



Ahir Regiment demand, Protest jams Delhi- Gurugram e-way

- By Ankit Agrawal

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Delhi-Gurgaon expressway, SPR impacted due to 'Ahir Regiment' demand march

Traffic on national highway 48 (NH-48) is likely to get disrupted today due to the proposed march, Gurugram Traffic Police said in an advisory.





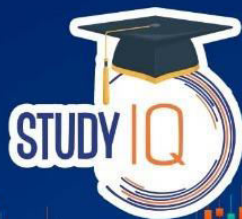
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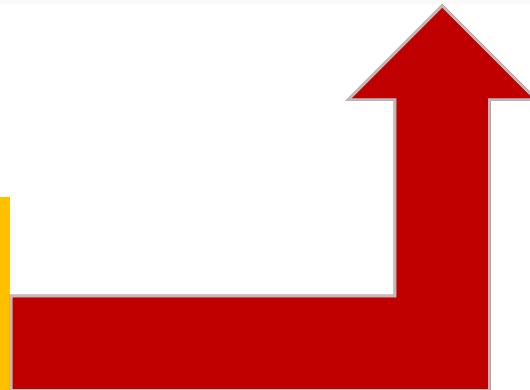
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WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

An ongoing agitation by members of the Ahir community disrupted traffic on a **6-kilometre stretch of the Delhi-Gurgaon highway** on Wednesday.

The protesters have been camping near Kherki Daula toll plaza in Gurgaon since February 4, **demanding an Ahir Regiment in the Indian Army.**

GENESIS OF THE DEMAND

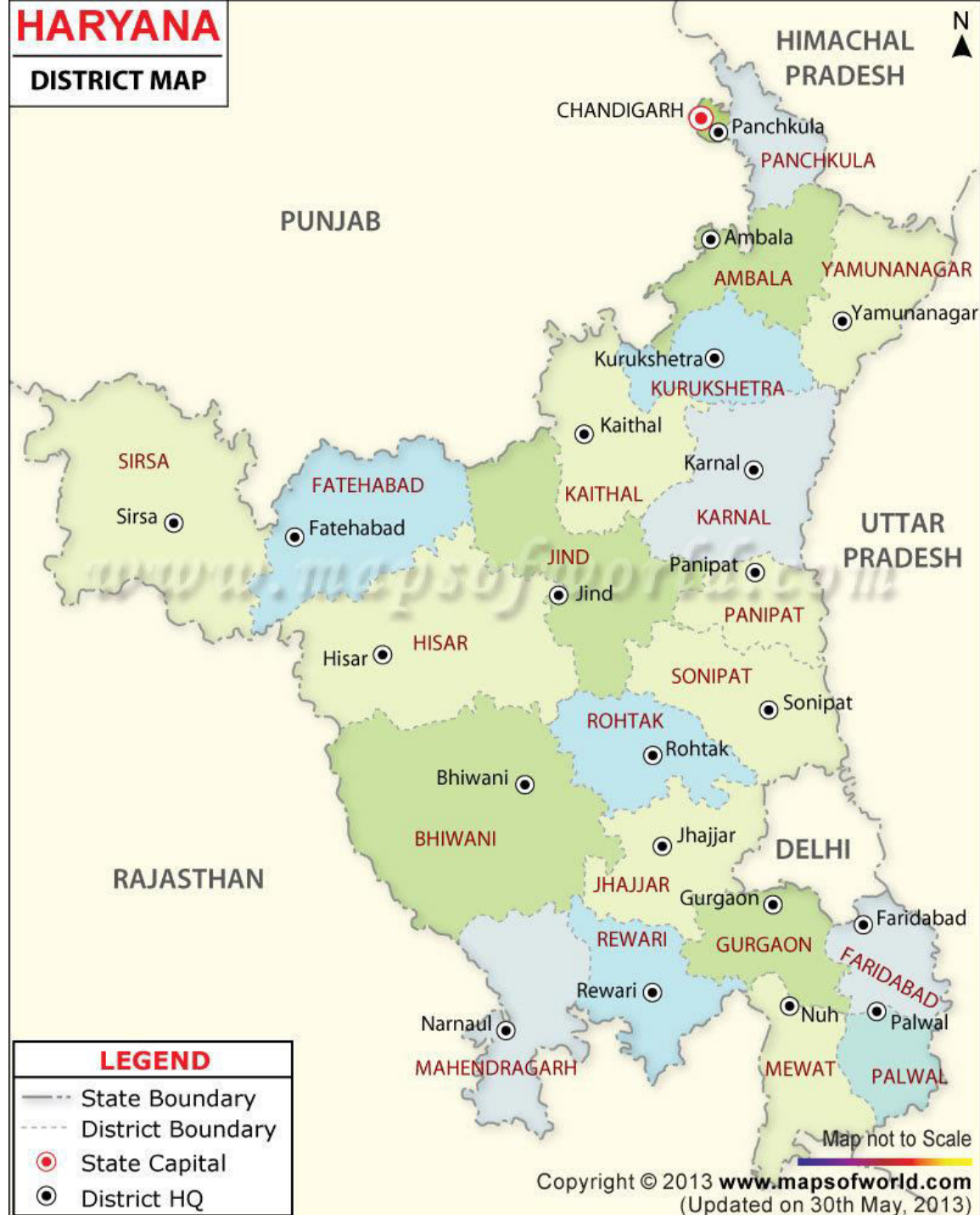
The **Ahirwal region**, which includes the **southern Haryana districts** of **Rewari, Mahendragarh, and Gurgaon**, and is **associated with Rao Tula Ram**,

The **Ahir hero of the revolt of 1857**, has **traditionally contributed soldiers to the Indian Army in large numbers**.

The **region has seen the loudest clamour for the creation of an Ahir Regiment**, even though the **demand has also been raised in other states with sizeable Ahir populations**.

HARYANA

DISTRICT MAP



The community was brought into national limelight after the story of the bravery of the Ahir troops of Haryana in the **Battle of Rezang La in 1962** was widely known.

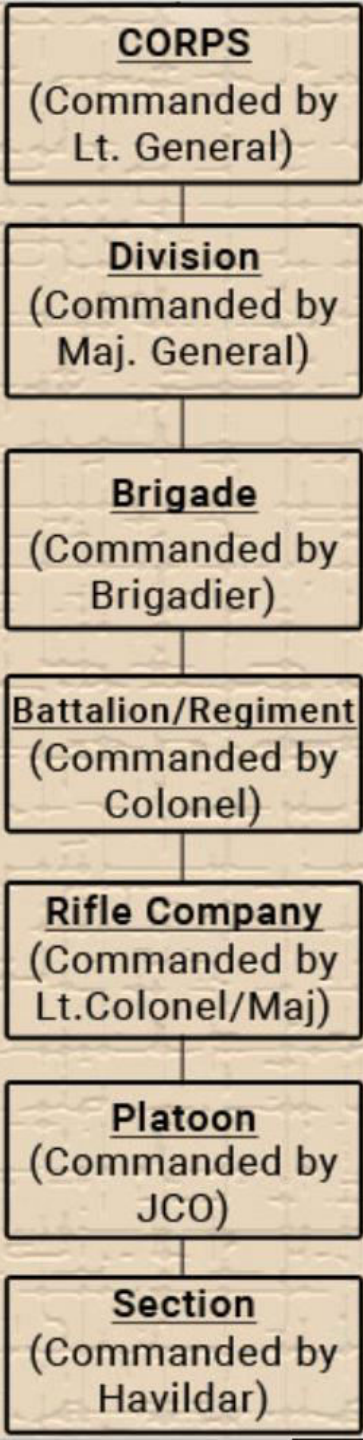
Most of the soldiers of C Company of the 13th Battalion of the Kumaon Regiment perished fighting the Chinese onslaught, but broke the enemy's advance to Chushul.

Members of the community have long argued that the Ahirs deserve a full-fledged Infantry Regiment named after them, **not just two battalions in the Kumaon Regiment** and a fixed percentage in other regiments.

The demand got a boost during the 50th anniversary of the 1962 War in 2012 when the saga of the Ahirs' heroism was recounted repeatedly, and has received renewed traction in the 60th anniversary year.

Various political parties have **thrown their weight behind the demand in recent years.**

Regiment	Active From	Regimental Center
Madras Regiment	1758	Wellington, Tamil Nadu
Rajputana Rifles	1775	Delhi Cantonment, Delhi
Rajput Regiment	1778	Fatehgarh, Uttar Pradesh
Dogra Regiment	1877	Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh
Sikh Regiment	1846	Ramgarh Cantonment, Jharkhand
Jat Regiment	1795	Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh
Parachute Regiment	1945	Bengaluru, Karnataka
Punjab Regiment	1761	Ramgarh Cantonment, Jharkhand
The Grenadiers	1778	Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
Sikh Light Infantry	1944	Fatehgarh, Uttar Pradesh
Maratha Light Infantry	1768	Belgaum, Karnataka
The Garhwal Rifles	1887	Lansdowne, Uttarakhand
Kumaon Regiment	1813	Ranikhet, Uttarakhand



Assam Regiment	1941	Shillong, Meghalaya
Bihar Regiment	1941	Danapur, Bihar
Mahar Regiment	1815	Saugor, Madhya Pradesh
Jammu & Kashmir Rifles	1821	Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry	1947	Awantipora, Jammu and Kashmir
Naga Regiment	1970	Ranikhet, Uttarakhand
1 Gorkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)	1815	Subathu, Himachal Pradesh
3 Gorkha Rifles	1815	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
4 Gorkha Rifles	1857	Sabathu, Himachal Pradesh
5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force)	1858	Shillong, Meghalaya
8 Gorkha Rifles	1824	Shillong, Meghalaya
9 Gorkha Rifles	1817	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
11 Gorkha Rifles	1918-1922; from 1948	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Ladakh Scouts	1963	Leh, Ladakh
Arunachal Scouts	2010	Rayang, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh
Sikkim Scouts	2013	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

ORIGIN OF REGIMENT

The origins of the Regiments of the Indian Army **trace back to the colonial era under the British.**

The **British needed to administer India and required locals to form a force under their command.**

They **established Regiments on the lines of military history, race, and caste, giving each regiment a distinct identity by way of dress, tradition, ceremonies, and regimental pride.**

STANCE TAKEN BY POLITICAL PARTIES

Over the **past decade**, support has come from parties across the spectrum, but especially from ones with a presence in Ahir areas of influence — in **Haryana, UP, Bihar, and even Maharashtra.**

In **2018**, then Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers **Rao Inderjit Singh** had **written to then Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** asking her **to consider the demand for an Ahir Regiment.**

On **March 15**, **Congress MP Deepender Hooda** told **Rajya Sabha**:
“History of Yaduvanshi bravery does not need to be proven to anyone.
The Ahirwal region of Haryana and Rajasthan have always been
at the forefront of the defence of the nation...”

Earlier on February 11, **Shyam Singh Yadav**, **BSP MP from Jaunpur**,
Uttar Pradesh, had **raised the demand** for **an Ahir Regiment**.

In Bihar, where the demand has been raised periodically, **Raj Lakshmi Yadav**, the **daughter of Lalu Yadav** and **Rabri Devi**, **brought it up before the 2020 Assembly elections**.

The **SP** promised an **Ahir Regiment** in its **manifesto ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections**.

ARMY'S RESPONSE

The Army has **rejected the demand for any new class or caste based regiment.**

It has said that **while the older regiments based on castes and regions like** the Dogra Regiment, Sikh Regiment, Rajput Regiment, and Punjab Regiment **will continue,**

No new demands on the lines of an Ahir Regiment, Himachal Regiment, Kalinga Regiment, Gujarat Regiment **or any tribal regiment would be entertained.**

Lt Gen R S Kadyan (retd), former Deputy Chief of Army Staff who served in the Rajputana Rifles, **said there was no need to tinker with the existing system.**

“Why whip a running horse? The Army is doing well with the present composition and therefore there is no need to add new regiments based on class or caste,” he said.

Gen Kadyan said that **while the military does not subscribe to the colonial theory of 'martial races', which led to the creation of single class or caste regiments,**

The **regimental system has stood the test of time, and has acquired an Indian nationalist character.**

Politicians should not pursue "narrow political gains" using the Army, he said.

Q. Indian Navy's largest multilateral exercise Milan 2022 was held at?

A) Andaman & Nicobar

B) Lakshwadeep

C) Visakhapatnam

D) Kochi



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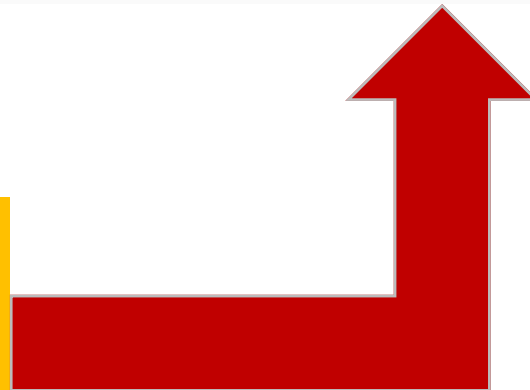
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