



Second Mock APSC Mains'2024

GS Paper V

Duration: 3 Hours

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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 250 words for 15 marks and 150 words for 10 marks. - 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. - Checking to be done with main aim of evaluating a candidate's ability of express ideas in lucid manner. - 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: <i>Himadri Jita Bora</i> NOTE: EVALUATION PERIOD FOR THE MOCK MAINS IS <u>10 DAYS</u>.
2	10		
3	10		
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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. Evaluate the effectiveness of Assam's cyber security measures in safeguarding against contemporary threats. (10 Marks/150 words)

- Assam Govt. has launched Cyberdome project, inspired by the Kerala model.
- This will help in dealing with cyber threats.
- Cyberdome is housed in office of Special Branch of Assam Police in Kahilipara, Guwahati.
- It will monitor threats such as online discussions of terrorist activity, spread of fake news etc.

Q2. Discuss how artificial intelligence (AI) and technology impact the Assamese language and culture. What steps can be taken to protect and promote the Assamese language in the digital age? (10 Marks/150 words)

- Recently ~~the~~ through CMs initiative, Assamese got added as a language on Google Translate. Now ~~at~~ ~~pro~~ an Assamese person can easily read any ~~use~~ book or article ~~is~~ written in any language by translating it through Google Translate.
- BHASHINI, the Govt. of India's AI-based language app is now available on CPGRAMS the Central Govt.'s grievance redressal portal. Thus any administrative ~~at~~ ~~at~~ grievance can now be filed in Assamese or any of the 22 scheduled languages.
- The Assam Govt. launched a portal to digitise all Assamese works written during colonial period.

Q3. Write short notes on the following topics

(10 Marks/150 words)

1. Gender budgeting and gender sensitization in Assam
2. Key initiatives for women empowerment in the Assam
3. Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme
4. Assam Mukhya Montri Nijut Moina Abhiyan
5. Mukhya Montri Mahila Udyamita Abhijaan: Lakhpoti Baideo Scheme

1. Gender Budgeting and Sensitization

4. Mukhya Montri Nijut Moina Scheme - DGT

upto Rs 2500 per month to girl students to promote a) Female education b) discourage child marriage.

2. Women's empowerment

• Swarnobhan Hari - Benefit lakhs of female weavers by direct procurement of handloom items (eliminate the middleman) at more than 100 procurement centres.

3. Assam Micro finance Incentive

• Govt. waved off loans of women who were indebted to micro finance institutions up to Rs 25,000 in 3 phases.

5. Pradhan Mantri Lakhpati Yojana

Govt. is training female ~~SHGs~~ self help groups (SHGs) to operate and repair drones so that they earn ~~Rs~~ Rs 1 lakh from such activity along the lines of NAMO Didi scheme at an all India level.

1. Garden Budgeting

- Pradhan Mantri 2.0 scheme gives Rs 1250 per month to women - ~~at~~ head of 27 lakh households
- ~~NRLM~~ National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) promotes women SHGs

Q4. Analyze the effects of global warming on tea production in Assam. What measures can be taken to mitigate these effects and promote sustainable tea cultivation in the region? (10 Marks/150 words)

① Impact on tea cultivation

- Tea plant needs temperature between $18-30^{\circ}\text{C}$. But due to global warming, it is common to see temperatures above 40°C in places like Guwahati (urban heat island).
- Tea plants cannot survive water logging. But floods have only increased in recent years. In 2024 already, 40,000 ha of land have been inundated by floods in Assam. Global warming is disrupting weather patterns while melting of glaciers is increasing flow of rivers like Brahmaputra leading to flooding.
- There is severe groundwater pollution in Assam which has the highest arsenic content in India.

① Steps to be taken

- Implement PM-KISAN to promote organic tea cultivation
- Flood control measures. eg - embankments around tea gardens.
- Artificial rain using molecules of silver to cool temperatures.

Q5. Discuss the measures taken by the Assam government to combat child marriage. What challenges remain, and how can they be addressed? (10 Marks/150 words)

① Measures Taken

- Child Marriage crackdown using village secretaries in 2023, more than 1000 people arrested.
- Incentives such as Mukhya Mantri Nijuk Moina Scheme with DBT transfer of Rs 10,000; Rs 12,500; Rs 25,000 per year to girl students at school, UG, Ph level respectively provided they do not get married.

② Challenges

- Certain communities such as Muslims and certain tribal communities believe in early marriage for cultural reasons. Need to spread education and awareness among such communities.

Q6. Examine the internal security challenges in Assam and the measures taken by the state and central governments to address them. (10 Marks/150 words)

① Security challenges

- Assamese insurgency - United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) declared independence from India in 1979
- Bodo Insurgency - National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and Bodoland Liberation Tigers (BLT) ~~declared~~ tried to carve out a separate Bodo state from Assam.
- Bangladesh-origin Islamic terrorism eg - 2008 Guwahati bomb blasts.

② Measures taken

- Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) imposed in 1990
- Operation Bajrang and Operation Rhino by Indian army against ULFA in 1990

- Peace deals with GLT in 2003, NDFB in 2020. Bodoland Territorial Council with 60 members created under Sixth Schedule
- Peace deal with pro-talks faction of ULFA led by Aurobindo Rajkhowa in ~~2020~~ 2024.
- Collaboration with Neighbours — Operation All Clear with Royal Bhutan Army in 2003 and arrest of Rajkhowa in Bangladesh.

Q7. Write short notes on the following Assamese historical texts and chronicles:
(10 Marks/150 words)

Some important Assamese historical texts are-

① Works of Sankardeva

• Kuman Haran - ^{epic} Story of Aniruddha, grandson of Krishna and Usha, granddaughters of Bana.

• Ram Kijay - About Ram's triumph over Ravana and also about his patron Chilarai.

• Rukmini Haran - Krishna's abduction of Rukmini

• Namghosha - Madhabdeva, his disciple's compilation of Borquet (devotional songs)

② Other works -

• Hasti Vidjaranga - Written by Sukumar Baikath and beautifully illustrated, it is a treatise on elephants.

- Buranjs — Historical chronicles of Ahom Kings.
Many were destroyed by Kirti Chandra
Borbaruah in the 18th century.

Q8. Discuss how the teachings of Madhavdev can contribute to promoting peace in contemporary society. (10 Marks/150 words)

Madhavdev wrote Namghosha a compilation of Borquet. Some of the teachings propounded in this are-

- Respect for guru (elders and teachers)
- Rejection of caste, creed and ceremonies
(Sattras don't have idols)
- Love and devotion to a formless God (Krishna)
- Spread of local culture. Madhavdev wrote in Assamese as well as Brajāvali to spread the message of Sankardeva in a message language understood by common people.
- Forgive your enemies. Despite being persecuted, Madhavdeva never attacked his enemies.

Q9. Discuss the role of the Assam Accord in shaping the political landscape of Assam. How has it impacted the socio-economic conditions in the state?

(10 Marks/150 words)

① Key Provisions of Assam Accord

- Clause 6 - Protect the linguistic, cultural identity of the state.
- Clause 7 - Improve standard of living. eg -
117 Guwahati established to improve employment opportunities. Namalgurh refinery also.
- Clause 9 - Central and State govt to stop illegal migration. This seems to have failed going by 1.9 million rejected in NRC.

② How has it affected ~~the~~ socio-economic conditions

~~It has~~ It has failed to uphold its objectives according to Justice B.K. Sarma Committee which gave report in 2020.

- When the accord was signed^{in 1985}, Assamese speakers constituted more than 60% of the population, it went down to 48% in 2011.

- This led to insurgency led by ULFA in the 1990s which demanded separation of Assam from India
- IMDT Act 1983 which makes it very hard to deport ~~to~~ foreigners by ~~the~~ Foreigners Tribunal was introduced by Central Govt. to dilute influence of regional parties.
- The AsP imposed Assamese as state language in 1986 because of such anxieties, led to assault by Bodos, NDFB insurgency and Bodo land separation demands in the 1990s.
- AFSPA was introduced in 1970 which led to unaccounted power of Indian security forces and events like fake encounters and Gupt Platya (Secret Killings) by SULFA (Surrendered ULFA) death squads.

Q10. Evaluate the significance of tea industry in Assam's economy. What are the major challenges faced by this industry today? (10 Marks/150 words)

① Significance of tea industry

- Assam is the world's largest tea producing area by acreage.
- Assam accounts for more than 50% of tea production in India.
- Provides employment to millions of tea garden workers.
- A large percentage of the area is now under small tea growers ~~estate~~ (STGs) unlike ~~local~~ British era when large British Companies owned up to 85% of acreage even in 1947. This means tea industry is one of the largest arenas for local entrepreneurs.

② Major challenges

- Partition of India removed North-East's port

Chittagong (now in Bangladesh). In fact there was not even a rail link with India till NEF was completed. This has made tea exports from Assam uncompetitive in the Global market due to lack of access to the sea.

- ~~Indian tea~~ Assam tea has lost its pre-eminent position in the world market and even the UK market to China, Kenya, Sri Lanka.
- Insurgency in the 1990s led to banks refusing to give loans to tea growers according to a representative of ATMA (Tea Association) recently. Lack of formal credit.
- Floods have increased and tea plant can't tolerate water logging.
- STGs can't compete with global corporations.
- Lack of farm mechanization due to protests by labour unions.

Q11. Analyze the economy of the Ahom Kingdom, focusing on its main economic activities, revenue systems, and trade practices. How did these factors contribute to the stability and prosperity of the kingdom? (15 Marks/250 words)

① Economy of the Ahom Kingdom

- Shihabuddin Talish who was part of Mis Junda's army which invaded Garhgarn in 1663 was surprised at the lack of markets.
- This was because the Ahom economy at this point relied on corvee labours rather land revenue.
- The paik system was followed which saw 1 out of 4 paiks (peasants) serve the Ahom state as a soldier or farmer while the other 3 looked after his lands.
- Later, the Mughals introduced land revenue to be paid in cash or kind in Lower Assam, which was retained when the Ahoms re-took the area after 1682.

- While the Phoms did not have a 'market economy', they had ~~a~~ markets ~~known~~ known as haats or weekly markets.
- The trade ~~with~~ ^{outside} the Phom Kingdom was restricted during the 17th century as a result of wars with Mughals.
- Rudra Sigha (early 18th century) set up a trade post at Nadira Chowkey in Goalpara.
All trade with Bengal flowed through this and foreign merchants needed the king's permission to enter Assam.
- Trade was conducted with Tibet, Bhutan and hill areas through Duars or mountain passes.
This was larger than Bengal trade pre-colonial era.
- The trade with Bengal mainly involved import of salt into land-locked Assam.

① Stability and Prosperity

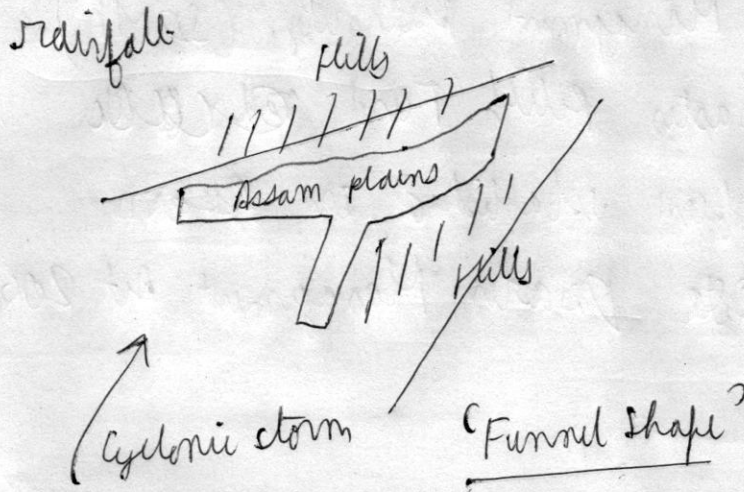
- The paik system gave a stable army but was resented by the paiks (90% of the population)
- It helped defeat the Mughals but the demands were clearly excessive.
- The tributes demanded from sub-ordinate rulers like the Moamaria Sathradhikas, Jaintia and Kachari Kings and Bhuyans led to frequent rebellion.
- Assam was stable but not as prosperous as Mughal India - eg - hardly any use of cash or coins compared to well-developed rupee system and land revenue in cash in Mughal India.
- However, peasants had more freedom and less

Caste discrimination in Assam.

- Lardlessness was unknown while Meghal India had many landless labourers.

Q12. Evaluate the impact of cyclones from the Bay of Bengal on Assam. Discuss the disaster management strategies implemented to mitigate these impacts and the challenges in their execution. (15 Marks/250 words)

- Cyclones develop over the Bay of Bengal due to heating which causes a depression of low pressure area. The Coriolis force creates cyclonic winds around this low-pressure depression. Hence cyclones are absent at the equator (no Coriolis force).
- As the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) moves over the Indian sub-continent in the 25°N region during July-September, the South Western Monsoon begins with rain coming from the West. The Bay of Bengal cyclones are also drawn in and break over Bengal, Orissa and Bangladesh.
- Assam then receives rain fall but due to its peculiar funnel shaped topography, moisture is trapped and the region receives high



- Hence, cyclones are particularly devastating for Assam. In 2024, 50 people have been killed and 40,000 ha of land inundated by flood so far.

① Measures to mitigate impact

- Early warning systems. eg- Doppler Radar set up by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).
- Embankments to protect against flooding.
- MISHRI scheme - Mangroves along the coast as a natural barrier against cyclones.

• State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA)
and State Disaster Relief Fund ~~under the~~
~~Disaster~~ have been established in Assam
under the ~~State~~ Disaster Management Act 2005.

Q13. Discuss the significance of Assamese Puthis and Vamsavalis in understanding the history and genealogy of Assam. Highlight their contributions to the historical narratives and the challenges in accessing these records. (15 Marks/250 words)

① Significance

- Since we have no ~~established~~ written historical records, these puthis and vamsavalis offer an insight of the past.
- Clearly, they are not all historical. Stories like that of Narakasura are obviously mythological because of the ~~superstitious elements~~ super-natural elements.
- But they also tell us that there might have been a powerful local non-Aryan king of that name.
- Thus, these vamsavalis are useful in establishing the non-Aryan origins of the early Assamese rulers and offer an insight into how Indo-Aryan culture became popular ~~in~~ in the region (e.g. through conquest by an 'Aryan' chief)

• When collaborated with numismatic and inscriptional evidence, they give us a fairly clear picture of Assamese history. eg - the Nalanda grants of Phaskar Varman or the Mayanthee grant of Harjara Varman. Thus from Varmans onwards, we get a fairly clear idea about Assam history.

• Non-local accounts, eg - Hsueh Hsien Tsang's Si-Yu-Ki or Kalhana's Rajatarangini, also help corroborate these stories.

⑥ Challenges in accessing these records

- Records have not been properly preserved
- Some are in British museums or private collections
- A note of caution has also got to be exercised while reading these records as they represent only elite views. The historians • Amalendu

Guha has argued that three Meirdu dynasties
and Hindu/Bryan influence in general
remained restricted to a narrow part of
the Brahmaputra valley, contrary to their
claims of large kingdoms encompassing hills
and forests.

Q14. Discuss the role of ethnic diversity in Assam in both contributing to internal security challenges and offering pathways to peace. (15 Marks/250 words)

- ① Security Challenges due to ethnic diversity
- In 1979-1985, the Assam Movement was launched against illegal immigration in Assam and the decline of Assamese-speakers.
 - In 1979 itself, United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) declared independence from India, claiming to represent the ethnic people of Assam against Indian 'foreigners'.
 - The Assam Movement ended with the ANP political party coming to power which imposed Assamese as the state language in 1986 leading to widespread anger from the Bodos. In the 1990s, the Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) and National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) launched violent attacks for Bodo autonomy and from Assamese influence.
 - The 1980s-early 2000s thus saw 2 decades

of insurgency in Assam. AFSPA was enforced in 1990. President's rule was imposed 4 times between 1979-1990. Operation Bajrang and Operation Rhino were carried out against ~~ULFA~~ ULFA by the Indian Army in 1990-91. Operation All Clear was conducted with the help of Royal Bhutan Army in 2003.

- Thousands of people became the victims of violence. Fake encounters also became common.
- Guilt Hatya (Secret Killings) by Surrendered ~~ULFA~~ ULFA (SULFA) against family members of ULFA became notorious.
- The Indian security forces were unable to tell friend from foe and inadvertently killed civilians as well.

① Affording Pathways to Peace

- In a sense, the very diversity of Assam with its many ethnic groups meant that 1 a Community could not dominate another.
- Thus the insurgents lost the support of the majority of the people because of their narrow ethnic aims.
- Today the Bodoland Territorial Council is organising sports programmes to promote harmony between different communities living in BTR.
- The Assam Govt. has recognised more than a dozen tribal autonomous councils — eg- Rabha Hasong Council, Sonowal Kachari Council etc.

Q15. Analyze the efforts made to address gender disparities in higher education in Assam. Discuss the initiatives and challenges faced by educational institutions, in promoting women's education and empowerment in the region. (15 Marks/250 words)

① Efforts made to address gender disparities in higher education

- Recently Assam CM launched Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moira scheme
- Under this scheme, girl children and women will receive stipends for higher education from Class XI onwards. eg- ~~as~~ A UG student will receive Rs 1250 for 10 months in a year, a PG student will receive Rs 2500.
- This stipend is conditional on not getting married. This delays age of ~~as~~ child birth as early child birth is risky for women.
- Also helps counter child marriage.
- ~~Q15~~ The govt. has also launched a scheme for free scooters for female toppers.

- ⑦ Challenges faced by educational institutions in promoting women's education and empowerment in the region
- Assam has one of the highest incidences of child marriage and birth outside hospitals in India.
 - This poses a woman's ~~death~~ health and autonomy at serious risk.
 - Women are married off at an early age particularly among Muslims and certain tribal communities, rather than allowed to pursue education.
 - While schemes like the one mentioned above have been introduced it is difficult to end age-old beliefs about the role of women in pat patriarchal societies.

Q16. To what extent are the modern transportation infrastructures like expressways, underground tunnels, bullet trains feasible in Assam? Discuss (15 Marks/250 words)

~~Q16~~

① Limits of feasibility

- The CM has said metro rail project is not feasible in densely crowded, earthquake and flood-prone Guwahati.
- However, a metro can be constructed in future to nearby areas like Nagao, said the CM
- Similarly, ~~the~~ the CM bemoaned the lack of sunshine in Assam which says higher than average rainfall. CM said we might have to import solar energy from elsewhere to meet target of 50% solar energy by 2026.

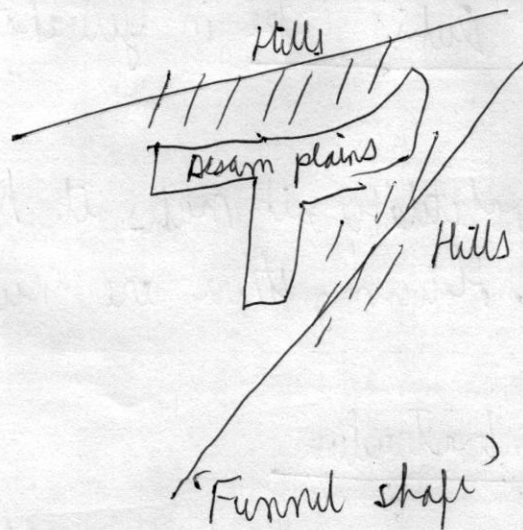
Problems

② Challenges for future infrastructure

- Assam is one of the most flood-prone areas

of the world for a number of reasons such as:

- 1) Funnel-shaped topography which traps moisture



- 2) Large tributaries like Subansiri which bring lot of silt ~~to~~ and cause bank erosion due to heavy rainfall in catchment areas (Tibet, Arunachal)
- 3) Even tributaries from Meghalaya carry a lot of silt due to heavy rainfall.

This year (2024), more than 50 people have been killed, more than 3 lakh displaced and 40,000 ha of land submerged due to floods.

- Assam also lies in Zone V seismic zone and hence

has high risk of earthquakes. eg- 1897 earthquake of 8.7 magnitude which raised Shillong plateau by 11 metres and submerged and created Chard Dubi Lake in Guwahati.

- Because of this volatility, it makes it hard to invest in Assam. However, there are exceptions.

① Possibilities for infrastructure

- Floating solar parks on water bodies offers a solution. eg- 10.50 kW solar park in Morigan district. These are less susceptible to risks and utilize area efficiently. Assam has 400 MW solar energy currently, plan to raise it to 700 by 2026.
- The Brahmaputra Expressway, a 700 km highway along the Brahmaputra is also under consideration.
- Gas pipeline from Majuli to Jorhat ~~is~~ underwaters (in Brahmaputra) shows how natural restrictions can be overcome.

- Schemes under PM-DevINE (Pradhan Mantri Development Initiative for North Eastern Region) and NESIDS (North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme) are Central sector schemes implemented by Min. of Development of North Eastern Region (~~PM~~ PM-DONER). Hence, fiscal burden is not on state govt. eg - nearly 10,000 crore given under PM-DevINE
- These projects consider local factors and help in building appropriate infrastructure. eg - Dr. Bheupen Hazarika Setu (Dhola-Sadiya Bridge), one of the longest bridges in the world, built to with stand changing river patterns.

Q17. Discuss how the physiography of Assam has been its advantage as well as its disadvantage. (15 Marks/250 words)

① Physiography as an advantage

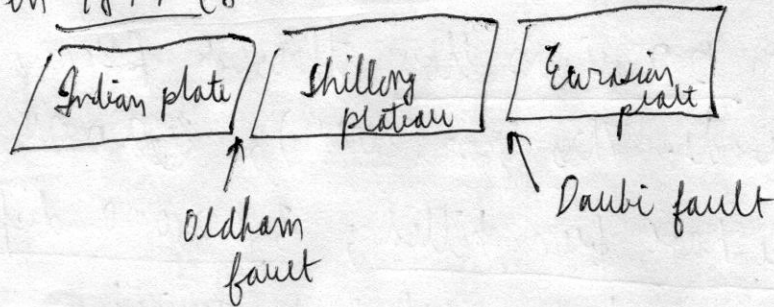
- The physiography of Assam has protected it from external invaders for centuries.
- In the early 13th century, Bakhtyar Khalji was defeated by King Brittu as he was unable to hold on to his gains in the rainy season.
- In 1663, even after defeating the Ahoms and occupying their capital, Mughal General Mir Jumla was forced to retreat due to the torrential rain, malarial climate and his supply lines in Bengal being cut off. Just like Khalji, Mir Jumla became sick and died shortly after his retreat.
- In 1671, Lachit Barphukan used ~~the~~ ~~the~~ his superior knowledge of the local geography and

naval ability of local Rhom soldiers to defeat the Mughals on land and water in the battle of Saraighat, using the hilly terrain to construct Gurhs (earthen forts) and boats to defeat the Mughals on the Brahmaputra.

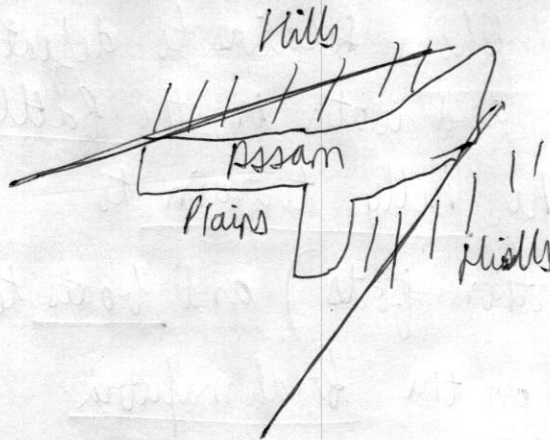
- In the 19th century, the suitability of Assam for growing tea made it one of the largest tea-exporting regions in the world.

② Challenges due to Physiography

- Assam lies at the boundary of Indian and Eurasian plate, leading to frequent earthquakes as in 1897 (8.7 magnitude) and 1950 (8.5).



- Assam lies in Zone V seismic zone (very high risk)



'Funnel shaped'

- The funnel shaped topography of Assam leads to extreme rainfall.
- High rainfall in catchment areas (Tibet, Arunachal) of tributaries of the Brahmaputra carries silt which causes bank erosion and flooding.
- More than 120 rivers flow through Assam, causing floods. This year (2024), more than 50 people have been killed; 3,00,000 displaced and 40,000 hectares of land ruined.

Q18. Evaluate the challenges faced in transforming Guwahati into a smart city under the Smart Cities Mission. Suggest policy measures to address these challenges and promote effective urban governance. (15 Marks/250 words)

① Challenges

- Guwahati lies in a bowl-shaped depression > leads to flooding.
- Anthropogenic activity such as construction increases the risk of damage in case of natural disasters.
Guwahati lies in Zone V Seismic zone, earth quake in 1950 (8.5 magnitude) created Chandubi lake. A similar earthquake would cause untold destruction today.
- Encroachment on Beper Bul, a Ramsar wetland and the drainage basin of the city increases flooding every time it rains.
- Man-elfphant conflict in areas like Beper Bul due to human encroachment in protected area.
- Poor adoption of Information Technology (IT). eg- traffic jams due to lack of automated traffic signals.

- Poor infrastructure • eg - lack of public transport like Delhi Metro.
- Guwahati was declared the 2nd most polluted city in the world by IQAir, with PM 2.5 concentration of more than 100 (more than Delhi).
Mainly due to dust particles from construction activity.

⑥ SOLUTIONS

- Afforestation schemes such as 'Trees outside Forests' (eg - in Miyawaki method) and Amrit Brikshya scheme where 1 Crore trees were planted in the state need to be prioritized.

- Adoption of electric vehicles^(EVs) as stated in the Assam Electric Vehicles Policy which envisages 2 lakh EVs and 50% EVs by 2026 with 500 charging stations and all ASTC buses in Guwahati to be electric by 2025.

- Rejuvenation of Dupor Bul as was done with Silsabao and Barsola Buls.
- Strict adherence to building standards to protect against earthquakes.
- Prevention of settlement in flood prone areas.
- ~~Right~~ Fixing the city's drainage and drinking water facilities with the aid of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The first phase of this programme has been completed in Guwahati.

Q19. Examine the evolution and current status of agriculture in Assam, highlighting the key challenges and potential solutions for achieving sustainable agricultural development. (15 Marks/250 words)

① Pre-colonial era

- Shihabuddin Talish noted the huge stocks of rice in the granaries of Gorkhaom, the Ahem capital.
- Cultivation was done under the paik system wherein 1 out of 4 paiks served the army/state while other 3 looked after his fields.

② Colonial era

- The British ~~sub~~ substituted the paik system with regular land revenue.
- This resulted in a huge decline in shifting cultivation.
- Opium was grown till 1861 when it was banned, to pay land revenue in cash.
- The British introduced capitalist farming in the form of tea plantations but ~~not~~ till

independence (1947), 85% of tea acreage was owned by British companies.

- The British also encouraged migration from East Bengal to replace the 'lazy' and 'inefficient' local farmers. The Bengali farmers introduced jute cultivation and jute acreage tripled between 1900 - 1947.
- ~~These~~ Bengali farmers also introduced mixed cropping and use of manure. They brought large areas of wasteland, particularly low-lying riverine land and chars (river islands) previously under 'pam' cultivation (seasonal winter crops); under permanent cultivation.
- Despite this, according to a 1940s ~~is~~ report on rice, 95% of rice was consumed by households and not marketed. This was the lowest percentage in India showing poor development of commercial agriculture.

② Post-independence challenges and solutions.

CHALLENGE	SOLUTION
- Assam witnesses <u>constant flooding</u> leading to crops being ruined - Despite this, this year, over 40,000 ha of land was was flooded. - After <u>Partition</u>, poor <u>irrigation</u> with rest of India as Assam lost access through <u>Chittagong port</u>.	- In <u>October 2023</u>, the Chief Minister (CM) announced <u>54 projects</u> to deal with flooding. - Most of the <u>flooding strategies</u> date back to the <u>1960s</u> and are based on <u>embankments</u> at a time <u>Brahmaputra</u> was <u>poorly understood</u>. Need to adopt measures like <u>early warning systems</u> and <u>robust houses</u> built with <u>indigenous knowledge</u> and materials which have so far <u>remained on paper</u>. - New schemes such as <u>transport of grains</u> from Patna to Pandu via Bangladesh, <u>Agartala-Athaura</u>

CHALLENGE	SOLUTION
Did not adopt <u>green revolution</u> till recently.	rail link can restore N-East connectivity. Schemes like CEI PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana will help establish infrastructure (eg-irrigation) for <u>green revolution</u>.
Groundwater pollution. Assam has <u>highest arsenic concentration</u> in India.	There needs to be strict regulation of use of pesticides
Poor <u>farm mechanisation</u>.	CM tractor distribution <u>Scheme</u>
Poor development of potential crops like bamboo, rubber.	- Industry states to bamboo. - INROAD scheme for <u>rubber plantation</u>
Declining <u>tea</u> to market share.	A representative of tea organisations noted how <u>insurgency</u> hurt exports and <u>decline of formal sector loans</u>. Mukhya Mantri Ptmanishbas Assam can help get loans.

Q20. Analyze the impact of the Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Bill, 2024 on addressing social evils in the state. What are the potential benefits and challenges of this legislation? (15 Marks/250 words)

The Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Bill 2024 aims to clamp down on witch doctors and superstitious and unscientific cures. It sets up regulations against quacks like Dodhais, Beg, tantrai etc.

① Potential Benefits

- Cut down on unscientific and potentially harmful treatment. eg - Dodhais drinking the blood of pigeons and sparrows.
- Spread awareness about benefits of modern medicine.

② Challenges

- low literacy of rural Assam
- Prevalence of superstition makes it harder to adopt modern measures

- Reluctance to treat women in public hospitals leading to Assam having one of the highest percentages of births outside hospitals.

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