

APSC Mains 2023 TS - 6 (GS Paper V)
Duration: 3 hrs

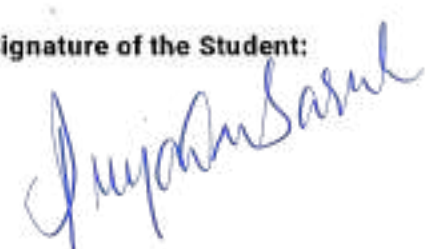
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(Please fill your details correctly)

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 20 questions and 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 15 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 Remarks: Signature of the Student: 
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TOTAL:	250		


SPM IAS ACADEMY
SHRUTI PRAKASHAN
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. Discuss how did Lachit Borphukan succeed in defeating the mighty Mughals under Ram Singh in the 17th century? [10]

Lachit Borphukan, the greatest Ahom general was instrumental in reestablishing Ahom glory after Mian Tumbal's invasion.

- During Chakradhury Singha's reign, Lachit Borphukan led the army to regain control of Guwahati from the Mughals.
- Aurangzeb sent an army under Ram Singh to capture Guwahati.
- Lachit Borphukan used strategic tactics to defeat Ram Singh -
 - 1) He used negotiations as a tool to buy some time to prepare better.
 - 2) Lachit constructed barriers called 'garhs' to obstruct the Mughal Army.
 - 3) Taking advantage of Mughal's naval weakness, the Ahom army cornered them at the Brahmaputra near Saraighat and attacked from all sides.

- 4> It is said, Lachit used small boats to carry out ambush attacks and even released crocodiles on the enemy army.
- 5> Lachit fell heavily ill during the war, but did not backed off and continued to fight.

As a result, the Ahoms inflicted heavy defeat on the Mughals chasing them away. Lachit was a true son of the land, who even executed his uncle in name of the country. He is remembered as an inspiration for all and as the hero of Battle of Saraighat (1671)

2. Give a brief account of Koch architecture in the medieval period. [10]

Koch king Narenarayan was a great patron of art and architecture.

- During his reign, Koch kingdom reached its Zenith. The famous palace of Narenarayan at Loock Behar is a prime example of Koch architecture.
- He also rebuilt the Kamakhya temple in 1515 after it was destroyed by invaders. The temple is a mix of different architectural styles — Nagara, Bengal, Eastern, etc.
- Under Narenarayan's patronage, several batras were built during Sankardev's life, important being the Madhupur batra at Loock Behar.
- Towards later part of the medieval period, Koch architecture drew inspiration from the British in designing their palaces.

Thus, Koch architecture forms a significant part of Assam's heritage and culture.

3. Discuss the contribution of Baptist missionaries in growth of Assamese literature in the 19th century. [10]

The missionaries started coming to India in large numbers in the early 19th century.

- Their main aim was to spread Christianity among the local people.
- In Assam, they printed the first book in Assamese - Dharma Puata, a translation of the Bible.
- In 1846, Nathan Brown published the first Assamese magazine 'Oronodoi' from Sibsagar.
- The British had imposed Bengali as the official language of Assam in the mid 19th century, but the Assamese people were reluctant towards its adoption. Thus, the missionaries printed their books in Assamese and promoted Assamese to spread their messages far and effectively.
- Notable works in Assamese included -
 - First Anglo-Assamese dictionary by Miles Brandon
 - Assamese Grammar Book by W. Robinson
 - Azomiye Bhasar Byakoron - Nathan Brown.

These works have helped keep Assamese language and literature alive through the dark age of Assamese literature, which ended when Assamese was reinstated as official language in 1875.

4. Briefly discuss the origin and main features of Sattriya dance. [10]

Sattriya dance was developed by Sankardeva along the lines of Indian classical dances originating from Bharata's Natyashastra.

- It developed during the 15th and 16th century as part of the Neo-Vaishnavite movement in Assam.
- Sattriya dance can be seen as a part of Ankiya naats (theatre) and stand alone performances, such as Krishna Nritya, depicting the pastimes of Shree Krishna.
- Features of Sattriya -
 - 1> The dance consist of graceful hand and body movements to the tune of music.
 - 2> It depicts Krishna-Radha nritya.
 - 3> The dance comprises of mudras, i.e. hand gestures and emotion display to convey message of love and devotion.
 - 4> In Bhasna, Sattriya is performed by the Butradhaar, i.e. narrator as a means of story-telling.

Sattriya dance is one of the greatest contribution of Sankardeva to Assamese culture, which got recognition of Indian classical dance by Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2000.

5. Give an overview of drug menace prevalent in Assam.

The north-east India lies dangerously close to the Golden Triangle - a international drug trade route, consisting of Thailand, Myanmar, Laos.

- Drugs from Golden Triangle enter India from the north-east and Assam.
- Assam and Guwahati became a gateway to India for drug smuggling.
- Large quantities of heroin, derived from opium plant is smuggled and sold in Assam.
- Yaba, a methamphetamine drug has also started circulating in Assam.

Impacts —

- 1) Drug smuggling provides financing to insurgent groups challenging internal security.
- 2) Drug abuse by youth, making them addicts and unproductive.
- 3) Drugs increased crime in society - petty crimes, gang wars, etc.
- 4) Internal security challenge - Police forces are occupied with drug busts and tracking traffickers.

- 5> Allied activities like prostitution, arm smuggling, etc. accompany drugs trade.
- 6> Spread of diseases like HIV-AIDS due to use of same syringes for drug intake

Thus, drugs are a bane to economy and society and destroys the youth especially. It is a part of directive principles of state to prohibit drugs for which, the Assam government has started large scale crackdown on drugs trade in the state.

6. Highlight the objectives of Assam climate change Management society. [10]

7. Briefly discuss the contribution of Upendranath Brahma towards development of Bodo community. [10]

The Bodo community is one of the most important and among the earliest inhabitants of Assam.

With the passage of time and spread of development across all regions, the Bodos were somewhat left out of the mainstream of development.

This led to rise of a new Bodo consciousness during the early 20th century, which saw Bodos raising their voices for development and cultural preservation.

Upendranath Brahma was one of the most inspiring and remarkable Bodo leaders of 20th century.

- He was a Bodo student leader and founded the Bodo Chetra Sammihan i.e. Bodo Students Union.
- He led the movements for recognition of Bodo culture and language.
- Due to his contributions, he is fondly called as 'Bodofa' and his birthday has been declared as Students Day in Assam.

The long term effects of leaders like Upendrenath Brahma was, that -

- Bodo language got recognition of Scheduled language under Schedule VIII of Indian constitution. It has also been declared Assam's associate official language.
- Setting up of Bodo Sahitya Sabha in 1952.
- Political autonomy to Bodos.

8. Discuss the scope of organic agriculture in North East with reference to Assam. [10]

Organic agriculture is the cultivation of crops without using chemicals, such as fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

- It depends on organic manure and natural pesticides, weedicides, such as neem, etc.

Organic agriculture is quite suitable for the north-east and Assam because —

- 1> Natural fertility of soil
- 2> Availability of natural organic manure, such as cow dung, etc.
- 3> Traditional cropping methods, which are organic by nature & origin.

In fact, Bhikkim has become the first completely organic state in India.

- The scope of organic farming can be extended to plantations such as tea, rubber, etc., farm forestry, mixed-farming, as well as, horticulture.
- High population of livestock and availability of pastures helps to create stock of organic manures.

As we have seen in other states,
overuse of chemicals is harmful both
to the soil as well as humans.

Therefore, in order to promote
sustainable development, organic
farming can prove to be of great
importance.

9. Highlight some of the important reasons behind the closure of Paper Mill Industries in Assam. [10]

In Assam, paper mills were set up by Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPCL) at Cachar and Jagir Road (Nagav)

- Initially successful, these paper mills later fell into debt, bankruptcy and ultimately closed down.
- The employees were left without jobs and overdue salaries.

The main reasons for the closure were -

- 1) Mismanagement - There was large scale mismanagement and corruption in HPCL, even at higher levels which led to losses.
- 2) Competition - Newer companies set up and imports of paper from other states led to decline in market share.
- 3) Lack of government intervention - The government did not intervene timely to avoid the collapse.
- 4) No proper audit mechanism - This caused much damage in the company balance sheets, due to lack of accountability.

The closing down of the paper mills pushed a large number of people into unemployment, and they were forced to live a life of poverty.

Recently, the Assam Government acquired the assets of the paper mills and provided some relief to the ex-employees.

10. What is "Madia Birabala"? Enumerate the provisions of Assam Wild Hunting Act 2015.

[10]

11. Give an account of epigraphic sources of ancient Assam. [15]

Epigraphic sources like the copper plate inscriptions are a major archaeological source which helps to decipher the history. They provide much information about the rulers and dynasties, the battles as well as aspects of social and religious life of those times.

The copper plates were issued by kings to commemorate major events like battles and giving land alms to the people.

These copper plate inscriptions were in verse or prose describing the glory of the king and the line of kings before them.

The epigraphic sources of Assam throw light on the major dynasties of the Kamrupa Kingdom in ancient Assam (3rd - 10th century AD)

- Varman kingdom
- Mlechha or Saletthamba dynasty.
- Pala dynasty.

The important epigraphic sources are listed below —

Varman Dynasty -

- Badaganga epigraph - This was issued by Bhutivarman.

- Dubi and Nidhanpur grants -

These land grants were issued by Kumar Bhaskar Varman, the greatest Varman ruler to commemorate the victory over Gaud King Sasanka and capture of his capital Karnasuvarna.

Mleccha dynasty

- Parbatia, Tezpur copper plates - issued by Vana Mala.
- Huyangthel copper plate - This was discovered in Karbi Anglong and was issued by Harjona Varman.

Patka dynasty

- Ulubari, Nagaon copper plates - Bala Varman II.

Pala dynasty

- Guwahati, Gaukuchi - Indra Pala copper plates
- Sualkuchi, Uttarbil - Ratna Pala.
- Khonemukhi, Pushpabhadra plates - Dharma Pala.

Thus, we see that the epigraphic source provides us tangible evidences to stitch together our history. There are constant efforts to excavate and decipher newer epigraphs to get more insights into our history by the Archaeological Society of India.

12. When it comes to courage and sacrifice, women of Ahom nobility were no less than their male counterparts. Evidenced with reference to sacrifice of Muta Gahharu and Joymati Kunwori. [15]

The Ahoms were a very valiant tribe who had established their kingdom in the Assam valley by 1228.

- They showed exceptional courage in defending their territories against foreign powers as well as expanding and consolidating their territory.
- The Ahom women throughout history has shown exceptional courage and intelligence in administration as well, to help in the growth of the empire.
- Two of the exceptional examples of courage and bravery of Ahom women come in form of Muta Gahharu and Joymati Kunwori —

Muta Gahharu -

- She was the wife of Tredengmung, the frontier commander "Sadiya Khawa Gohain" during reign of Suhungmung.
- Turbak Khan, a general of the Dakhi Sultanate attacked Assam during the 13th century.

- There was fierce battle between the Ahoms and Turbak's army. In the battle, Tradingmung was killed.
- Moka Gabhane, on hearing about her husband's death jumped into the battle and fought bravely to protect the glory of her kingdom.
- She sacrificed her life in the battle inspiring the Ahom soldiers who were able to defeat Turbak's army and successfully defended the kingdom.

Jaymoti Karmori

- During the 17th century, political instability gripped the Ahom kingdom.
- Laluk Sola Barphukan, an Ahom commander became the de-facto ruler and brought a rule that no Ahom prince with any injury mark or maimed could become king.
- Thus, he started maiming all the princes who had a chance at the throne.
- Gadapani, an Ahom prince of Tungkhungia clan escaped and went into exile.

- To know whereabouts of Gadapani, Laluk Sole and the puppet king Lora Raja captured his wife Joymoti Kunwari.
- Joymoti, knowing very well that she had to protect Gadapani so that the Ahom kingdom could be saved, refused to tell any information.
- After enduring inhuman torture for many days, such as being tied to a tree, physical torture and thorns being tied around her, she died sacrificing her life for her husband and her country.
- Joymoti's sacrifice did not go in vain as Gadapani returned and overthrew Lora Raja and ascended the throne as Gadadhar Singha.
- Ahom kingdom returned to its former glory. Later Joymoti's son Rudra Singha constructed the famous Jaydagar tank and Joydaul in his mother's memory.

These women are examples of true patriotism and courage, and their ideals need to be cherished by every Assamese.

13. Discussed the contribution of Momai Tamuli Barbarua in reconstructing Assamese village life on sound and secure economic footing. [15]

Momai Tamuli Barbarua was the first Bonborua, a ministerial post introduced by Ahom king Pratap Singha in the 17th century.

- He undertook many steps to develop the Ahom economy and standard of life of the people -

1) Paik System -

- This was a system of mandatory labour to be provided to the king as a form of tax.
- People between 15-50 years of age, each called a 'paik' were organised into groups of three called a 'got'.
- Each paik was given a piece of arable land in return for his services.
- The paiks in a got took turns to provide service to the state for duration of 3 months each.
- The other paiks looked after the house and field when one of the paik from the got went for service.

This system ensured regular labour supply and helped the Ahoms undertake infrastructure projects for the people.

2) Momai Tamuli also made weaving compulsory for every household. This helped to create a self-sufficient society even in terms of clothing.

3) Poda system.

The Ahom villagers near the borders ofilly areas often faced raids from the hill tribes. So the Poda system was adopted whereby the tribals were given money in exchange of safety and security of the villagers.

Thus, we see many economic and social reforms being implemented during this period. In addition, Momai Tamuli Barbarua also faced the Mughals and helped protect the Ahom kingdom against plunder by invaders, and signed the Treaty of Asurar Ali with Mughals in 1639 which ensured peace for some period of time.

14. Critically discuss the inner line regulation introduced by British in Assam in 1873. [15]

15. Explain the viability of Palm oil production in Assam. [15]

Palm Oil is one of the major oil crop in the world, which is widely used in the food industry for packaged food as well as fast food.

- India is largely dependent on import to meet the requirement of palm oil.
- The largest palm oil producers in the world are the countries in South East Asia - Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia.
- In order to become self-sufficient in palm oil, India has decided to increase the cultivation of palm oil trees.
- The North-East of India provides suitable physiographic conditions for palm oil cultivation -
Palm oil is a tropical tree which grows well in humid regions with forest soils.
- Assam, being one of the north-east states has the required conditions for cultivation of palm oil trees.
- The areas in South-Assam, in Goalpara ~~Assam~~ Hills are suitable for this cultivation.

- However, the environmental concern is there as palm oil cultivation will require large stretches of forests to be cleared.

This will be particularly harmful to the environment and may have devastating effects on the ecology as well as the people.

- Large scale deforestation will increase the risk of erosion, landslides and mass movements.
- The eroded soil will flow into rivers raising the river bed that will lead to floods.
- The impact of deforestation on climate change is very clear - extreme climate events will be more frequent.
- The government should focus on growing palm oil on the fallow and waste lands, which will help in both economic and environmental progress.
- Further, agro-based industry and export hubs needs to be created so that the processing of the oil can be done in Assam itself. This will provide employment and generate wealth for the state.

Thus, when done in a sustainable manner and making use of the suitable agro-ecological conditions of Assam, palm oil cultivation can help in fast and inclusive economic development of the state.

16. Assam ranked first in India in the statistics of crimes committed against women. Highlight some of the important preventive measures that the government can implement in curbing the issue. [15]

Crimes against women is one of the most serious issue that affects the entire country. Crime can be in various forms such as -

- Female foeticide / infanticide
- Human trafficking and forced prostitution
- Sexual harassment and rape
- Domestic violence
- Eve-teasing
- Forced labour / domestic workers.
- Childhood pregnancy
- Acid attacks
- Online harassment, such as Bully Bai mobile app
- Casting couch, in show business and so on, the list goes on.

To counter these issues, the government needs to work on many fronts - from safety and security to women empowerment.

The major steps that can be taken in this regard are -

Safety and Security measures

- 1) Emergency helpline dedicated to women safety - at home, office or public places.
- 2) More women in police force - to provide patrolling and immediate assistance to women in distress.
- 3) Strict implementation of Vishakha guidelines for prevention of sexual harassment (POSH)
- 4) Raising awareness among women about POSH guidelines, helpline numbers, etc.
- 5) Creation of safety shelters for women to seek refuge in case of domestic violence, roadside harassment, etc.

Social measures

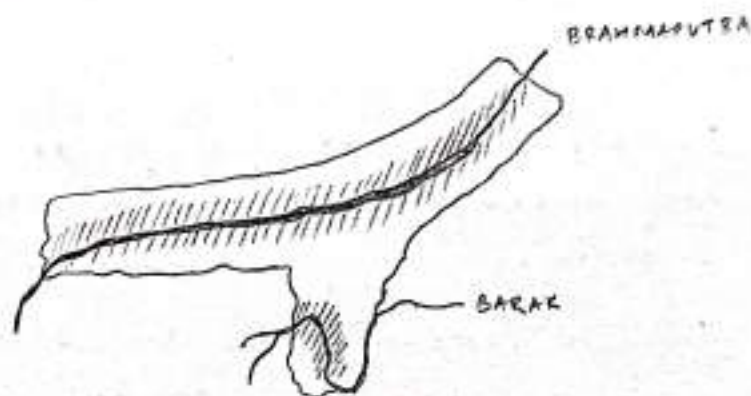
- 1) Women empowerment, via creation of SHGs to make rural women independent and enable them to make choices.
- 2) Criminalizing child marriages and early pregnancy.
- 3) Microfinance to women to make them economically independent.
- 4) Implementation of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' schemes to save the girl child.

In order to safeguard women's dignity and protect against crimes, it is very important to have changed in both safety - security and socio-economic level. Protecting dignity of women is our fundamental duty, without which it is impossible to achieve inclusive development of society.

17. How have the major flood control methods actually worsened the situation in Assam? What is the way forward?

Flood is one of the biggest challenge in front of Assam today. It is an age-old problem, that causes much havoc and destruction every year.

- The Brahmaputra and its tributaries swell up during the monsoon season causing large scale flooding. The same problem is seen in the Barak valley.



 FLOOD PRONE AREAS IN ASSAM

- Flood is a problem in more than 70-80% of districts, which poses threat to lives and livelihood - agriculture, livestock, property, as well as wildlife and biodiversity.
- Huge amount of government resources are utilised every year in flood relief, which puts additional pressure on government budget.

Many measures have been taken to solve this crisis —

- 1) Embankments and geo-bags along the river bank, to check erosion.
- 2) Dredgation of river beds
- 3) Afforestation to prevent siltation of rivers
- 4) Elevated corridors for wildlife.

However, none of these measures have been completely successful in preventing the problem.

Issues —

- 1) Embankments and geobags do not serve the intended purpose in checking erosion.
- 2) Due to embankments, the flood water gets diverted to downstream areas which are low lying causing higher destruction.
- 3) Some amount of flooding is helpful as it brings fertile alluvial soil to the floodplains.

Keeping these views in mind, it is important to design solutions which are suitable in maintaining the natural flow with minimal damage to life and property.

18. Mention some of the salient points in Srīmanth Sankardeva's extensive writings which have philosophical bearings. [15]

Srīmanth Sankardeva was one of the greatest saint of the Bhakti era, who ushered in a new era of consciousness in the Assamese society - both in religious and social sphere.

- Sankardeva's philosophy is inspired from the Vedānta philosophy, which talks of devotion to one god. God can be attained by the path of devotion.
- Sankardeva propagated Ek Saran Naam Dharma, which states -
 " Ek Dev, Ek Seva, Ekot Bine Nai Keo" which means, there is one God to whom we bow, and there is no one apart from the one God.
- Hindu philosophy is divided into six schools, of which the Vedānta school talks of concept of Brahman and Atman. Sankardeva had given his interpretation of these concepts which reflect in his works.
- Sankardeva preached pure devotion to the God by means of kirita (singing prayers), boragets, and by listening to Bhagavat recitals.

- Sankaradeva did not believe in idol worship and the extensive rituals which were prevalent in Hinduism at that time. He put forward the concept of Gune - Dev - Naam - Bhakti, which were the essential components of the Neo - Vaishnavite philosophy.
- Sankaradeva's teachings are reflected in his interpretations of Bhagwad Gita, Gunawata, translations of Chrimad Bhagavat, etc.
- In Sankaradeva's philosophy, one needs to worship God or consider himself to be a dasya (servant) to the God.

The 15th century was a great landmark in Bhakti movement with saints like Guru Nanak, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Madhavacharya spreading the Bhakti philosophy all across India.

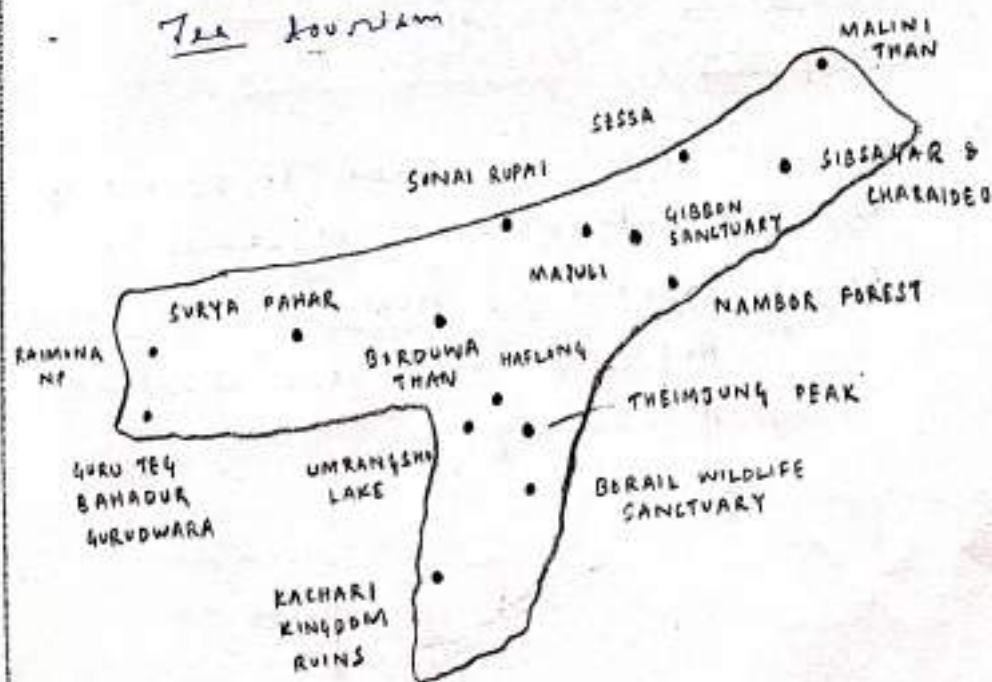
Sankaradeva, in the same period brought the Renaissance in philosophical thought and devotion across the north-eastern part of the country awakening and god-realising the society.

19. Comment on the unexplored areas of tourism in Assam. [15]

Tourism has emerged as one of the leading industry in Assam. Due to the instability of north east due to insurgency in the early 2000s, the potential of tourism had largely remain underutilised.

Tourism in Assam can be promoted across many dimensions —

- Religious pilgrimage, e.g. Kamakhya temple
- Wildlife adventures, e.g. National Parks
- Eco-tourism
- Health spas and spiritual journeys
- Regular tourism, e.g. Hill station,
- Cultural tourism, e.g. Majuli, Gibdagan, Lachen, etc.
- Tea tourism



UNEXPLORED TOURIST AREAS OF ASSAM

There are hundreds of unexplored tourist destinations across Assam, which can be utilised for development of tourism industry.

- Assam is blessed with natural beauty, as well as cultural hotspots and places of pilgrimage, such as the Sankardeva circuit, Buddhist circuit, Shaktipeeth, etc. The architectural marvels of Ahom kingdom in Sibsagar and Choraides can attract history and culture enthusiasts.

Initiatives taken & way forward -

- Assam tourism policy has put focus on developing tourism as a major industry in the state.
- Government has already started projects for building tourism infrastructure at Bordowa Than, Rang Ghar, Madhabpur Than, etc.
- Tourist facilities need to be set up as per international standards in Boreil sanctuary, Haplong, Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong, which have abundant natural beauty.

- Promotion of lesser known tourist areas via media, social media, etc.
- Encouraging private investment in tourism and providing necessary financial guidance and support.
- Creation of tourist circuits - River cruise, Religious, wildlife, Trekking and Hiking, Cultural, etc.
- Organization of more festivals like - Falcon Festival, Dahing Patkai Festival, etc. to create hype and popularity.

To develop tourism, PPP model of development is very crucial to provide multi-level benefits to the people and boost the state GSDP as well as promote the culture and heritage of the state.

20. Write short notes on -

1. Assam State Human Rights Commission
2. Nagare Naam
3. Project Sadbhavana.

1. Assam Human Rights Commission

- Following the Vienna Declaration, 1993 and Human Rights Act 1993, the Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) was established in 1996.
- It is a statutory body that deals with investigation of human rights violation in subjects of State and Concurrent List.
- It consists of a Chairperson, who ~~was~~ should be a retired or sitting HC judge, along with other members.
- The recommending committee for Chairperson comprises of - CM, Leader of opposition, Chief Justice of HC, Speaker of Assembly.
- AHRC can suo-moto start investigation or act on any complaint. It looks into cases related to police brutality, prisoner's rights, beggars, victims of violence, etc.
- It has the powers of a Civil Court while investigating.

- AHRC is an advisory body and can recommend the state government for required action in cases of human rights violation etc.

2. Nagore Naam

- It is a folk music and dance popular in lower Assam.
- It involves singing and dancing along the beats of the Nagore - a small tabla-like instrument played with two drumsticks.
- Nagore Naam is part of religious events, weddings, social events, etc.
- It is performed in groups, consisting of men and women both.

3. Project Sadbhavana

- In order to promote good governance and effective grievance redressal, Assam government launched the Project Sadbhavana to clear all the pending public requests / issues at Assam Secretariat.
- It provided an online-portal to check issue status and expected timelines for resolution.

- This step is taken to promote good governance and create citizen friendly administration and also to clear backlog and free up resources.
- This project was launched in Feb 2022 by CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma.