.58
8	Assam	Orang	2016	492.46
9	Bihar	Valmiki	2012	899.38
10	Chhattisgarh	Udanti-Sitanadi	2009	1842.54

S. No.	State	Name of Tiger Reserve	Year of Notification	Total area (In Sq.Kms)
11	Chhattisgarh	Achanakmar	2005	914.02
12	Chhattisgarh	Indravati	2009	2799.07
13	Chhattisgarh	Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla	2024	2,829
14	Jharkhand	Palamau	2012	1129.93
15	Karnataka	Bandipur	2007	1456.3
16	Karnataka	Bhadra	2007	1064.29
17	Karnataka	Kali (Dandeli-Anshi)	2007	1097.51
18	Karnataka	Nagarahole	2007	1205.76
19	Karnataka	Biligiri Ranganatha Temple	2007	574.82
20	Kerala	Periyar	2007	925
21	Kerala	Parambikulam	2009	643.66
22	Madhya Pradesh	Kanha	2007	2051.79
23	Madhya Pradesh	Pench	2007	1179.63
24	Madhya Pradesh	Bandhavgarh	2007	1536.94
25	Madhya Pradesh	Panna	2007	1598.1

S. No.	State	Name of Tiger Reserve	Year of Notification	Total area (In Sq.Kms)
26	Madhya Pradesh	Satpura	2007	2133.31
27	Madhya Pradesh	Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve	2023	2339.12
28	Madhya Pradesh	Sanjay-Dubri	2011	1674.5
29	Maharashtra	Melghat	2007	2768.52
30	Maharashtra	Tadoba-Andhari	2007	1727.59
31	Maharashtra	Pench (It is spread in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh)	2007	741.22
32	Maharashtra	Sahyadri	2012	1165.57
33	Maharashtra	Nawegaon-Nagzira	2103	1894.94
34	Maharashtra	Bor	2012	816.27
35	Mizoram	Dampa	2007	988
36	Odisha	Similipal	2007	2750
37	Odisha	Satkosa	2007	963.87
38	Rajasthan	Ranthambore	2007	1411.29
39	Rajasthan	Sariska	2007	1213.34
40	Rajasthan	Ramgarh-Vishdhar	2022	1501.89

S. No.	State	Name of Tiger Reserve	Year of Notification	Total area (In Sq.Kms)
41	Rajasthan	Dholpur – Karauli Tiger Reserve	2023	599,6406
42	Rajasthan	Mukundara Hills	2013	759.99
43	Tamil Nadu	Kalakad-Mundanthurai	2007	1601.54
44	Tamil Nadu	Mudumalai	2007	688.59
45	Tamil Nadu	Sathyamangalam	2013	1408.4
46	Tamil Nadu	Anamalai	2007	1479.87
47	Tamil Nadu	Srivilliputhur Megamalai	2021	1016.56
48	Telangana	Kawal	2012	2015.44
49	Telangana	Amrabad	2015	2611.39
50	Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa	2010	2201.77
51	Uttar Pradesh	Ranipur	2022	529.36
52	Uttar Pradesh	Pilibhit	2014	730.25
53	Uttarakhand	Jim Corbett	2010	1288.31
54	Uttarakhand	Rajaji	2015	1075.17
55	West Bengal	Sunderbans	2007	2584.89
56	West Bengal	Buxa	2009	757.9

### DRDO successfully test Hypersonic missile with Mach 6 speed

- ❖ India has joined a select group of countries worldwide that have successfully tested longrange hypersonic missiles with a speed of Mach 6( six times the speed of sound)or

more. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on November 16, 2024. Russia was the first country in the world to use its hypersonic missile Kinzhal against Ukraine in 2022.



- ❖ Russia, China, and the United States have also tested hypersonic missiles. Recently, North Korea claimed to have tested one, but this cannot be verified. France, Japan, Germany, Australia, Iran, and Israel are also pursuing projects to develop hypersonic missile systems.

### Range of the DRDO Hypersonic Missile

- ❖ The DRDO's Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, Hyderabad is developing the missile in partnership with laboratories of DRDO and private sector companies. The missile range is 1500 km.

### What is a Hypersonic Missile?

- ❖ Hypersonic missiles are a type of ballistic missile with a minimum speed of Mach 5 (about 6,200 kilometres per hour). They are different from supersonic missiles, which are also a type of ballistic missile with a speed of Mach 1 or more. There are two types of hypersonic missile systems being developed around the world.
- ❖ Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGV)
- ❖ Hypersonic Cruise Missiles (HCM) Like a ballistic missile mechanism, the Hypersonic Glide Vehicle is launched using a rocket .
- ❖ The rocket reaches the upper atmosphere and then re-enters into Earth's atmosphere and glides towards the target with a speed up to 27 km per hour.

- ❖ The Hypersonic Cruise Missile is similar to the Hypersonic Glide vehicle. The difference is that during the re-entry phase, the cruise missile uses the scramjet engine (an airbreathing engine) to hit the target.

### **Difference between Conventional Ballistic and Hypersonic missile**

- ❖ Conventional ballistic missiles have a set flight path and are limited in their ability to change it, making them highly vulnerable to the air defence system.
- ❖ The hypersonic missiles are highly maneuverable. It means that they can be easily controlled and have the ability to change their direction in flight (manoeuvrability). Hence, they are difficult for air defence systems to detect and destroy.
- ❖ The other difference is the speed.

### **Advantage of the Hypersonic Missile**

- ❖ They fly at a lower trajectory and have the ability to change trajectory during the flight, making their detection by radars difficult to predict.
- ❖ Because they travel at a great speed, it will be difficult for the current air defence system to detect and respond to the incoming hypersonic missile.
- ❖ Due to their higher speed and ability to change their trajectory in flight, they will be used as a weapon of first choice to hit deep in enemy territory. ➤ This will give the Indian defence force the first-strike capability to take out the enemy's strategic nuclear and conventional assets.

### **Peru hosted the 31st APEC Summit Economic Leaders Meeting**

#### **Key Points:**

- ❖ The 31st Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders Meeting, in which the leaders of the 21

member countries participated, was held in Lima, Peru on 15&16 November 2024.

- ❖ Along with the Economic Leaders Meeting, the 35th APEC Ministerial meeting was held in Lima on 15 & 16 November 2024.
- ❖ The meeting was hosted by the Peruvian President, Dina Boluarte. It was the last summit meeting of United States President Joe Biden, as his terms end on 19 January 2024, and Donald Trump will be sworn in on 20 January 2025.



- ❖ APEC is an intergovernmental group of 21 countries in the Asia Pacific region that promotes economic ties among its members.
- ❖ Around 40 per cent of the world's population lives here. The members of APEC contribute around 50 % of world trade, and they constitute around 60 per cent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).
- ❖ The next Summit meeting will be hosted by South Korea in 2025, followed by China in 2026 and Vietnam in 2027.

### **Machu Picchu Declaration**

- ❖ The theme of the 2024 APEC Economic Leaders meeting was "Empower. Include. Grow." The leaders issued a declaration after their meeting titled "Machu Picchu Declaration."
- ❖ The declaration called for increased trade and investment, supply chain connectivity, anticorruption, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- ❖ The meeting was attended by American President Joe Biden, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru, South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol and others.

## About the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- ❖ Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke proposed the concept of a group of Asia Pacific countries focussed on promoting economic relations amongst the countries lying along the Asia Pacific region in 1989.
- ❖ The first Ministerial meeting of the APEC was held in Canberra, Australia in 1989. The first annual summit meeting of the APEC leaders, called the 'Economic Leaders' meeting, was held at Blake Island, United States, in 1993.

## Members of APEC

- ❖ At present, 21 countries—Peru, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Papua New Guinea, Canada, Indonesia, Philippines, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei(Taiwan), and the United States of America—are its members.
- ❖ India is not a member of APEC.
- ❖ Headquarters: Singapore.

## K. Sanjay Murthy appointed as the next GAG of India by the President

### Key Points:

- ❖ The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, has appointed K Sanjay Murthy as India's next Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). He will succeed the incumbent, Girish Chandra Murmu, who is due to retire on 21 November 2024. The Comptroller General of India is the head of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), which controls the country's entire financial system. It is also called the Guardian of Public Funds.
- ❖ The incumbent GAG of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, a 1985 Gujarat Cadre IAS officer, assumed the office of the

Comptroller and Auditor General of India on 8 August 2020. Before being appointed as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu was the first Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

## About K Sanjay Murthy

- ❖ The newly appointed CAG of India, K. Sanjay Murthy, is a 1989 batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre. He is currently Secretary of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education and was due to retire on 31 December 2024.

## Term of K Sanjay Murthy

- ❖ The Constitution gives Parliament power to make laws regarding the terms and conditions of services of the Comptroller and Auditor General. In 1953, the Parliament enacted the Comptroller and Auditor-General (Conditions of Service), which was subsequently amended in 1971. It lays down that the CAG of India will hold his office:
  - ❖ For 6 years from the date of assumption of office or till age 65(whichever is earlier).
  - ❖ He can resign by submitting his resignation to the President.

## Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General is a constitutional body under Article 148 of the Indian constitution. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the custodian of public finances and the controller of the entire financial system of the country. Some of the important functions are;
  - ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India
  - ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General do not compile the accounts of the government of India.



- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General only audit the accounts of the government of India.
  - ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General compile and audit the state government and the Union Territory accounts.
- ❖ It also audits the accounts of all government-owned companies and any other corporation or body.

