



drishti

Inner Line Permit and Citizenship Amendment Act

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/inner-line-permit-and-citizenship-amendment-act

Why in News

Recently, the Supreme Court refused to stay the **Adaptation of Laws (Amendment) Order, 2019**, issued by the **President** to amend the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR), 1873**.

The court said it will have to hear what the government has to say on the matter.

Key Points

- The Presidential order was challenged in the Supreme Court by Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) and All Tai Ahom Students' Union (ATASU).
- The petitioners claimed that the Presidential Order moved some of the districts of Assam away from the purview of BEFR just before the grant of assent to **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019**.
 - The districts included Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur and Cachar.
 - BEFR empowers some of the states to bring districts under the inner line area.
- Once the districts had come under 'the inner line' area, **the CAA could not be implemented to the extent of granting citizenship to illegal immigrants** in Assam in view of Section 6B (4) of the CAA.

Section 6B (4) of the CAA restricts the implementation of CAA to the tribal areas as included in the **Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution and the area covered under the **"Inner Line"** notified under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873".
- The **CAA relaxes eligibility criteria for certain categories of migrants** from three countries (Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan) seeking Indian citizenship and **exempts certain categories of areas**, including those protected by the **Inner Line system**.

- The **State government claims that ILP cannot be implemented in Assam since Assam is the gateway to northeast India.**

Implementation of ILP will **increase the unemployment** level. It will affect the tea sector and oil sector.

- According to the petitioner, **BEFR could have been the answer** to tackle **the problems of illegal immigrants** which Assam and its citizens are facing today.

Inner Line Permit

- It is a concept based on the **policy of exclusion** drawn by colonial rulers in the form of **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act (BEFR), 1873.**
- The BEFR prohibits an outsider's — **"British subject or foreign citizen"** — entry into the area beyond the Inner Line without a pass and his purchase of land there.
It protected the commercial interests of the British from the tribal communities.
- BEFR **came as a response to the reckless expansion** of British entrepreneurs into new lands which **threatened British political relations with the hill tribes.**
- After Independence, the Indian government replaced "British subjects" with "Citizen of India".
- The Inner Line separates the tribal-populated hill areas in the Northeast from the plains. To enter and stay for any period in these areas, Indian citizens from other areas need an Inner Line Permit (ILP).
- The main aim of ILP system is to prevent settlement of other Indian nationals in the States where ILP regime is prevalent, in order **to protect the indigenous/tribal population.**
- The Adaptation of Laws (Amendment) Order, 2019 **extended the ILP regime to Manipur** – after **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram** where the ILP regime is applicable.

Source: IE