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EMERGENCY CHAPTER IN CLASS 9 TEXTBOOK

- While this topic was included as part of the Class 12 syllabus in 2007 during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) rule, it has now been added to the Class 9 textbook for the first time.
- When the Emergency was enforced in the country from 1975 to 1977, significant challenges were recorded in Indian democracy. Public dissatisfaction grew against the government led by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- Allegations of administrative mismanagement led to widespread protests. On June 25, 1975, a national Emergency was imposed in the country.
- During that period, most of the fundamental rights of the citizens were suspended. The press was subjected to censorship. Numerous political leaders and social activists were arrested.
- Democratic institutions were subjected to severe pressure, and citizens' freedom was restricted.

ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA

- Ration goods are provided to poor families below the poverty line under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme. Currently, 35 kg of rice or wheat is provided free of cost per month.
- Namely, the Central Government is considering providing 7 kg of food grains per person under this scheme. Accordingly, a family with only 2 members would receive a total of 14 kg of free food grains (7 kg per person), while a family with 5 or more members would receive a maximum of 35 kg of free food grains per month.
- The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is considering bringing an amendment to the National Food Security Act, 2013 to implement this scheme.
- The Union Food Ministry has requested the public to submit their feedback regarding this amendment by July 13.
- If this legislative amendment is passed and comes into effect, the 35 kg of free food grains currently provided every month under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme at ration shops will be discontinued.
- Instead, free food grains will be distributed, calculated at a rate of 7 kg per person. At that time, since small families with fewer than 5 members will receive food grains according to their headcount, the quantity of free food grains allocated to them may decrease.

PASSPORT WAS NEVER CONSIDERED A CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENT – CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- The Ministry of External Affairs recently stated that a passport is only a travel document and not proof of citizenship. According to the Passports Act, 1967, a passport can be issued even to non-citizens of a country, because a passport is merely a travel document, not proof of citizenship.
- They also stated that the Bombay High Court clarified in a 2013 verdict that a passport is not a citizenship document.
- During the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral roll conducted by the Election Commission, the Supreme Court clarified that Aadhaar is not a citizenship document, but only an identity document. Currently, the Central Government has clarified that a passport is also not a citizenship document.
