



**NATIONAL
IAS ACADEMY**

PRELIMS POWER PACK BATCH - 2019

“Make UPSC Prelims more Predictable”

Concept Understanding:

- › 400hrs of Prelims classes
- › Experienced Mentors to give individual attention and track your progress
- › Doubt clarification sessions
- › Only 25 members per batch



Concept Consolidation:

- › Prelims test series (21 tests) + Current affairs
- › Prelims questions discussion
- › Skill building sessions to crack Prelims 2019



**UPSC
Prelims**

Contact Us:

+91 9632334466 / +91 9632334488

Classes @ Vijayanagar & Jayanagar

For our current affairs material and other resources
visit our www.nationalias.com

1. Tribals of West Bengal: Facing food scarcity

Topic: Issues relating poverty and Hunger

Why in news?

- The study titled 'An Inquiry into the world of the Adivasis of West Bengal', conducted by Professor Amartya Sen's Pratichi Institute and Asiatic Society has identified "food scarcity in varying degrees" in about 31% of tribal households in West Bengal..

More on the topic:

- The survey was conducted in 1,000 tribal households to ascertain living conditions, health and education.
- West Bengal is home to a over five million tribals, with 6% of the India's tribal population of 100 million. But in many areas, tribals of the State are "far behind" in terms of human development. One area, which has been a matter of contention in recent months after the death of seven tribals in a span of 15 days in November, is scarcity of food. The preliminary survey report claimed that "nearly one third [31%] of the surveyed households" reportedly faced "food scarcity in varying degrees" in the past year.



- While some households faced acute hunger only in some months (August–October), in many cases, people had half-meals only twice a day. Also, in some cases, adult members [of households] reportedly ate only once a day," the report noted. Most of the families surveyed could hardly afford animal protein or pulses.
- Degradation of forest and environmental degradation are cited as two more reasons for "reduced availability of natural nutrients" resulting in early deaths.
- The work participation rate [WPR] is higher among the Adivasis in Bengal "forcing the children of schoolgoing age to discontinue their studies in order to fend [for] themselves and support the families," the report noted.
- According to the Census of 2011, while WPR is 39% and 49% in Bengal and India, respectively, "the corresponding figures for Adivasis were 49% and 47%," indicating the participation of more children.
- Both the children and elderly were also involved in earning, and that the rate of transition in education was low..." the report said.

2. Fugitive economic offenders Act

Topic: Current events of national importance

Why in news?

- Absconding liquor baron Vijay Mallya, on Saturday, became the first person to be declared a fugitive economic offender by the special court hearing cases under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA).

More on the topic

- The FEOA, which became a law on July 31, 2018, allows for declaring a person as an offender after an arrest warrant has been issued against the individual and the value of offences exceeds ₹100 crore.

Who is fugitive?

- A fugitive is defined as someone who has left India to avoid criminal prosecution or who is already overseas and refuses to return to face the law.
- In case of an Fugitive Economic Offender, these are people who have defaulted on loans and have fled the country.
- While presenting Budget 2017-18, the Finance Minister referred to instances of offenders fleeing the country to escape its justice system, and said the government was looking at a law to confiscate the assets of such persons till they return to face the law.

Dubious distinction

Vijay Mallya became the first Indian to be declared a fugitive economic offender

- The FEOA, which came into effect on July 25, 2018, allows for declaring a person an offender after an arrest warrant is issued and the value of offences exceeds ₹100 crore

- Another condition

is the refusal of the individual to return home to face prosecution

- A special court can order the confiscation of his/her properties



Fugitive economic offenders Act (FEOA)

- A 'Special Court' would be set up under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002 to declare a person a Fugitive Economic Offender.
- So as to ensure that the Court is not over-burdened, only those cases, where the total value involved is Rs. 100 Cr or more will be within the purview of the Ordinance.
- The act also removes the offenders' right to defend a civil claim in the Country.

- The act provides for the appointment of an Administrator to manage and dispose of the confiscated property.
- At any point of time during proceedings, if the Fugitive Economic Offender returns to India and submits to the appropriate Jurisdictional Court, proceedings under the Act would cease by the law.
- As per the new law, a special FEOA court can order the confiscation of a FEO's properties, including those which are benami, and the proceeds of crime in and outside India. Once properties are confiscated, the Union government has the right over them and it can dispose them after 90 days.
- Another condition for declaring a person a fugitive economic offender (FEO) is when the individual refuses to return to the country to face prosecution.

3. Agasthyarkoodam peak

Topic: Current events of national importance.

Why in news:

- Women are planning to trek to the summit of Agasthyarkoodam, the second highest peak in the State at 1,868 m, in the Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary in district.

More on the topic:

- The Adivasi Mahasabha opposes women entering the Agasthyar forests. Some of its members consider the climb a pilgrimage. Some shrines have also cropped up on the trek path.
- However, High court of Kerala allowed women to enter and to trek the peak.

About Agasthyarkoodam peak:

- This peak is a part of the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve which lies on the border between the Indian states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve is among 20 new sites added by UNESCO to its World Network of Biosphere Reserves in March 2016.

4. High level panel to go into quota for Assamese

Topic: Current events of national importance.

Why in news?

- The Centre has set up a high-level committee headed by former IAS officer M.P. Bezbaruah to assess the appropriate level of reservation of seats in the Assam Assembly and local bodies for the Assamese people, besides providing employment opportunities.

More on the topic

- The Union Cabinet took a decision to appoint high level committee under the Assam Accord of 1985.
- The committee and its terms of reference were notified. Home Ministry said the committee would examine the effectiveness of actions taken since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.
- Clause 6 of the Accord states: "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people".
- "The committee will assess the appropriate level of reservation of seats in the Assam Legislative Assembly and local bodies for the Assamese people. The committee will recommend the appropriate level of reservations in employment under the government of Assam for the Assamese people," the notification said.

Taking stock

A high-level committee will look into the effectiveness of actions taken since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord

What is the accord

The Assam Accord of 1985 set March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date for migrants entering the State

What is Clause 6

It says that constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people

What is the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016

The Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, which has raised hackles in Assam

Why is it facing resistance

Many say the Bill paves the way for giving citizenship to illegal Hindu migrants from Bangladesh, who came after March 1971



Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Centre was working hard to clear the Bill

- The committee would suggest measures to be taken to protect Assamese and other indigenous languages of Assam.
- The committee can also suggest any other measures, as may be necessary, to protect, preserve and promote cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people. It will submit its report within six months from the date of notification (January 5).

5. Aadhar saves 90000 crore

Topic: Important aspects of governance, transparency etc.

Why in news:

- The government estimates that ₹90,000 crore have been saved in the past few years till March 2018 by the use of Aadhaar," according to the Finance minister.

More on the topic:

- The ministry further said "Several duplicate beneficiaries, non-existent beneficiaries and fake beneficiaries have been eliminated. The **Digital Dividend Report** prepared by the **World Bank** estimates that India can save ₹77,000 Crore every year by the use of Aadhaar."
- The total subsidies transferred through Aadhaar now equal ₹ 1, 69,868 Crore as per Ministry of finance.

National IAS Academy

WWW.NATIONALIAS.COM

9632334466, 9632334488

*Lucky Paradise, 2nd floor,
8th 'F' main road, 22nd cross,
Opp. ICICI bank,
3rd Block, Jayanagar,
Bangalore - 560011*