

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.	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
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TOTAL:	250		Remarks: Signature of the Student: 



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

- 1) Enumerate steps by Assam govt. in achievement of zero poaching of Rhinos
- 2) Assam has seen an increase in the Rhino population by 200 in 2022. from 2018. The year 2022 was marked by zero poaching and the current Rhino population stands at 2613.

The measures taken by the Assam government to achieve zero poaching of Rhinos are

- 1) Setting up of night vision cameras
- 2) The forest guards have been given the power to shoot poachers at sight.

- 3) Setting up of high platform
grounds for feeding and protecting
the Rhinos with guards.
- 4) Awareness of the locals regarding
poaching has also helped the cause.
- 5) The government has also put up tags
on the Rhinos for awareness of
their movement.

The CM also sent out a strong
message to poachers when he
participated in a drive where a
massive number of rhinos horns
were sent.

The Assam governments initiatives
need to be applauded. They at the
same time has to keep up the
campaign against poachers with vigour.

Short note on Oja Pali.

2. Oja Pali is a traditional form of dance recital where the divine is praised through songs.

Features of Oja Pali

- 1) Usually enacted by male dancers and instrumentalists
- 2) The performers were Bhoti, 'Suliga', 'Aguri', 'Seleng' etc
- 3) The instruments used are 'Khol', 'Taal', etc.
- 4) Usually performed in local language of accent of the region
- 5) It is a praise of the divine

and prayers to the divine.

- 6) Oja Pali originated in the Cathas.
- 7) There are ~~the~~ two major
distinctions between the performers

↳ gayan : the singers
↳ bayam : the performers

Oja Pali has occupied an
important place in Assamese tradition.

It is performed with great devotion
and usually oja Pali is called to
perform during funerals, festivals etc.

Oja Pali is an art that needs
to be preserved and taken to
the global podium.

Examine constitution & functioning of Assam State Information Commission

3.

The Assam State Information

Commission (ASIC) was constituted as

per the Right to Information (RTI)

Act, 2005

Constitution of ASIC

- 1) State Chief Information officer
- 2) State Information officers (10 nos)

The members of the commission are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of ~~the~~ a committee with

- ↳ Chief Minister (Chairperson)
- ↳ Leader of the Opposition
- ↳ A State Cabinet Minister.

The members of the Information Commission should be eminent

personalities in their fields and should not hold any office of profit.

Functions of ASIC

- Inquiry about provisions of RTI Act
- Report on Implementation of the State Information Commission act which is placed before the legislative assembly
- Recommend steps for Implementation of provisions of the act
- Receive complaints from public and conduct enquiry about the same.
- Power of civil court during the conduction of enquiry

The Assam State Information Commission plays an important role in making the governance process transparent. It also ensures accountability to the public.

Discuss importance of jute industry in Assam economy.

Jute industry plays a vital role in the economy of Assam. Assam is one of the largest producers of jute or golden fibre.

The jute economy is mainly flourishing in the districts of Barpeta, Nagaon, Goalpara of Assam.

Importance of jute industry

- ↳ Livelihood opportunity to farmers and semi-skilled person
- ↳ Jute products like jute bags, carpets, coasters etc - are coming up as products of aesthetic-value in urban cities.
- ↳ The handicraft industry of jute provide opportunity to rural artisans.

- ↳ Jute sacks are used in the packaging of agricultural products like rice, potatoes etc.
- ↳ women self-help groups and NGOs benefit from jute production and value addition industry.

Government Initiatives -

- ↳ MSP for jute.
- ↳ Focus on golden fibre as an alternative source of income for farmers.
Eg: Jute Mela for awareness
- ↳ Machinery supply for modernisation
- ↳ Scientific technique in jute cultivation

If harnessed and utilised properly, the jute industry will contribute a large amount to Assam's economy.

Short note on Nilmoni Phukan Jr.

85) Nilmoni Phookan Jr is a celebrated poet and writer in Assam and also India. He was inspired by French symbolism and the same is reflected in his works.

Few ~~the~~ works of Nilmoni Phukan Jr are -

1) ~~&~~ Poetry

↳ Sampurna Kabita

↳ Iyulapi Tamur Lagna

↳ Selected poems

↳ Nilmoni Phukan's Rachanavali

2) Other works

↳ Chintamani

↳ Sahitya Kala (essays)

~~&~~ Nilmoni Phookan's work has earned him distinguisht distinction among the Assamese

laureates. He has been awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for his poetry collection.

↳ Nilmani Phookan is also the recipient of the Padma Shri (1990)

His ~~poets~~ ^{poems} revolve around the

theme of nature, love but not limited to it. Symbolism infused in poetry

has been able to earn him the fame that he has.

The works of Nilmani Phookan Jr. are a treasure trove of Assamese literature.

Discuss initiatives by Govt. of Assam for rural development

6. The government of Assam has taken several initiatives in the sphere of rural development. Although much has been achieved there is still a long way to go.

Steps by government of Assam

1) ~~ANNE~~ MNREGA

↳ The employment guarantee Act has been implemented and still in force for rural upliftment.

↳ minimum wage benefits

2) Jal Jeevan Mission

↳ to provide drinking water to rural households

3) Pradhan Mantri Arogya Yojana

↳ monthly stipend to BPL families (Rs 1400)

↳ One family, one scheme

- 4) Mukhya Mantri Ayushman Arogya Yojana
↳ improvement of healthcare facilities
↳ health insurance and food security
- 5) Atma Nirbhar Krishi
↳ promotion of millets and mustard in agriculture
- 6) Infrastructure development of schools
- 7) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
↳ road connectivity to villages.
- 8) MM Sva-Niyogon Mission with focus on agriculture, fishery, dairy, handloom.

The initiatives taken by the government are commendable. Proper implementation of these initiatives will uplift the rural areas.

7) Nature of economy of ancient Kamrupa
Ancient Kamrupa was mostly
self-sufficient in its economy.

The economic activities prevalent
in Ancient Kamrupa were mainly-

- 1) Agriculture
- 2) Terracotta
- 3) Weaving and spinning

The features of the economy of
ancient Kamrupa can be inferred
as follows

- 1) Women and men both participated
in economic activities.
- 2) Men usually ploughed the
fields but women participated
in all other agricultural activities.

- 3) The ancient Kaurampa kings had friendly connections with the tribal community and exchange would take place with them for food grains, fishes, etc.
- 4) Ancient Kaurampa rulers also had ties with the kingdoms in rest of India and economic exchanges took place with them.
- Trade and commerce with other kingdoms was common.

The nature of economy in Ancient Kaurampa was thus, more self-reliant. Although there were difficult times because of various factors the rulers managed to have ample for all the ruled.

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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लिखना
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Candidates
must not
write on this
margin

Brief essay on pre-Vaishnavite literature

The pre-Vaishnavite literature of Assam flourished under the ~~patron~~ patronage of the Kamrupa chings.

The Brahmins were the ones vested with the responsibility of education and they would open private schools or 'talis' for fulfilling the purpose.

The pre-Vaishnavite era was marked by literature from the courts of contemporary rulers like

Durlabhmarayan; Indranalayan, Tamradhwaj etc.

The main theme of these literatures are Mahabharat, Ramayanas and some puranas.

The notable scholars during that time were -

- 1) Hem Saraswati - under Dullabhinarayana
↳ wrote Prabhad Charit, Hara Gauri Samhita
- 2) Kaviratna Saraswati - Dullabhinarayana's court
↳ wrote Jayadanth Vadha
- 3) Rudra Kandali → Tamradhvaj's court
↳ translated a portion of Dronaparva
- 4) Harihal Vipra → Kamata mless court
↳ wrote Bobrubahanes Yuddha and Lava-Kushas Yuddha
- 5) Madhav Kandali → Mahamanikya's court
↳ translated Saptakanda Ramayana

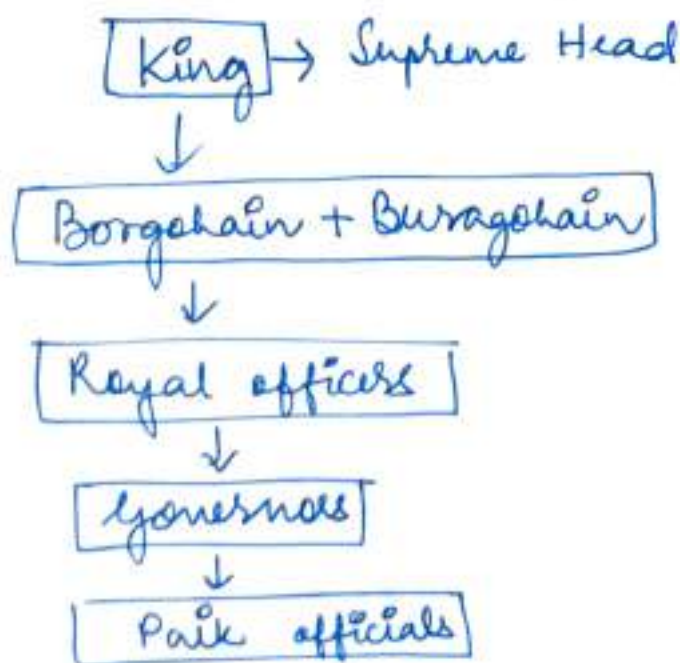
The pre-Vaishnavite literature thus, mainly consisted of works related to the gods and they put local colours to the stories.

Administration during Ahom rule.

The Ahom administration was a strong one which was responsible for the kingdom flourishing for 600 years in Assam.

The Administration of the Ahom kingdom was mostly looked after by the king or Swargadeo and his council of ministers.

The Hierarchy of the administration can be represented as follows -



King

- 1) The king was the supreme head and had to be from the line of Sukapha.
- 2) Succession based on primogeniture.

Dangaria

- 1) Sukapha assisted by Boroghain and Buloghain.
- 2) Later position of Baspatraghain was added.

Royal officers

- ↳ consisted of Barbama, Borpukan
- ↳ other ~~royal~~ officers included Rajkhawa, Kataki, Kekati

Governors

- ↳ the tracts nearby the main kingdom were looked over by them

Paik officials

- Bora — 20 paiks
- Saikia — 100 paiks
- Hazarika — 1000 paiks

The Ahom administration was run efficiently with the help of the ministers and the lower rank officials.

Brief account of Assam Legislative Assembly
Assam did not have its own democratic
institutions under colonial rule until
it was constituted as Chief Commissioners
province in 1912.

The evolution of Assam Legislative
Assembly :

- 1) 1913 — Assam was granted a Legislative
Council by Government of
India Act, 1909
— strength of assembly was (34).
- 2) 1919 — strength of assembly was raised
to (53) (41 elected, 12 nominated)

The government of India Act, 1935 made
legislature in Assam bicameral

- 3) 1937 — Assam Legislative Assembly formed
in Shillong with strength (108).

After partition, the strength was reduced
to (71) but restored later

4) 1947 - Abolition of Assam Legislative Council
 5) Assam separated into smaller states in (1972).
capital was shifted to Dispur.

5) Since 1972, the Assam Legislative Assembly has been placed at Dispur.
 ↳ The strength of the assembly has undergone changes quite a few times
 ↳ The current strength of the assembly stands at (126).

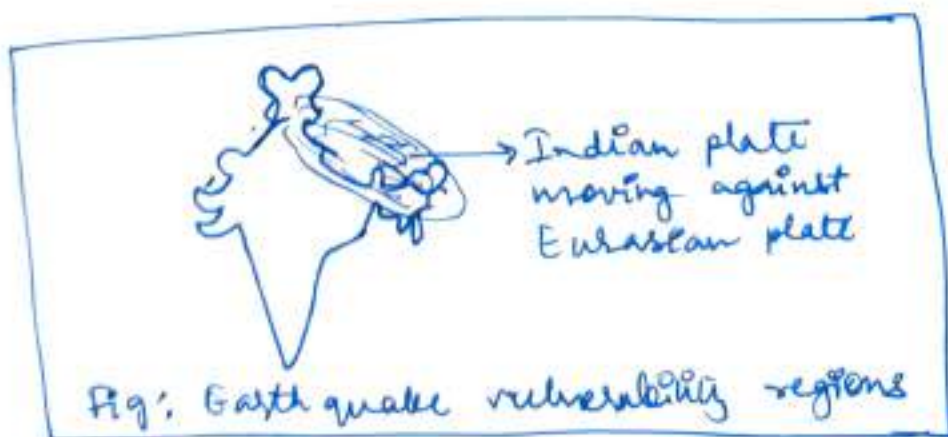
The Assam Legislative Assembly has thus undergone quite a few changes to reach where it is today.
Late Babu Basanta Kumar Das served as the first speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly.

Explain why Assam is vulnerable to earthquakes

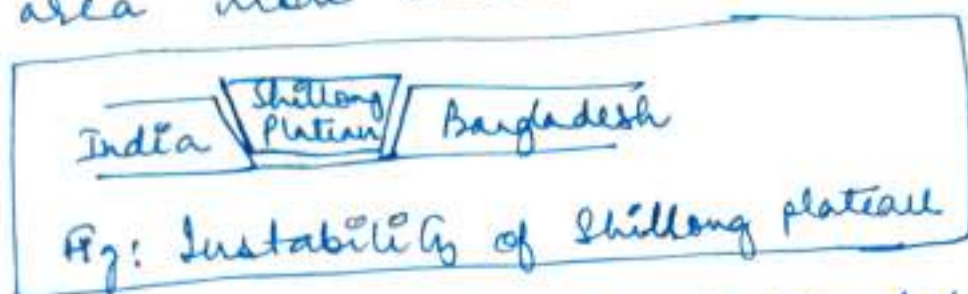
- 1) Assam is a high seismic-prone area. Assam falls under Zone-V of seismic-active regions. The frequent earthquake jerks that the state ~~experiences~~ experiences are a constant reminder that we are at the mercy of nature.

Factors that make Assam vulnerable to earthquakes

- 1) Assam lies in the zone where the Indian plate is thrusting into the Eurasian plate at a speed of about 47 mm/year



2) Moreover, the Shillong plateau makes the area more vulnerable



These are the main factors behind Assam's vulnerability to earthquakes. Assam has experienced two major earthquakes that have changed the geography of the region

↳ Assam earthquake 1897

↳ Assam earthquake 1950.

In this regard, the government should take measures to mitigate the impacts of earthquake through

- ↳ strict implementation of building/construction norms
- ↳ regular checks
- ↳ retro-fitting.

The people of the state should also have community awareness.

The impacts of earthquake are life consuming at the worst. The several impacts of earthquake are

- ↳ loss of life and property
- ↳ landslide
- ↳ damage to livelihood
- ↳ tsunami (in regions situated near seas/oceans)

Since warning system for earthquakes is still not a reality people should always take precautionary measures.

According to Sendai framework, every (\$1) spent on disaster risk helps to gain (\$1). This is relevant for Assam since it is highly vulnerable ^{to} earthquakes.

Initiatives by GoA w.r.t. POCSO Act. Suggest measures to eradicate child marriage.

2) Although there are laws and regulations in place, the cases of child marriages are still prevalent in India. Assam and Rajasthan are leading in such cases.

The Assam government has recently given out strict laws for implementation of the POCSO Act.

The Initiatives taken are -

- 1) Legal action against men who marry girls below (14) years mentioned down and penalised under POCSO Act and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.
- 2) Initiative to make the state free from child marriage in (5) years
- 3) Bal Panchayats have been launched to monitor such cases.

- 4) Establishment of 5 POCsO Courts
in the state to speed up the cases.

The government's crackdown
against child marriage have been
widely appreciated but the social
evil of child marriage must be
eradicated completely. Fear psychosis
might not always be the best
long term solution.

Suggest-

Dangers of child marriage

- 1) Against constitutional values
and rights
- 2) Depriving a child from education
- 3) High rates of infant mortality
rate and maternal mortality rate.

Suggestions to eradicate child marriage.

- 1) Community awareness goes a long way in making people aware about the perils of child marriage
- 2) Implementing mandatory education for girl child upto 16 years strictly
- 3) Punitive action (with POCSO, Child Marriage Act)
- 4) Economic freedom to women
- 5) Decrease rural poverty which acts as a push to child marriage
- 6) Encourage supportive laws and policies implementation at the grass-root level

The evil of child marriage should be eradicated with the help of the government. People should also take active part in such social causes.

One important focus of Assam Budget 2023 is prioritising Infrastructure & self-employment. Elucidate.

2) Assam's Annual Budget 2023 put out

"Alhtadash Mukutar Unmayonee Mela"

so as to ~~put~~ take Assam to a higher place - Special priority has been given for Infrastructure development and improving the self-employment or entrepreneurial scene in the State.

The special schemes mentioned in the Assam budget related to infrastructure are as follows -

1) Improvement of infrastructure of schools -

↳ Prayan Bharati

↳ Under this scheme 500 schools will be given Rs 5 cr each.

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

② growth corridors

↳ For road construction for better connectivity

↳ Mukhya Mantrin (MM) Umoto Pakipath
Nirman Acheñ → upgradation of roads

↳ MM Path Nabikaran Acheñ

③ Establishment of new medical colleges

Eg: Medical college in Nalbari, Nagaoñ

Schemes for self-employment

① Mukhya Mantrin (MM) Sva - Niyogan

Mission

↳ continuation of SVAYEM initiative

↳ 2 lakh seed capital for micro enterprises

② Women self-help groups and home entrepreneurs special benefits from the government.

③ MM Laghu Udyog Udayani Achari

↳ for medium and small enterprises

↳ capital subsidy at 10% with a fixed capital of Rs 50 lakh

The Assam government has focused on infrastructure development and Self-employment with special focus on women empowerment. Women have been offered greater subsidies. Infrastructure push with the help of NIDA has also been initiated.

If the government achieves its mission, Assam will have ample opportunities for all and will be able to establish itself as a growing economy.

Contribution of Robert Bruce in development of tea industry

4 Robert Bruce came to Assam and he was the one to discover tea in 1823 in the upper Brahmaputra valley.

The 'Tea culture' that is so popular across the world today needs to somewhat thank Robert Bruce for the same.

In Assam, the Singphos and the Khamtis used to consume tea but was undiscovered by the rest of the population. Robert Bruce came to Assam and upon mingling with the tribes he discovered tea in Assam. He came in contact with Maniram Dewan, a local, who introduced

him to the Singpho tribes.

Robert Bruce's discovery changed the face of Assam and took it to a global platform. Today Assam is the largest exporter of tea in India. Assam contributes about (10%) of the total tea produced in the world.

Contribution of tea in Assam economy

- ↳ Adds to Assam's foreign exchange earnings
- ↳ 200 years down the lane, Assam still churns out the best quality tea. It also benefits tourism.
- ↳ Employment generation

Prominent agricultural festivals of Assam

16. Assam is an agricultural state. The celebrations around agriculture in the state are festivals that binds the Assamese community together.

Some of the prominent agricultural festivals celebrated in Assam are -

- ① Bihu - It is the most popular festival of Assam and the festival has also managed to reach global liking. Bihu is of three types
- ↳ Bohag Bihu / Rongali Bihu
 - Celebrated in the month of April or Assamese "Bohag"
 - marks the beginning of agriculture
 - traditional dance is performed, community ~~into~~ engages in animal worship

↳ Kati Bihue / Kongali Bihue

- observed during 'Kati' month
- prayers to god to ~~keep~~ harvest safe and have good produce
- 'diya' under Tulsi plant

↳ Behag Bihue / Bhogali Bihue

- ↳ celebrate harvest season
- ↳ community feast

(2) Ali Aye Ligang

- ↳ celebrated by the Hishing tribe
- ↳ marks the beginning of sowing season
- ↳ marked by traditional songs, dances and feasts

(3) Baishagu

- ↳ celebrated by the Bodo community
- ↳ during spring season
- ↳ to express gratitude to nature gods for good produce

④ Jamini Mela

↳ agricultural fair held in Harigaon

↳ ~~fair~~ ^{fair} for trade and commerce of agricultural goods and livestock.

↳ cultural activities are also performed.

The agricultural festivals of the state are celebrated by all communities and they also serve as a tool for social harmony. Old, young, rich, poor all come together to celebrate the festivals. They are a part of Assam's rich heritage.

Architectural features of Maidams of Assam

Maidams are the burial grounds of

the Ahom kings, queens and nobility.

Recently, the Charaideo Maidam has been announced as a UNESCO world Heritage Site.

The Maidams or burial mounds of the Ahom kingdoms have special architectural features as discussed

below —

- 1) Bricks were used for the construction of the maidams or tombs. The baked bricks form a kind of conical structure with a broad dome.
- 2) The shape of the maidams are hemispherical, the top is round.

- 3) The landscape around the maidams ~~at~~ is often crafted beautifully with gardens and ponds. The surrounding landscape of the maidams are made to be aesthetically pleasing.
- 4) Underground chambers are a common feature of the maidams. The mortal remains of the dead were placed and accessed through narrow pathways.
- 5) The maidams are often decorated and have ornamentation. Carvings, motifs of cultural and religious importance ~~etc~~ are found in the maidams.
- 6) The maidams are located in strategic positions - near water bodies or elevated grounds.

The maidams are an example of superiority of Ahom craftsmanship along with their closeness to nature. They also remind us of the spiritual nature of the Ahom ~~which~~ ^{which}.

The preservation and conservation of the maidams are essential to showcase the rich heritage of the Ahom dynasty.

causes of 1857 Revolt in Assam. Discuss failure

Ans) The revolt of 1857 was the first war of independence and Assam was not to be left behind in active participation.

The causes of revolt of 1857 in Assam were as follows -

① While the main causes for the participation in 1857 revolt of Assamese people were not related to Enfield rifle, the causes were mainly agrarian in nature.

1) The tax collection methods were harsh and the economic condition of the people were deteriorating as a result.

2) Assam was annexed to the British rule under the false pretext of maladministration by Lrander Singha in 1838. The people were

holding resentment ^{against} ~~across~~ the British since then.

- 3) The policies introduced by the British went against traditional customs and traditions.

Eg: abolition of slavery, non-conformity with tribal principles of human sacrifice etc.

- 4) The activities of the Christian missionaries raised suspicion among the orthodox people of Assam.

- 5) The aristocracy and nobility of the State did not enjoy benefits they used to earlier under British. Their resentment grew when British policies were against their economic gains.

The people went into revolt in 1857 as a ~~bad~~ result of pent up resentment.

Failure of the revolt

- ↳ lacked co-operation
- ↳ The aristocracy and the peasants all were revolting for their own cause and there was no cohesion between the two.
- ↳ Communication with the rest of the country was poor.
- ↳ All sections of people did not support the revolt.
- ↳ Leadership was not as strong. The only notable leaders were Hanuman Devan, Parnati Barua.

Though the revolt failed but it created in the minds of people new zeal to fight against British injustice.

Critically examine features of APART in Development of Agriculture Sector.

Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project [APART] emphasises on value addition in the production and post harvest products, focus on investment in agribusiness and help in the growth of the medium and small sector enterprises (MSME).

The features and components of APART are :

i ① Component A → Agri-Enterprise

↳ increase the pace of agricultural enterprise growth

↳ attract private ventures

↳ develop value chains, marketing

↳ special incentives for MSMEs.

- (2) Component B - Agro-cluster development
- ↳ 'farm-to-fork' chain development,
i.e. creation of supply chain
from farm to market
 - ↳ establishment of infrastructure
to support supply chains
Eg: warehouses, transportation,
wholesale market

↳ prevent wastage of perishable
goods

↳ Upgrade current available
facilities of storage, transport,
markets

- (3) Component C - Production and Enhancement

↳ promote market-led production

↳ guarantee good prices to
farmers.

↳ climate resilient production

↳ common service centres (CSC)

and market intelligence cell

↳ access of financial services

(4) Component D - Management and Monitoring

↳ to ordinate the implementation of projects across districts

↳ monitoring and evaluation centres for projects

↳ Project Co-ordination and Project - Implementation Units

The APART Project in the Development of Agriculture sector is implemented and monitored efficiently will transform the agricultural sector ^{with} ~~to~~ world-class technologies and opportunities.

Outline cause of contribution to rich biodiversity of Assam. Draw sketch of biodiversity in Assam.

Ans 20. Assam's rich biodiversity has gradually caught the attention of the world and initiatives have been taken to preserve and conserve the same.

Causes for Assam's rich biodiversity

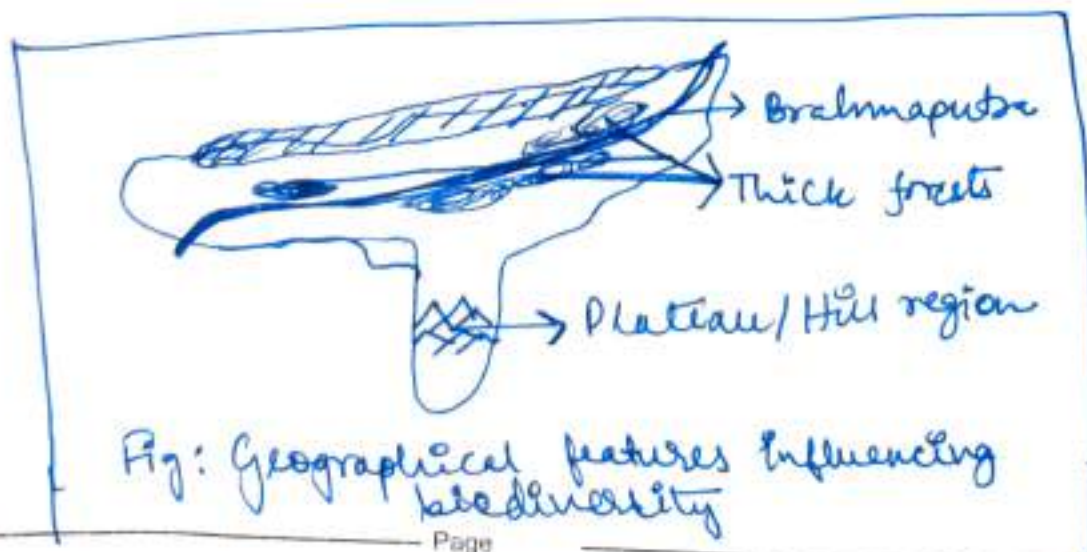
- 1) The Brahmaputra river valley is fertile and hosts a ton of varied flora and fauna.
- 2) Assam is situated on the foothills of the Himalayas or the outer Himalayas which make it fertile ground for hosting a rich biodiversity.
- 3) The area falls in the tropical monsoon zone. Rain, humidity, temperature plays a key role.
- 4) The strategic geographical location of the state — with hills, plains,

river - the state has a host of natural conditions that support variety of biodic species.

- 5) The tribal communities of the state are rooted in nature and play a key role in the conservation.

The tribes in Assam worship natural gods which has helped in the preservation of the state's natural environment.

Biodiversity in Assam



- 1) Rainforests in upper Assam due to frequent rains hosts a number of different species of plants and forest animals
Eg: Moli rainforest in ~~Assam~~, Jorhat; Rainforests in Dibrugarh, Tezpur
 - 2) The aquatic river dolphin or 'Xihui' is found in the Brahmaputra.
 - 3) Trees like Sal, Bel, etc. of economic importance are abundant
 - 4) Bamboo is widely found across Assam
 - 5) 14 species of cane are found in the state
 - 6) Hot springs in Golaghat area hosts a wide variety of endemic flora and fauna
 - 7) Long-tailed orchids, Hargila (storks) are species found specially in Assam.
- Thus, Assam is home to great number of exotic and endemic plants and animals.