



Operation Upalabdh: RPF

Why in News?

Recently, **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** conducted a Pan India Drive against the alleged **black marketeers** under **Operation Upalabdh**.

- Earlier in February 2022, the RPF had launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking named **Operation AAHT**.

What is Operation Upalabdh?

- The month-long drive under **Operation Upalabdh** has been able to **curb the activities of touts substantially and make railway tickets available to the common man**.

What is the Railway Protection Force?

- The contingent of RPF is **an Armed Force of the Union of India**. It is a security force under the **ownership of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways**.
 - The history of the RPF dates back to **1882** when various railway companies appointed their own guards for protection of railway property.
- The force was **declared as statutory force in the year 1957** by an enactment of Parliament subsequently **declared as an Armed Force of the Union of India in the year 1985**.
- The RPF Rules were enacted in 1959 and **RPF Regulations published in 1966**. In the same year, some limited powers to apprehend and prosecute offenders involved in railway property were conferred on the Force by enacting the **Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966**.
- Primarily RPF has been entrusted with **responsibility of the safety of Railway property**. But, while the provisions of RPF Act were soon found wanting for the maintenance of an effective and disciplined Force, the RPF Rules and Regulations too were found judicially unsound.
 - The **RPF Act, 1957** was accordingly modified by **Parliament** in 1985 for the constitution and maintenance of the Force as an armed force of the Union.
- This Force draws its men from all parts of the country and thus takes pride in reflecting a **truly national character and image**. The Force has earned recognition and glory since its inception.

Source: PIB