



Internal Security

Peace Pact with ULFA

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For Prelims: United Liberation Front of Assam, Assam Accord, Operation Bajrang, Armed Forces Special Powers Act, Citizenship Act of 1955, Peace Pact with ULFA

For Mains: Major Provisions of Peace Pact with ULFA, Additional Considerations to Enhance the Recent Peace Pact.

Why in News?

The pro-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) signed a tripartite peace deal with the Centre and the Assam government recently.

What are the Major Provisions of Peace Pact with ULFA?

- **Context and History:**
 - **Background:** From the 19th century, Assam's rich culture faced challenges due to an **influx of migrants drawn by its thriving tea, coal, and oil industries.**
 - This influx, compounded by **Partition and then refugees from East Pakistan**, heightened insecurity among the indigenous population.
 - Resource competition sparked a six-year mass movement, **culminating in the 1985 Assam**

Accord aiming to address the issue of foreigners in the state.

- **Origin of ULFA:** ULFA was formed in **1979**, advocating for an independent Assam through armed struggle against the Indian state.
 - Over a decade, ULFA recruited and trained members in Myanmar, China, and Pakistan, resorting to abductions and executions to establish a sovereign Assam.
 - In 1990, the government's Operation Bajrang resulted in the capture of a large number of ULFA rebels. Assam was labeled a 'disturbed area,' prompting the imposition of President's rule and invoking the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).
- Protracted Peace Talks:**
Negotiations between ULFA, the Indian government, and the Assam state government began in 2011.

▪ **The Recent Peace Pact:**

- **Key Terms:**
 - **ULFA to:**
 - Renounce violence and disband their organization.
 - Join the democratic process.
 - Surrender weapons and camps.
 - **Government to:**
 - Address ULFA's concerns regarding Assamese identity, culture, and land rights.
 - **A ₹1.5 lakh crore investment for Assam's holistic development**
 - Following the principles applied for the 2023 delimitation exercise for future delimitation exercises in Assam

- **Legislative Safeguards:** The pact aims to **restrict non-indigenous communities' representation in the Assam Assembly** and seeks exemptions from specific sections of the Citizenship Act of 1955.

What Should be the Additional Considerations to Enhance the Recent Peace Pact?

- **Transparency and Accountability:** Establishing mechanisms for **transparent implementation of the pact's provisions** and holding responsible parties accountable for their commitments.
- **Engagement with Anti-Talks Faction:** Strategically engaging with the **ULFA's anti-talks faction** to work towards a unified resolution and wider acceptance of the peace pact.
- **Legal Safeguards:** Ensuring that legislative changes or reforms align with constitutional principles and **protect the rights of all residents**, ensuring no discrimination based on ethnicity or origin.
- **International Cooperation:** Collaboration with neighboring countries to **prevent cross-border insurgencies** and maintain regional stability.
- **Long-Term Development Plans:** Creating sustainable and **detailed developmental strategies beyond immediate investments** to foster holistic growth in the region.

Conclusion

The recent peace pact with ULFA presents a significant opportunity for peace and development in Assam. But only by **addressing underlying grievances**, fostering economic growth, and ensuring social integration can a lasting peace be built in the region.