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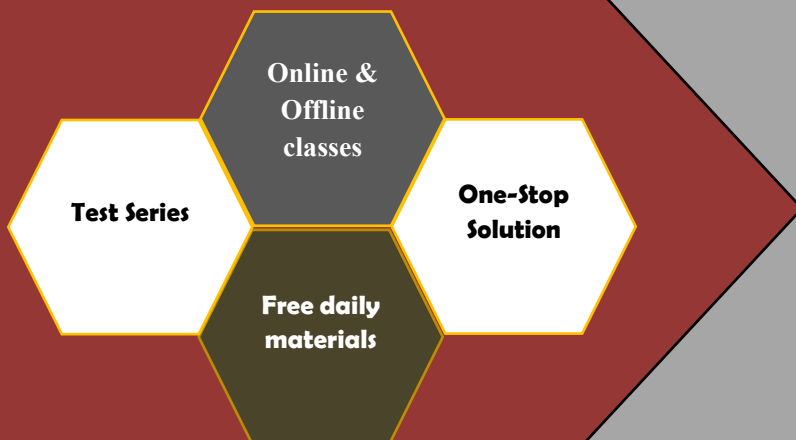
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The Gaon Buras

Notes for civil services preparation



UPSC

General Studies

The Gaon Buras

- Recently, the **Assam Cabinet** announced that **Gaon Buras**, village-level functionaries of the district administration, **will be called 'Gaon Pradhans'**.
- The government has reasoned that a number of young men (and women) become Gaon Buras, and thus, the word 'Bura' (meaning old in Assamese) is no longer appropriate.

Key Points

About:

- Gaon Buras are the **village headmen**. They are the eyes, nose, ear of the district administration at the village level
- There are **about 6,000 Gaon Buras in Assam**. Women 'Gaon Buras' are not very **common** and they take over, if their husbands die.

A brief History:

- It **belongs to the colonial era**, when the British appointed the oldest person in the village as the head, who would oversee matters relating to land and revenue in a particular
- **Post-independence**, the government continued with the institution and **made the Gaon Bura a formal part of the Assam Revenue and Disaster Management department**, increasing his responsibilities, and eventually introducing a small honorarium for the role.
- In **Arunachal Pradesh, too**, the Gaon Buras (and Buris) are the most important village-level functionaries.

Duties:

- Maintaining a **population register of the village**, maintaining **land records, helping police investigate crime, etc.**
- It **involves now maintaining a log of Covid-19 cases in the village**, organising vaccination camps, functioning as booth-level officers during elections
- To issue a '**Gaon Bura certificate**', a certificate that determines the permanent residency in a particular etc.
- It became crucial during the **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** for women to establish linkages with their husbands and parents.