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APSC Mains 2023 TS - 14 (GS Paper 5)

Duration – 3 Hrs

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(Please fill your details correctly)

Medium:

English ☐

Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	
1	10		Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: • There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH. • All questions are compulsory. • The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. • The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 20 marks. • Content is more important than the number of words. • Answers must be written in the medium authorised in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorised one. • Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off
2	10		
3	10		
4	10		
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11	15		
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14	15		Remarks: Signature of the Student:
15	15		
16	15		
17	15		
18	15		
19	15		
20	15		
TOTAL:	250		



Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper

	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Understanding the context and demand of the questions					
Relevancy of the content					
Structure and flow of the answer					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Body					
(c) Conclusion					
Subject knowledge					
Language of the answer					
Presentation					
(a) Underline to the keywords					
(b) Use of flowcharts or diagrams					
(c) Paragraph limits and overall					
Understanding of directives					
Factual correctness					
Overall performance					

Detail Feedback

Q1. Enumerate the measures taken by the Assam government in the achievement of zero poaching of the Rhinos (10 marks/150 words)

Assam has witnessed one of the major landmark in its recent history as the state has experienced zero death of rhinos due to poaching for the first time in 45 years. Such a landmark milestone could only be achieved due to tremendous effort of the concerned stakeholders in eradicating the menace of poaching.

Measures taken by Assam Govt.

→ Coordinated and coordinated effort between the Police Department as well as the State Forest Department.

→ Collaboration with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for upgradation

of existing methodology of tackling the poachers.

→ ~~Preventing~~ Preventing the access of the core rhino inhabited area to the insurgent groups thereby breaking the nexus between the poachers and the insurgents.

→ Upgradation of the forest officers with modern arms and ammunition to tackle the poacher's weaponary.

→ Bringing attitudinal change by burning the poached rhino horns in public to send a message to the poachers.

→ Creation of special task force and use of technology like GIS, satellite mapping etc.

Thus, with well concerted and co-ordinated effort, Assam government has come a long way to ensure that Assam remains a safe abode for the one-horned rhino.

Q2. Write a short note on Oja Pali.

(10 marks/150 words)

Oja Pali is one of the oldest and the most prominent folk dance form of Assam. It has been practised in Assam since the time of Ancient civilisation ~~evidence of which can be found in Kalikapurana~~ traces of which can be found in Pre Ancient Janrupa civilisation.

Oja Pali as a dance form is practised mainly in the lower Assam region, mostly in the Darrang and its adjoining area of Assam.

Oja Pali comprises of the themes related to Mahabharata, Ramayana and other

tales of Lord Rama, Vishnu and
 Krishna. Along with the dance
 performances, the main leader
 of the group is known as
Dja Pali who orchestrates the
 entire performance followed by
 his group members.

The dance form
 also includes folk instruments
 like Khol, taal etc to present a
mesmerising ambience to the
 viewers.

Thus Dja Pali with
 its unique style of dance, as
musical instruments and way of
story telling forms an indispensable
 part of Assamese culture and
 heritage.

Q3. Examine the Constitution and functioning of Assam State Information Commission? (10 marks/150 words)

Assam State Information Commission is a statutory body constituted under the provision of the Right to Information (RTI) Act of 2005.

It is one of the major body constituted by the Government to make improvement in citizen centric governance as well as enhance transparency and accountability of the Government towards the Public.

[Constitution] & [functioning]

→ Assam State Information Commission shall consist of a

Chief Information Commissioner :

① It shall consist of not more than ten (10) other information commissioners .

② The Chief information Commissioner and the other information commissioners shall hold office for a fixed tenure of 3 years till the age of 62 years whichever comes earlier .

③ They shall be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation by a committee consisting of Chief Minister as Chairman, Leader of opposition of the State Legislative Assembly and a State Cabinet Minister .

④ The commission reveals any information on part of the government on account of any RTI filed .

Commission incurs accountability and transparency relating to any enquiry initiated against the Govt.

This Assam State Information Commission is the backbone of ensuring a transparent and accountable Government .

Q4. Discuss the importance of jute industry in the Economy of Assam?
(10 marks /150 words)

~~Q4~~ Favourable climatic condition with nutritional and rainfall, over 150 cm. Assam has over 7,00,000 hectares.

Under Jute cultivation is the central and the lower valleys

of Assam, Jute industry assumes tremendous importance in the economy of Assam.

Importance of Jute Industry

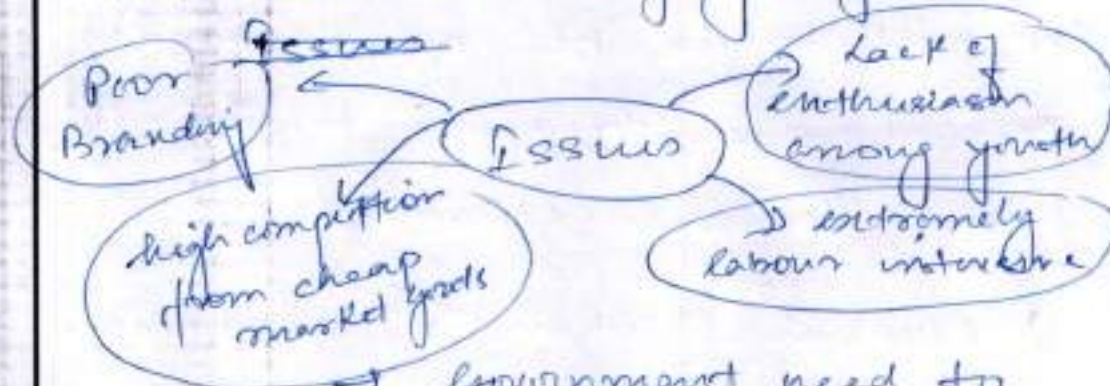
→ ~~that~~ ^{owing} to its huge cultivable land, it provides ~~employment~~ ^{livelihood} to thousands of farmers in the central and lower valley of Assam.

⇒ Assam Jute Mill Pvt Ltd. at Silghat (Nagaon) provides employment opportunities to hundreds of people.

⇒ Jute Bags - purse - belts and other items present alternative source of income for the rural people. It leads to diversification of income.

⇒ It is labour intensive . can provide employment to rural women

⇒ Jute bags are also used in packaging of food grain , thereby giving it a big boost for its production , enhancing the economy . However inspite of its significance , jute growth in Assam has remained stagnant .



→ Government need to encourage youth of jute product and its benefit .

→ It should create awareness regarding the dangerous implication of using non-biodegradable items , with Assam and the world economy moving more towards green economy , jute industry have immense opportunities to contribute the economic progress of the state .

Q5. Write a short note on Nilmoni Phookan Jr.

(10 marks/150 words)

Nilmoni Phookan Jr.
 is one of the most ~~most~~
 prominent literary giant of
 the Assamese literature history.
 His works and contribution to
 Assamese literature has ~~has~~
 created a golden phase in the
 modern Assamese literature
 and will forever be remembered
 as one of the treasure houses
 of the Assamese literature.
 Nilmoni Phookan Jr's magnanimous
 works and contribution
 has earned him the title
 'Mohiroh' in the Assamese
 literature community.

front Notable works and
contribution

→ Surya Henu Nami Aake
Si Nodiyed

→ Gulapi Jamun Lapra

→ Kabita, are some
 of his prominent works.

• He has also been

a recipient of the most
 prestigious Sahitya Academy Borda.

and for his tremendous lifetime
 contribution in the field of Assamese
 Literature, he was conferred

Gyanpeeth Award ^{in 2022}, the highest
 literary award ~~that~~ conferred in
 the country.

Q6. Discuss the initiative taken by Government of Assam in sphere of rural development in Assam. (10 marks / 150 words)

~~Rural~~ Assam being an agricultural economy is still largely rural based economy. Rural economy and rural development is indispensable for overall development of Assam's economy as a whole.

Assam government has off late taken numerous initiative for the rural development of Assam.

Various initiatives

in the field of Agriculture

→ Amkhyo Mondri
Krishi Bika Yojana.

⇒ Atukyo Kanti Sanyali
Yojana

Assam government has also collaborated with the World Bank regarding development of the fishing industry of Assam.

→ Ghor Ghor Pukhuri Ghor Ghor
Khas is one of the major initiatives by the Assam government to promote community fishing.

⇒ APART scheme with collaboration with World Bank to enhance value chain and promote agribusiness of the region.

in field of women empowerment

↓ ↓

Orinoderi Scheme Swarnikhar Nari

in the field of health

↓ ↓

Aparshakti Bharti State Health Mission

Thus, Assam government has taken numerous initiatives in aspects like agriculture, allied industry, health and education.

Q7. Discuss the nature of economy in Ancient Kamrupa (10 marks/150 words)

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anything beyond
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Q8. Write a brief essay on Pre Vaishnavite Literature?

(10 Marks/150 words)

Pre - vaishnavite literature is one of the prominent phase of Assamese literature ~~of~~ through its long glorious history.

The major theme of the Pre - vaishnavite literature included the stories from Mahabharata, Ramayana and the puranic tales of vedas and Puranas. The scholars ~~mostly~~ of this era mostly engaged in translation from Sanskrit literature but yet induced local flavour to lay the foundation of some

most from literary works in the 12th to 14th centuries.

Prominent Scholars of the Pre-Vaishnavite Era —

① Rudra Kandali —

He was one of the most prominent scholars under the patronage of Tamradhuj. He translated some portions of Draupadiya.

② Madhav Kandali — He

translated the Saptapadaka Ramayana, one of the first in the country to translate Ramayan in the local language.

③ Hem Saraswati composed Harinar Bija, one of the prominent literary works of the time.

④ Lakshmi Yuddha (Babrubahar Yuddha) are some of the other literary works of the time.

This entire Patraunga of the like Dirlaharayan, etc. Tamradhuj & Kachhikar, Pre-Vaishnavite literature flourished greatly in Assam.

Q9. Discuss the nature of Administration during Ahom Rule. (10 marks/150 words)

Ahom ruled Assam for nearly 600 years and represents one of the most glorious epoch in the History of Assam.

Ahoms had a well designed layout for carrying out the Administration of its large territory that it ruled.

→ Sukapha introduced two frontier officers — Borzaphair and Borzohari. Each of them were given independent territories to look after.

Borzohari
 west of the
Burhi River.

Borzaphair
 from east to
Goalandha river.

o Later on Sukhagme introduced the post of Sadije Khona Gohain and Koranyi Khoni Gohain to enhance better administration.

o Pratap Singh introduced the post of Borhona and Borphenon.
 east of Kapili River. west of Kapili
 and in charge
 of Lower Assam.

o Ahoms followed the followed the Paik System developed by Komai Tamuli Borborua.
 under the Paik System.

Each Paik had to render service to the state in lieu of land which were not hereditary.

4 Paiks → 1 got

Squad of 20 Paiks → headed by Mura

Squad of 100 Paiks → headed by Mazarike.

Squad of 1000 Paiks → headed by Saika.

Every adult (18-50 years) constituted a Paik in Ahom administration.

o Ahoms also followed the POSA System to inculcate the tribals in their Kingdom.
 Thus, Ahoms had a well designed administrative machinery to control the large Kingdom.

Q10. Give a brief account of the evolution of Assam Legislative Assembly?

(10 marks/150 marks)

Assam Legislative Assembly
has its origin to the Indian
Council Act of 1861. ~~It~~

1861 Act didn't have a State
Legislative Assembly on its own.

- In 1905 - Assam merged
with Bengal and went under
Chief Commissioner Province.

- In 1905 - 1911, Assam
remained under Chief Commissioner
Province, which had 34 members
 29 nominated, 5 elected.

- With G.O. 1919 - Assam's
Legislature Seat was increased upto
108.

- o ~~Assam State Legn~~ After the abolishment of state Legislative Council, Assam Legislative Assembly came into being in April 1, 1937 as per GOI Act of 1935.
- o After independence and separation from ~~Legislat~~ Sylhet, the legislative strength of Assam was reduced from 108 to around 70.
- o First Legislative Assembly took place in Shillong and the seats were again increased up to 108.
- o The Assembly undergone numerous change in its strength owing to bifurcation of Assam into neighbouring states of NE.
- o Finally Assam Legislative Assembly reached its final tally of 126 seats in 1972 and has been the same since then.

Q11. Of late, Guwahati and other places in Assam are experiencing earthquake jerks of milder intensity, measuring around 3 on the Richter Scale (R). In this context explain why Assam is vulnerable to earthquake? (15 marks/250 words)

Assam along with entire
North-eastern Region is one of
 the most disaster prone areas
 of the entire country. The
~~states~~ vulnerability ~~portion~~ of ~~Assam~~
earthquake of the country accounts for
around 56%, which makes
 earthquake one of the most
 frequently occurring as well as
 high risk disaster of the
 country.

Reasons of Assam's
vulnerability to earthquake

→ Assam lies in the seismic zone V, one of the most dangerous earthquake zones of the country.

→ Assam lies in the seismically active zone as the region lies in the collision tectonic of the Indian and the Eurasian Plate and the submergence tectonic of the Indo-Australian Plate.

→ Subduction of the Indian plate under the Eurasian Plate creates major fault lines in the region, which attributes to frequent earthquakes in the region.

→ Presence of Kapili fault line is one of the major factor that the state experiences such major earthquakes.

→ Kapili fault extends from the south of the Kaimphar range to the confluence of the Karm, Bhotan and Arunachal Pradesh river.

→ Kapili fault is a very long narrow belt 300 km long and 50 km wide (lineament) which causes major earthquakes in the adjoining areas of the fault.

→ Alluvial soils of the region is one another cause for recurrence of earthquakes in the region, as the alluvial soil trap the earthquakes much better than the other soil types.

→ Hilly terrain and the explosion related to developmental and infrastructural activities is another factor of earthquakes in the region.

→ Housing in the slopes without proper planning also attributes to frequent earthquakes in the region.

Therefore, serious planning and integration strategies needs to be developed in order to improve the risk assessment and disaster response related to earthquakes or AEs.

Q12. Assam has decided to launch a state-wide crackdown against child marriage. In this Context Mention some Initiative Taken by Assam Government with special reference to POCSO Act. Also Give Some Suggestion to eradicate Child Marriage in Assam?
(15 marks/250 words)

Child marriage is one of the major menace of the society as a whole. Assam in particular has high infant mortality rate (IMR) as well as maternal mortality rate (MMR) than the national average of the two indices respectively. Such a dismal poor record of IMR and MMR of the state and poor performance in other health related indices, can be largely attributed to the child marriage largely prevalent in the state.

Recently, Assam government has initiated a crackdown on the violators of the ~~child~~ Prohibition of child marriage Act of 2006.

Initiative taken by the Assam government:

→ Assam government has ordered strict punishment to the violators of Prohibition of child marriage Act, 2006, putting them in jail in non-bailable offence.

→ government has intended to provide ^{social} security to the girls of the poor and the marginalised community.

→ Pre-education and

→ Government has induced the POCSO Act, by punishing anyone engaged in marriage ~~under 18 years~~ of girls under 18 years.

→ Under the POCSO Act, anyone indulging in sexual activities with a ~~man~~ with a girl below 18 years is punishable by law.

→ Government has strictly enforced the implementation of the POCSO Act in a urgent basis.

→ Government has embarked upon creating awareness drive regarding ~~the~~ prevalence of child marriage and its disastrous aftermath.

Some other suggestions
to eradicate child marriage is

1. Awareness

Programs regarding legal punishments associated with child marriage
strict implementation

of the POCSO Act.

2. Social education.

Child marriage is a social evil.

Proper education among the girls in
the rural and the marginalized
society can go a long way to
attitudinal change towards child
marriage.

Government should focus more
on capacity building of the girls
as well as the men in the more
vulnerable districts.

Proper coordination between
the Police force as well as
~~And~~ State Commission on Women
and Social Development is needed.

Child marriage is a
social evil. Only a proper balance between
the legal application and

Q13. One of the important focus of Assam's Annual Budget 2023 is Prioritizing infrastructure and self-employment. Elucidate this statement? (15 marks/250 words)

Assam government has recently revamped the budgetary allocation to give a massive impetus to infrastructure and self-employment in the region.

Apart from the rural development as well as various schemes for the poor and the marginalised for improving socio-economic development of the state, government of Assam has pushed for massive infrastructural projects as well as promote

self-employment to improve the economic progress of the state of Assam.

→ Assam government has initiated massive infrastructural push to boost the connectivity of Assam.

→ It has initiated ASOMMALA — mega initiative to connect the state highways and numerous link roads to provide better connectivity.

→ Government has made multi-modal push to boost infrastructural prospects of the region.

→ government of Assam has also initiated infrastructural development in the field of wildlife by building wildlife Care and Rehabilitation centres around Manas and Kaziranga.

→ Kaziranga elevated corridor is one of the mega infrastructural push of ~~the~~ Assam government for safe cohabitation of animals and humans in a sustainable manner.

→ Recently Assam government has allocated more money for more flyover construction in the Lynxahadi city to lessen the traffic congestion of the city.

→ Govt. has laid the foundation for

a new directorate in Borkhachi, to bring all the Departments under one roof to improve governance in public delivery.

→ To improve better policy and communications, new police commissionerate is being built at Khanapara.

Government is also focussing more towards self-employment in recent years -

→ It is focussing more on MSME through Kukhyo Kanti Logha Udyog Asan.

→ Through the scheme, government is providing one crore capital investment of 50,000 as well as subsidy to the entrepreneur.

→ It is focussing more on the start up culture by allocating more money through Suami Vidhanade Yojna entrepreneurship scheme.

→ Government is promoting more on start-up culture by collaborating with private enterprises like

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etc. Thus govt of Assam has come a long way in recent years to expedite the economic progress of Assam.

**Q14. Discuss the contribution of Robert Bruce in development of tea industry.
(15 marks/250 words)**

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Q15. Critically examine the features of Orunodoi Scheme?
(words)

(15 marks/250 words)

Orunodoi Scheme is one of the flagship scheme of the Government of Assam to enhance the socio-economic condition of the society.

- It was first started in the year 2020.

- Orunodoi scheme was designed to uplift the women empowerment.

- Under the scheme, monthly assistance of Rs. 800 was given to the women of the intended beneficial family.

- o Priority was given to the women who were ~~widowed~~ ^{widowed} / divorced / separated / single parents and the poor and the destitute.
- o Monthly assistance of Rs. 800 were subsequently increased to Rs. 1000 and currently it is given at Rs. 1600.
- o A list of beneficiaries are being prepared to which the intended financial assistance is provided in a Direct Benefit Transfer Mode.
- o The scheme allow the women to have a better choice at their expenditure.

• The Scheme ~~provide~~ acted as a livelihood for the rural poor in the time of COVID.

• The scheme provided the beneficiaries to procure food items as well as medicines, improving the nutritional security of the poor and the underprivileged.

However, the scheme has some major loopholes undermining its beneficial objectivity.

Major Loopholes

→ Pradhan Mantri Arogya Yojana (PM-AAY) scheme has failed to address the ghost beneficiaries.

- The scheme has if there are reports of benefit of the scheme to be enjoyed by the rich and the poor alike.
- Money sometimes is not transferred at a timely manner.
- It is criticised as being a burden on the ex-chequers money.
- The scheme seems to make the women folk reluctant to work for better employment opportunities.

Thus, although a well intended scheme, Amroli Scheme has some loopholes, yet has come a long way in uplifting the rural and poor families and improving their

Q16. What are some prominent agricultural festivals celebrated in Assam?

(15 marks/250 words)

Assam is a land of distinct culture and heritage. It boasts of numerous communities, tribes and sub tribes to represent a tremendous ethnic mosaic in the region. Coupled with agrarian economy and mostly a rural livelihood with agriculture still ruling the roost of the major communities of Assam, Assam celebrates numerous festivals related to agriculture across its various communities.

Some of the major agricultural festivals of Assam are -

1) Bihu - Bihu is one of the most prominent festival of Assam celebrated among the Assamese society. It is celebrated on the Poh - Bihu Sankranti, on the occasion of a good harvest. It is celebrated in the month of January.

2) Ali-Ai-Liyang - Ali-Ai-Liyang is one of the major festival celebrated among the prising tribe. It is celebrated on the first Wednesday of their new harvest cycle with their cultivation.

It is a spring festival associated with Ahom paddy cultivation. Hi-meas root, di-meas fruit, ligay implei sowing. Jumong Dance is one major dance form associated with the festival.

- ① Karlam Puja - It is one of the major festival among the tea communities of Assam. Puja is held around a Karlam tree for proper harvest in the season.
- ② Teng Puja is another important festival of the tea community of Assam.
- ③ Rongkher is another agricultural festival celebrated among the Korbi Tribes.

of Assam is the year of
 Karbi Anglong.

- Tea festival is important festival celebrated in the city of Jorhat owing to its numerous tea estates and gardens.

- Baisagu is an important agricultural festival celebrated among the Bodo Community of Assam.

Thus Assam with its rich ethnic diversity coupled with close association with agriculture, for livelihood, celebrates an array of agricultural festivals throughout the state.

Q17. Discuss the architectural features of Maidams of Assam.
(words)

(15 marks/250 words)

Maidams of Charaideo are one of the majestic architecture of the Ahom Period.

Charaideo maidams were the burial grounds of the Ahom royalites, nobles and other monarchial positions.

These maidams are also known as pyramids of Assam owing to its close resemblance with the pyramidal structures of Egypt.

owing to the rich history of Assam and Ahoms great legacy, the

Maidams of Charnides were recently proposed by the government for a UNESCO World Heritage Site for Cultural and Historical importance.

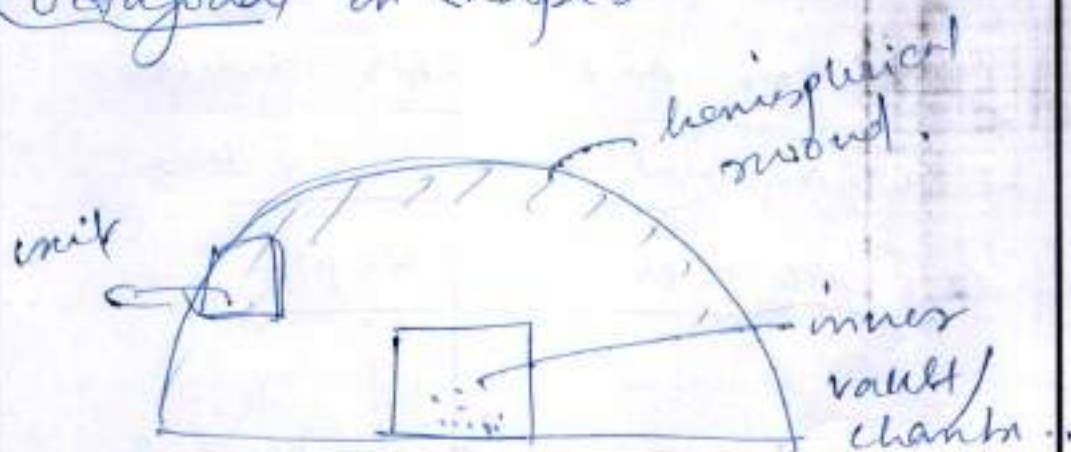
Architecture of the Maidams

→ Maidams had a inner vault or a chamber where the mortal remains of the deceased were kept.

→ Maidams resembled a hemispherical domical structure covering the inner vault/chamber.

→ The outer hemispherical mounds are generally built with bricks, where prayers could be offered to the moshta of the deceased.

→ The boundary walls of the maidams were generally octagonal in shape.



→ The maidam had an exit entrance towards the west of the hemispherical mound.

Today, only around
100s of maidans are preserved
out of 350 maidans. Remains
of Cheraider represent in
lasting memories of the
epoch of the Alom Dynasty
and its glories and are indeed
some of the majestic architectural
development of the medieval
Assam.

Q18. As in other parts of India, the people of Assam also joined the revolt. Unfortunately, the revolt failed to achieve its aim. In this context discuss the causes for revolt in 1857 in Assam and mention why did it fail? (15 marks/250 words)

1857 Revolt of India
 is often cited as the first
 war of Independence of the Modern
 India against the colonial
 oppression of the British.
 Just like the
 Revolt of 1857 ignited the
 rebellious freedom fire among
 the rest of the country, Assam
 too witnessed the valour of
 the 1857 revolt to upsurge
 the British establishment
 at the earliest.

Cause of 1857 Revolt in Assam

→ The ~~movement~~ could
in Assam welcomed British
to provide them relief from
the Burmese oppression.

However, sooner the true
adversities of the colonial
rule became evident among
the masses.

→ Colonial oppression
in terms of increased taxation,

→ restoration of old monarchy
under Kardexpeethwar Singh,
as Assamese people felt their
interest could be best protected

- by the monarchy.
- oppression colonial
rules and regulation in
tea plantation.
 - High Revenue and destruction
of the traditional rural
economy and institutions by the
British.
 - close Association with
Bengal, which was a nerve
centre for the revolt.

Causes for
failure

- Lack of leadership
among the Assamese
rebels.

- Assamese leaders failed to maintain their secrecy among themselves.
- Leakage of information prior to the actual events failed their rebellion attempts.
- Lack of organisation and communication among the leadership.
- Poor awareness among the masses.
- Brutal crackdown by the British on the rebel leaders fizzled out the movement.
- Although Assam took a spirited part in the revolt of 1857, yet it fizzled out in due time.

Q19. Critically examine the features of Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) in Development of Agriculture Sector.

(15 marks/250 words)

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Q20. Assam is now regarded as a part of biodiversity hotspot. Outline the cause which contribute to the rich biodiversity of Assam. Also draw a sketch of biodiversity in Assam.
(15 marks/250 words)

Assam is one of the most biodiversity rich region of the entire country. Its varied landscape, Arundodors, geography and diverse wildlife makes Assam one of the most ecologically rich region of the world.

Various reasons attribute to the rich biodiversity of Assam.

- The confluence of the Himalayas and the Assam Plateau attributes to major biodiversity of the region.

- Assam lies on the foothills of the Himalayas.
- The region was less populated over the years living Assam in pristine form.
- The confluence of many rivers across the length and breadth of the state also leads to ecological richness.
- Its hot and humid climate with sufficiently high rainfall attributes to tremendous vegetation of the region.

→ Different types of topography and physiography of the region also present a rich ecology of the region.

→ Presence of tropical and ~~and~~ subtropical and deciduous forests owing to varied rainfall pattern presents a better ecological diversity.

→ Its unique peaty and marshy lands boasts some of the most unique fauna of the world ~~pro~~ inhabiting rhinos, swamp deer, tiger, pygmy hog.

and many more species diversity.

→ Assam is also a abode for migratory birds which make them a biodiversity hotspot.