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Army postpones recruitment rally in 6 districts

Bareilly: With a list of festivals and weeklong celebrations lined-up in the months of September and October, the Army recruitment board has decided to postpone its enrolment rally to December for the candidates of six districts - Balrampur, Sitapur, Farukhabad, Hardoi, Bahraich and Shravasti. According to official sources, the rally is now slated to take place in the fourth week of December.

Colonel Rajeev Dixit, director, Army recruiting office, said, "The rally has been postponed keeping in mind several festivals in the months of September and October and the lack thereof of administration and police officials for support during the rally."

The proposed gathering will take place in one of the six districts but Army authorities were yet to finalise the exam location. Candidates will have to participate in physical ability tests, including participation in a 1.6 kilometre-long run. They will appear for the posts of soldier general duty, soldier nursing assistant, soldier clerk/store keeper, technical posts and soldier tradesmen, who are employed as barbers and tailors.

The recruitment board received a huge response for a similar rally organised from May 12 to 21 this year for candidates of Bareilly, Badaun, Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Sambhal and Lakhimpur Kheri. As many as 45,000 applications were received out of which nearly 1,800 cleared physical and medical tests. They later appeared for written exams held in July and August. Results of these tests are still awaited.

Meanwhile, the Army Recruitment Board now plans to introduce online entrance exams for candidates from next year. In a reversal of the existing system, candidates will have to clear the written test to be able to appear in physical ability test. The move is expected to reduce the burden on recruitment authorities by drastically cutting down on the number of candidates taking part in the rally, which at present sees participation in thousands.

"After candidates fill the online application forms, their documents will be verified. Following this, they will be asked to take the online written test at a centre of their choosing from among the two options provided. There will be different sets of question papers and the candidates will have to undergo biometric verification," Dixit had earlier told TOI.