

ASSAM HISTORY

ANCIENT HISTORY OF ASSAM

Mythological Period to 12th century AD

1. Pre- historic and mythologies (Puran, Mahabharata, Ramayana etc.)
2. Varman Dynasty (Real beginning of political history)
3. Salasthambha Dynasty or Asura Dynasty
4. Pala Dynasty and others

Sources or Origin of the name Assam

- Ancient Assam has 2 names: **Pragjyotisha** and later **Kamarupa**
- According to Historian Edward Gait: “Prag” means ‘former’ or ‘eastern’ and Jyotisha ‘a star’. Pragjyotishpur may therefore be taken to mean the ‘**city of eastern Astrology**’.
- Ancient Assam has been mentioned as ‘Pragjyotisha’ in Mahabharata and as ‘Kamarupa’ in the Puranas and Tantras.
- Apart from Mahabharata, Vishnu Purana and Kalika Purana, an important source, can be the **Jogini Tantra (Yogini tantra)**.
- The term Kamarupa was first mentioned in **Samudragupta’s famous Allahabad Pillar Inscription** and also in the famous composition of **Kalidasa’s Raghuvamsham**.
- Dr. Banikanta Kakati believes that the term ‘Kamarupa’ originated from the word ‘Kamru’ or ‘Kamrut’ which means magic or the **art of invitation of evil spirits**.
- Kamrupa: Place where Kamadeva(God of love) regains his rupa(original self/form)
- Sati’s organs of generation fell on Kamagiri i.e. the **Nilachal Hills** near Guwahati and the place thenceforth held sacred to **Kamakhyā, the Goddess of sexual desire**.

Traditional Rulers of Kamrup

- The **Danava Dynasty was the first legendary line** of rulers in Pragjyotisha, established by **Mahiranga Danava**, who **was subsequently succeeded** by Hatakasur, Sambarasur, Ratnasur and Ghatak.
- The Mairang Hill named after Mahiranga Danava is situated in present day Guwahati(South).

- The last ruler Ghatakasura was killed and replaced by Narakasura.
- The Bhauma or Varaha Dynasty- founder **Narakasura**
- He is associated with the Hindu belief of the ‘Shakti’ Goddess.
- Narakasura initially was a worshipper of Kamakhya Devi but later on he tried to marry her and as a result of that process he built the KAMAKHYA TEMPLE in NILACHAL HILLS.
- Narakasura also made Pragjyotishpur and his capital and helped Brahmins settle down at Kamakhya.
- He was succeeded by Bhagadatta—Vajradutta—Vajrapani.

Traditional Rulers of Sonitpur (Asura Kingdom)

- Established by – Marichi (first kings of ruling dynasty in the Vedic period)
- In Sonitpur (modern Tezpur), King Bana or Banasur ruled till he was defeated by Sri Krishna in the famous **Hori- HorJudho** (after the secret marriage of Aniruddha with Bana’s daughter Usha)(written in assamese in the book- **Kumar Haran**)
- At Kundila Nagar (modern Sadiya) the legendary king Bhismaka ruled and his daughter Rukmini was the consort/ wife of Sri Krishna.
- **Mahapurusha Sri SriSankardev**, composed two prominent works e.g. the **Rukmini- harana- Kavya** (a poetical work) and the **Rukmini- harana- Nat** (a dramatic work) on the basis of the original Rukmini- Harana legend in medieval period.

Other Remarkable kings

- Dharmapala, a Kshatriya, is believed to have come from the west and founded a kingdom whose capital was located in west of Guwahati.
- His rule was remarkable as he attracted a number of Brahmins and other high-caste Hindus from Upper India to settle. The sage **KenduKulai** is believed to have lived in his reign.
- Dharmapala succeeded by Padma Narayan, Chandra Narayan and Ramachandra(last) whose capital was at Ratnapur in Majuli.
- **Arimatta, Ramachandra’s son** is often attributed the sin of patricide in various stories as he killed his own father Ramachandra.

Previous Years’ Question- APSC

- 1) One of the following books is the most important literary source for the study of early history of Assam. Which is the book? (2001)
 - a) The Mahabharata
 - b) The Harshacharita
 - c) **The Kalika Purana**
 - d) The Arthashastra
- 2) The earliest king of Assam was (2001)
 - a) **Mahiranga Danava**
 - b) Narakasura

- c) Bhaskaravarman
d) Naranarayan
- 3) **The earliest historical dynasty of Assam was that of the (2011)**
a) Palas
b) **Varmans**
c) Narakas
d) Salastambhas
- 4) **The Buranjis are (2013)**
a) Autobiographical writings of the Ahom rulers
b) Diaries written by the monarchs
c) **Chronicles**
d) None of the above

PERIOD FROM 4TH-12TH CENTURIES AD

Varman/ Bhauma Dynasty

- The **first real political history** of ancient Assam begins with the **Varmans** and the first ruler of Kamarupa is **Pushya Varman** (355-380 AD).

Evidences -

- Umachal rock inscriptions
- Nidhanpur Copper Plates Grant
- The Doobi Plates
- Bana's Harshacharita
- Si-yu-ki of Hiuen Tsang
- Nalanda seals

Important rulers

1. Pushyavarman
 2. Samudravarman
 3. Balavarman
 4. Kalyanavarman
 5. Ganapativarman
 6. Mahendravarman
 7. Narayanvarman
 8. Mahabhutivarman
 9. Chandramukhavarman
 10. Sthitavarman
 11. Susthithavarman
 12. Supratisthitavarman
 13. Bhaskaravarman
- Pushya Varman assumed the title **Maharajadhiraja** which indicates his independent status and said to be **contemporary of Samudragupta**.
 - Mahendravarman first successfully waged a war against Gupta army and also the first Varman ruler to perform **Ashwamedha Yajna**.

- The performance of the Horse sacrifice (Ashwamedha Yajna) was done by **Mahendravarman, Mahabhutivarman and Sthitavarman**)
- Mahabhutivarman donated land to Brahmanas (as per both the Doobi and Nidhanpur grants of Bhaskaravarman)
- Supratisthitavarman and Bhaskarvarman both were the sons of Susthitavarman. Supratisthitavarman introduced many reforms during his rule. However, he was not able to reign for long and died during the lifetime of his father. He was succeeded by his younger brother **Bhaskaravarman** (powerful and most successful king).
- Bhaskaravarman made alliance with famous king **Harshavardhana**. He recovered Pundravardhana and also brought Gauda with its capital Karnasuvarna under his control. Also brought Sylhet and Tripura including South- east Bengal under his control. (he expanded the Varman dynasty to a great extent)

Bhaskarvarman- Harshavardhana-Shashanka

- On ascending the throne, Bhaskaravarman found **two strong powers** growing in Northern India, viz. One in Central and Northern Bengal under **Shashanka** and the other in mid- India under **Prabhakaravardhana**, father of Harshavardhana.
- Mahasena Gupta, one of the later Gupta ruler of the Magadha, tried to check the growing aggressions of the Kamarupa kings. Shashanka gave powerful aid to Mahasena Gupta who inflicted a defeat on Susthitavarman, the king of Kamarupa. The Magadhan king thus recovered northern and central Bengal over which Shashanka was appointed as Mahasamanta(Governor). Subsequently, taking advantage of the death of Mahasena Gupta and the weakness of his minor son Madhava Gupta, Shashanka proclaimed himself as independent king of the central and northern Bengal and also struck coins. He soon attained to such power that he not only challenged the feeble Magadhan ruler Madhava Gupta on the west and the Kamarupa power on the east but also subjugated the whole of lower Bengal, Chota Nagpur and Orissa on the south.
- Towards the West of Kamarupa, Shashanka appears to have held possession of that portion of territory which included the lands granted by Mahabhutivarman to a large number of Brahmins. He was, therefore, the natural enemy of Bhaskaravarman who must have been waiting for a favourable opportunity to regain the lost dominions and to retaliate the defeat inflicted on his father. Shashanka was, however, a too powerful ruler to be dealt with and Bhaskaravarman, therefore, wisely refrained from precipitating matters by himself launching an attack on Karnasuvarna, the capital of Gauda, founded by Shashanka.
- The long looked for opportunity came when Shashanka treacherously murdered Rajyavardhana who had succeeded Prabhakaravardhana as the king at Thaneshwar. This incident is mentioned not only by Bana but also by Hiuen Tsang. On getting this information, Harsha, Rajyavardhana's brother and successor, resolved to take revenge on the murderer. He had just started on his march to subdue Shashanka when he met by **Hangsavega**, an ambassador from Bhaskaravarman, with valuable presents.
- **Hieun Tsang** speaks highly about the noble qualities of **Bhaskara**. He honoured Bhaskara as the "king of eastern India".
- He remained a celibate(unmarried) and with his death in **650 AD**, Varman Dynasty came to an end.

Salstambha Dynasty (655-675 AD)

- Salasthamba Dynasty, began with the reign of a chieftain called Salasthamba, a great chief of the **Mlechchhas** (a wide term used in traditional Brahminical texts to denote all non- Aryans).
- During the rule of this dynasty, the capital city was located at **Haruppeswara(Tezpur)**
- The 6th king of the dynasty, Sri Harsha/ Harshadeva was the most famous.
- Pralambha the great grandson of Harshadeva and Pralambha's son Harjaravarman was another famous ruler.
- Harjaravarman also built a lofty Siva temple and rows of stately buildings in the capital city at Haruppeswara alongwith the existence of a big tank called – **Hajarapukhuri**.

Sources highlighting its origin

- Hayunthal plates of Harjaravarman
- Tezpur Rock Inscription of Harjaravarman
- Bargaon plates of Ratnapala
- Tyagasimha was the last ruler

Pala Dynasty and later Kings of Kamarupa

- After Tyagsingha, the officers choose **Brahmapala** to the throne, thus establishing the **Pala** dynasty.
- The title 'Pala' is an abbreviation of the Sanskrit term **Palaka**, which means protector, I.e. a ruler or administrator.
- Succeeded by Ratnapala – his son and a powerful king. He shifted the capital city of his kingdom of Pragjyotishpur, strongly fortified it and named it as Durjaya or Sri Durjaya.
- Ratnapala's son died at an early age and succeeded by his grandson Indrapala.
- Indrapala(1040-1065) defeated Kalyanachandra(in North Bengal)
The copper plates of Bargaon and Sualkuchi confirms the reign of Ratnapala. In the land grant of his grandson Indrapala, he is described as the mighty crusher of his enemies. He took up the imperial title **Parameswara Parambhattacharaka Maharajadhiraja**.
- **Jayapala was the last ruler** of this dynasty.
- The three copper plate grants of Dharmapala (**Khonamukhi, Subhankarapataka** and **Pushpadhara**) confirms that the boundary of his kingdom was pushed to the west of Karatoya.
- During Jayapala's reign, Kamrupa was attacked by the Palas of Bengal.
- The Bengal king victorious placed Tishyadeva as his feudal king in the part and Pala dynasty came to an end. The feudal king **Tingyadeva rebelled**, the Pala king Kumar Pal sent **Vaidyadeva**.
- Vaidyadeva conquered Kamarupa and declared his independence in 1138 AD. He assumed the title Maharajadhiraja Parameswara Paramabhattacharaka.
- Later Vaidyadeva was killed in the hands of Rayarideva who established himself as an independent king of Kamrupa. He was succeeded by Udayakarna and Vallabhadeva.
- Vallabhadeva was defeated by Lakshmanasena from Bengal.

- Vallabhadeva succeeded by his son Viswasundardeva. He recovered his kingdom and established his independent status. Viswasundardeva was also popularly known as **Prithu** or Barthu.
- During his reign, **Muhammad-bin- Bakhtiyar** attacked Kamrupa but was defeated.
- Prithu also resisted the attack by **Sultan Ghiyasuddin- Iwas Khilji**.
- Prithu was finally defeated in the hands of **Nasiruddin**.

Previous Years' Questions - APSC

1. Hiuen Tsang visited Assam (Kamarupa) in 640 CE. He was received by the king (2017)
 - a) Bhagadatta
 - b) **Kumar Bhaskara Barman**
 - c) Swargadeo Rudra Singha
 - d) Kumar Rudra Barman
2. Hayungthal Copper Plate was issued by (2018)
 - a) Bhaskar Varman
 - b) Susthita Varman
 - c) Banamala Varman
 - d) **Hajara Varman**
3. Who was the founder of Pala Dynasty?(2018)
 - a) **Brahmapala**
 - b) Viradutta
 - c) Indrapala
 - d) Dharmapala

MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF ASSAM (13TH- 15TH CENTURIES)

- **Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khilji** was a military general of the Delhi Sultanate founder **Qutb-ud-din Aibak**.
- In 1205 AD, he attacked Kamrupa during the **reign of Prithu**. Prithu defeated the entire army. This is recorded in **Kanai Barasi Bowa inscription**. (1st invasion)
- Minhajuddin also provided a brief account of this invasion in his book **Tabaqat-I- Nasiri**.
- In 1227 AD Sultan Ghiyasuddin- Iwas Khilji invaded Kamrupa. Defeated by Prithu. (2nd invasion)
- Prithu was defeated in the hands of **Nasiruddin, the son of Iltutmish** in 1228 AD.

- The third invasion was led by Ikhtiyaruddin Yuzbeg Tughril Khan in 1256-57 AD. He was successful and erected a mosque.
- Later Sandhya defeated Tughril Khan taking advantage of Monsoon period of Assam.
- Thereafter, **Sandhya** shifted his capital to Kamalpur in Koch Bihar and assumed the title **Kamateswara**. After that Assam came to be known as Kamata or Kamrup- Kamata.
- Sighadhwaja was the last king and after him his minister Pratapdhvaja or Manik Chandra occupied the throne.
- After Pratapdhvaja, Dharmanarayan occupied the throne, shifted his capital to Dimla in Rangpur and took the title Gaudeswara.
- Later he was challenged by Durlabhnarayan and Kamata Kingdom got divided. Durlabhnarayan took North and East part including Kamatapur.
- Durlabhnarayan was a great patron of learning. His court was adorned by **Harihar Bipra, Kaviratna Saraswati and Hem Saraswati**.
- Succeeded by his son **Indranarayan** (1350-1365 AD) who assumed the title ‘**Pancha Gaudeswara**’.
- Ahom king Sudangpha invaded the Kamata Kingdom, **Mriganka was the last king** of the **Kamrup Kamata kingdom**.

Khen Dynasty

- After Mriganka, the throne was occupied by **Niladhvaj Khan** (1440-1460 AD). He assumed the title Kamateswar and rebuilt the city of Kamatapur. This came to be known as Khan or Khen dynasty.
- It had 3 kings namely, Niladhwaj, Chakradhwaj and Nilambar.
- Nilambar the most powerful was overthrown by Hussain Shah in 1498 AD who took away the capital Kamtapur from him.

Previous Years' Questions -APSC

1. Ibn Battuta, the celebrated traveller visited Assam in the (2000)
 - a) 13th century
 - b) **14th century**
 - c) 15th century
 - d) 10th century

MAJOR DYNASTIES [EXCLUDING THE AHOMS]

Bhuyans of Medieval Assam

- Bhuyans were pretty chiefs held a vast territory towards the west of the Kacharis on the South bank and West of the Chutiyas on the north bank of Brahmaputra.
- The term “Bhuyan” has nothing to do with caste. It meant the lord of the **land/zamindars**. It is believed that the word Bhuyan thus originated from the term “Bhauma”(land).

- According to Guru Charita and Sankar Charita after the war between Kamateswara Durlavnarayan and Gaudeswara Dharmanarayan has executed a treaty.
- According to the treaty, Dharmanarayan sent 7 families of Brahmins and 7 families of Kayasthas to Durlavnarayan, who settled them on the frontier as wardens. **Chandibar**, the forefather of **Srimanta Sankardeva blater became their leader(Siromani)**.
- **Chandibar** finally settled at Bardowa in Nagoan where his great grandson Sankardev was born.
- These Bhuyans are remembered in legends as **Baro- Bhuyans(12)** as they stood together **united against any common enemy**.

Chutiya Kingdom

- The Chutiya Kingdom was the largest kingdom in Assam after the fall of Kamrupa and before the rise of Ahom Kingdom.
- **Founder- Birpal** (1187 AD). He claimed himself to be a descent from the legendary Bhishmaka.
- Birpal's son **Gaurinarayan (Ratnadhvajpal)** was the most powerful king. He defeated many other Chutiya groups and attached the territories into the kingdom.
- He built his capital at **Ratnapur (Majuli)**.
- Ratnadhvajpal made alliance with Gaudaraj Biswarup Sen and sent his son to Gauda for education who ultimately met with death.
- The place where the dead body (Sa/So) of his son is received and cremated later came to be known as "**Sa Diya**".
- According to mythology, this place was known as **Bidarva** and the capital was **Kundil Nagar**.
- After Ratnadhvajpal, 9 Chutiya Kings ruled according to **Deodhai Assam Buranji**.

Ahom-Chutiya Conflicts

- During the reign of Ahom king Sutupha, the conflict between Chutiya and Ahom started.
- In 1376, Sutupha was killed by the Chutiya king during a friendly encounter.
- To take revenge later, Ahom King Tao-Khamti invaded and occupied the Chutiya Kingdom.
- However, Tao- Khamti abandoned the mission in between and Chutiyas re-occupied the territory.
- In 1513, Dhirnarayan or Dharmadhajpal attacked Ahom kingdom during the reign of Suhungmung but got defeated.
- In 1520, the Chutiyas invaded Ahom territory twice. They were successful in defeating the Ahom in the battle at Dihing.
- **Dhirnarayan's daughter Sadhani is married by Nitai** who did not belong to the royal family.
- After Dhirnarayan, Nitai occupied the throne and took the name **Nitipal**.
- Due to incapable rulership of Nitipal, a number of internal disturbances gradually weakened the kingdom.
- Taking advantage of the weakening Chutiya kingdom, **Suhungmung** conquered Sadiya in 1524 and Nitipal was killed. His wife **Sati Sadhani** preferred death to dishonour and committed suicide from the top of Chandragiri Hills near Sadiya.
- In respect of her sacrifice, every year **21st April** is commemorated as Sati Sadhani Divas.

- Suhungmung appointed a frontier called **Sadiyakhwa Gohain** to look after the annexed territory.
- The Ahom Chutiya conflicts continued till 1673 when the Chutiyas were finally absorbed into the Ahom Kingdom.

Kachari Kingdom

- Kacharis were ancient inhabitants of Assam.
- Kacharis belong to be broadly constituted Bodo group of Tibeto- Burman races. They were also called Kirat in ancient texts like Ramayana, Mahabharata and others.
- **Mythological Source:** The Kacharis belonged to the Dimasa Bodo group and called themselves descendants of **Ghatotkacha** the son of Pandava Prince Bhima.
- They ruled from their capital at **Hidimbapur(Dimapur)**
- Maha Manikya was a famous king of the Barahi Kacharis and they ruled about the middle of the 14th century at Dimapur.
- During the reign of Maha- Manikya- a Barahi king, **Sri Madhab Kandali** composed the Assamese version of the Ramayana.

Kachari-Ahom Conflicts

- In 13th century, before the rise of Ahom kingdom the Kachari kingdom was extended from Dikhou River in the east upto the Kolong river in the West.
- Suteupha, son of Syu Ka Pha occupied same territory of Kachari kingdom to the East of Dikhou river.
- In 1490 AD, Ahom king Suhanpha attacked Kachari kingdom but got defeated and Kacharis re-occupied their lost territory.
- Following that, Ahom king Suhungmung attacked Kachari kingdom to take revenge.
- Ahom army was led by Konseng Barpatra Gohain who occupied a large territory under Kacharis and pushed the boundary upto Dhansiri river.

Dihing (in Sibsagar)----- Dhansiri river(Golaghat)

- In 1526, Kacharis attacked Ahom kingdom but that attempt failed.
- Ahoms occupied Kachari capital Dimapur and placed one 'Detsung' as a feudal king.
- Later Detsung revolted and in 1536 AD, Ahoms again invaded Kachari kingdom and Detsung was slain or killed.
- Ahom King Suhungmung choose Madan Konwar, son of Detsung to the throne. He took the name Nirbhayanarayan.
- Suhungmung annexed the entire territory into Ahom kingdom and appointed an administrator "**Morongikhowa Gohain**".
- The Kacharis were driven out and they established a new capital in **Maibong**(present day Dimahasu)
- Nirbhayanarayan was succeeded by Durlabhnarayan and Meghnarayan.
- In 1562 AD, Koch Army commander Chilarai invaded Ahom kingdom and subsequently Kachari kingdom.

- Durlabhnarayan was defeated and became a feudal king of Koch Kingdom.
- In 1568 AD, following the defeat of Chilarai at the hands of Sultan Sulaiman, Durlabhnarayan declared Independence.
- After Durlabhnarayan's reign upto the beginning of 17th century no reliable information has been found regarding Kacharis.

Kacharis after 17th Century

- In the beginning of 17th century, Kachari king Jasnarayan became powerful.
- He defeated Jayantia king Dhanmanik and annexed his territory and also married 2 Jayantia princesses.
- In 1606 AD during the reign of Ahom king Pratap Singha, again a battle was fought between Ahom and Kacharis. Although in the initial phase, Kacharis got defeated later they won.
- During the battle, Ahom king (Pratap Singha) established several new villages in the Ahom Kachari border, which later came to be known as "**Na- Goan**".
- Following the victory, Jashnarayan took the name Pratapnarayan.
- He was succeeded by his son Naranarayan and brother Bhimbarnarayan.
- Bhimbarnarayan was a powerful king and he later made alliance with Pratap Singha.
- Till his death in 1637AD, there were no major conflicts between Kacharis and Ahoms.
- In the middle of the 18th century, the last king Gobinda Chandra died without any heir and therefore the British annexed the Kachari Kingdom under the **Doctrine of Lapse**.
- At the time of British annexation, the kingdom consisted of parts of Nagoan and karbi Anglong, North Cachar, Cachar and some frontier of Manipur.

Koch Kingdom

- In 1498 AD, Allauddin Hussain Shah invaded Kamrup- Kamrup kingdom. At this time Nilambar last Khen was the ruler. He fled and escaped his territory following the attack and then Allauddin Hussain Shah placed his son Daniel as its ruler of Kamrup Kamata.
- The Bhuyan chiefs combined against the common foe, attacked Daniel's garrison at Hajo and destroyed it. Thereafter, for about a decade or more, there was not a common king for Kamatapur.
- In 1515 AD, **Bisu the son of Haria Mandal** through his courage took the advantage of strifes amongst small Bhuyan principalities and became king under the name **Viswa Singha**.
- **Viswa Singha defeated the Bhuyans, and the entire state from Karotaya in the West to Barnadi in the East had become the boundary of the Koch kingdom.**
- This is how Viswa Singha established his capital in Koch- Bihar (present day West Bengal)
- He embraced and patronised Hinduism. He brought numerous Brahmins to Koch kingdom from Kanauj, Benaras and other places.
- He took a census of his subjects.
- His sons include **Malla Deb, Shukladhaj, Nar Singha and Gohain Kamal**.
- **Viswa Singha** died in 1540 after a reign of 25 years. At that time Malla Dev and Shukladhaj were at Banaras for learning and the throne was occupied by Nar Singha.
- But he soon defeated him, Malla Deb ascended the throne and assumed the name of Nara Narayan.

- His brother Shukladhaja became the chief commander of Koch army and met with almost unvarying success. He displayed such promptness of action that he was nick name “**Chirai**” [kite-king].
- Chilarai and Naranarayan engaged in war with Ahoms during the reign of Suklengmung where the later was defeated.
- In course of these invasions the Koch king constructed an embankment road from Koch capital at Koch Bihar to Narayanpur under the supervision of **Gohain Kamal**, the king's brother and was known as “**Gohain Kamal Ali**”.(350 miles)
- During the reign of Naranarayan, Koch Kingdom was at its zenith.

Gauda Attack

- In 1565 AD, Chilarai made an attack on Gauda. But Gauda army commander **Kala Pahar** defeated him and ascended upto Tezpur and demolished several Hindu temples. Chilarai was held captive.
- Naranarayan however did not accept this defeat as final.
- Few years later in 1583 AD, he joined with the Emperor Akbar in second attack upon the Badshah of Gaud and Gauda was divided between the Emperor of Delhi and the Koch king. During this attack Chilarai died of **pox**.
- Numerous manuscripts contain accounts of Koch kingdom. Most detailed account was found in the **Darrang Raj Banasabali**.
- During the reign of Naranarayan, British traveler **Ralph Fitch** visited Kochbihar in 1536 AD. He has written a brief account of Kochbihar.
- Naranarayan patronized **Eksarna Dharma** of Srimanta Sankardev and also wanted to be a disciple but the later denied.
- Naranarayan was a great patron of learning and patronized several scholars and authors. During his rule, **Ram Saraswati** translated **Mahabharata** into Assamese.
- **Purusottama Vidyavagish** authored a **grammar Ratnamala** in Sanskrit, **Ananta Kandali** translated Bhagavata(Purana) and some other noble ancient text into assamese.
- Naranarayan has restored the famous temple at **Kamakhya** which had been damaged by the Muhammeden invader **KalaPahar** in 1565 AD.
- He introduced gold and silver coins called **Narayani Mudra**.
- Naranarayan made Kochbihar a center of excellence of Art and culture.

Decline of Koch Kingdom

- For a long time, Naranarayan had no male child and hence Chilarai's son **Raghudev** was regarded as his heir.
- But in his later age he begot a son named **Lakshmi Narayan**.
- After losing hope of succeeding to the throne, Raghudev withdrew from the capital to Barnagar and rebelled.
- Naranarayan tried to compel Raghudev but failed.
- He resolved to divide the kingdom. The possession of Koch territory from Sankosh River to Barnadi was given to Raghudev as a tributary king which came to be known as **Koch Hajo**.

- Naranarayan kept the western part of the Koch kingdom for himself.(later ascended by his son)

Jayantia Kingdom

- Jayantia were ancient and original inhabitants of North East India.
- Matrimonial race who had founded their kingdom in and around Jaintia Hills.
- As per Chronicles, **Parbat Ray** was said to be the first king of Jaintia.
- Koch commander Chilarai invaded Jaintia kingdom in 1653.
- **Rajendra Singha** was the last Jaintia King and in 1835 AD, British annexed the territory of Jaintias.

Previous Years' Questions-APSC

1. The illustration work of the medieval Assamese text Hastividyarnava was done by (2000)
 - a) Suryakhan Daikhegya
 - b) Dilbar and Dosai
 - c) **Sukumar Barkaith**
 - d) Ram Saraswati
2. Gohain Kamal Ali constructed by Gohain Kamal from Koch Bihar to Natayanpur was constructed during the reign of (2000)
 - a) **Nara Narayan**
 - b) Parkshit Narayan
 - c) Biswa Singha.
 - d) Raghu Dev
3. Rang Ghar was constructed during the period of (2000)
 - a) Rudra Singha
 - b) Siva Singha
 - c) Rajeswar Singha
 - d) **Pramatta Singha**
4. The Kachari king to assume the title Pratap Narayan after defeating the Ahom was(2001)
 - a) Indra Narayan
 - b) Jash Narayan
 - c) **Nirbhya Narayan**
 - d) Durlabh Narayan
5. Who among the following did not receive the patronage of Koch King Naranarayan?(2001)
 - a) Ram Saraswati
 - b) Ananta Kandali
 - c) Sankardev
 - d) **Madhav Kandali**
6. Fatiyah-i-Ibryah was written by(2001)
 - a) Alberuni

- b) Azan Fakir
- c) Mir Jhumla
- d) Shihabuddin Talish**

7. Who among the following is the first Assamese translator of *Ramayana*? (2015)

- a) Sankardeva
- b) Madhab Kandali**
- c) Ananta Kandali
- d) Ram Saraswati

The Ahoms

The Ahoms belong to the Tai Mao section of the Tai-race which is native to South-East Asia.

- As per Ahom Chronicles or Buranji, the Ahoms were led by Prince (Chao- lung) Sukapha. He left Mao-Lung (native place of Sukapha) in **1215 AD** with his followers including several nobles, officers of various ranks, thousands of men, women and children.
- Ahoms led by Sukapha **crossed the Patkai in 1228 AD** and set up their first territory unit at **Khamjang Valley (Nagaland)**. Some Nagas attempted to resist Sukapha. But he defeated them and perpetuated atrocities to Nagas.
- Following this, all other Nagas in the neighbourhood made submission to Sukapha.
- After reaching the Brahmaputra valley, Sukapha and his followers moved from one place to another in search of a better place particularly suitable for rice cultivation. They stayed in several places like Namrup, Dihing, Tipam, Habung and Ligorigoan and Simaluguri.
- On the way Sukapha has organised several other territorial units along the bank of rivers Dihing and Dikhow.
- Sukapha finally established the capital at **Charaideo in 1253 AD**.
- This is how Sukapha founded a small Ahom **kingdom** in 1228 AD bounded by
Patkai Hills and Naga Hills(South),
Burhi- Dihing (East),
Brahmaputra(North) and
Dikhow(West).
- Sukapha was an enterprising and brave Prince. With judicious treatment he won over the chiefs of Morans and the Borahis and encouraged **intermarriage** with them and appointed some of them in various capacities.
- However Sukapha was criticised for his atrocities on the Nagas.
- **Sukapha appointed 2 great officers of the state- the Bor Gohain and the Burha Gohain.**
- They exercised power next to the king.
- After a rule of 40 years, Sukapha died on 1268 AD.

Early Ahom Kingdom

- Sukapha was succeeded by his son Suteupha—Subinpha—Sukhangpha etc.
- During the reign of the 4th king Sukhangpha, the Ahoms engaged in a war with the ruler of Kamata Kingdom. Eventually the Kamata ruler made a peace treaty by offering a princess named **Rajani**.

- Sukhrangpha died in 1364 AD. As he did not have a child or heir to his throne, after his death the nobles ruled for few years upto 1369 AD.
- In 1369AD, the nobles chose Sutupha(king's brother) to the throne. Sutupha got killed in a friendly encounter with the Chutia King.
- Succeeded by Tao- Khamti. He led a successful expedition against the Chutiya King to take revenge of the murder of his brother Sutupha.
- He was succeeded by Sudangpha. He was known as **Bamuni Konwar** for his birth in the house of a Brahmin at Habung.
- Sudangpha's reign is important in several aspects. The Ahom capital was shifted to Charagua.
- In his reign Brahmanical influence had its entry into the Ahom Royal Palace. Some nobles were dissatisfied at his subordination to Hindu influence and they reported it to the Tai ruler of Mong Kwang.
- Following this, the Tai ruler sent an expedition to annex the Ahom Kingdom.
- But Sudangpha successfully resisted the attack and made a treaty. By this treaty **the Patkai was fixed as the boundary between Assam and Mong.**
- The reigns of successive kings Sujinpha (1407-22) Suphakpha(1439-1488) and Susenpha (1493-1497) covering a period of 90 years were comparatively peaceful.
- However, a brief war with the Dimasa Kacharis was fought in 1490 AD. The bordering Nagas who made some raids were also kept in check.
- So from 13th- 15th century, Ahoms were busy in **consolidating their newly acquired territory and protecting it from neighbouring powers.**

Expansion of Ahom Kingdom

- The real expansion of Ahom Kingdom began with the reign of **Suhungmung.**
- He ascended to the throne in 1497 AD. He was better known as **Dihingya Raja** as he belongs to the Dihingya phoid(clan) of the royal family.
- During his reign the Brahmanical influence grew considerably in the Ahom court. He has adopted the Hindu title **Swarganarayan.**
- He transferred his capital to Charga on the bank of Dihing river.
- During his reign a census of population was done.
- In 1524 AD, taking the advantage of weakening Chutiya kingdom, Suhungmung conquered Sadiya. The Chutiya king **Nitipal** was killed. Suhungmung annexed Chutiya territory to the Ahom kingdom and placed frontier officer titled **Sadiya Khowa Gohain** to administer it.
- In 1527 AD, Muslim army led by Bar Ujir and Bit Manik attacked Ahom Kingdom. But they were defeated and Bit Manik was killed. It was the first Muslim invasion to **Ahom kingdom.**
- Later another commander Turbuk ascended upto Singri with a huge force. In that battle, the Ahom side got defeated and lost several of their general including Frachengmung Burhagohain and huge number of soldiers, Prince Suklengmung was also got severely wounded.
- However in 1533 AD in a renewed war the Ahoms defeated them in Duimunisila and Turbuk was killed.

- To take revenge of the death of Frachengmung , his wife **Mulagabhoru** bravely fought against Turbuk with exemplary bravery and perseverance and caused major damage to the enemy side and finally laid her life. Her death inspired the Ahom soldiers.
- A large number of arms, cannons, horses and soldiers were captured by the Ahoms. The captured soldier later settled in Ahom kingdom and came to be known as **Moriyas**. They were engaged in **brass metal works**.
- Suhungmung also defeated the kacharis of the Dayang- Dhansiri valley and Kachari royal family moved to Maibong leaving Dimapur. He brought the Kachari territory under the Ahoms at a province called Marangi and placed an officer titled **Marangi khowa Gohain** to administer it.
- He also brought under control the Bhuyans on the North Bank.
- The Ahom army marched westward as far as the Karatoya and thus by 1534 AD the Ahom army liberated Kamrup and kamata King.
- **Thus Suhungmung extended the Ahom dominion from Sadiya in the east to the Karatoya river in the West.**
- Suhungmung established relation with Gauda and Gauda king offered 2 of his daughters to Ahom king. Koch king Viswa Singha have also offered presents to Suhungmung.
- After an eventful reign of 42years, Suhungmung died in 1539AD.
- He was succeeded by his son Suklengmung. He was commonly known as **Garhgayan Raja** as he shifted his capital to Garhgoan.
- During his reign there was a series of conflicts between Ahoms and Koch. Initially the Koch army led by Chilarai defeated the Ahoms.
- But later Suklengmung defeated the Koch army.
- During his reign Garhgoan tank was excavated and Naga Ali was built. He was the first Ahom king to strike coins.
- He died in 1552 AD.
- Suklengmung was succeeded by Sukhampha. He was known as **Khora or Lame**. He injured his foot while going out for hunting.
- A plot was formed against him soon after his accession to the throne. They were caught but pardoned. But they rebelled again and this time they were put to death.
- In 1662AD Chilarai attacked Ahom kingdom and occupied Garhgoan(the capital) and the king fled. That is why Sukhampha was also known as **Bhogoniya Raja**. However, the Koch army soon returned after a peace treaty.
- Several earthquakes and epidemics occurred in his reign.

The Period of Ahom-Mughal Conflict

- The history of the Ahoms during the 17th century was mainly about the Ahom- Mughal conflict. The conflicts occurred between the Governor of Bengal under Mughal Empire and Ahom king.
- The Mughal emperors at that period were Jahangir(1605-1627), Shah Jahan(1627-1658) and Aurangzeb (1658-1707) [NOTE: **During Aurangzeb's period the famous Battle of Saraighat**]

- The imperial ambition of the Mughal emperors to extend their dominions to further EAST beyond Bengal and to seek routes to CHINA and TIBET stimulated the series of Mughal invasions to Ahom Kingdom.
- **Susengpha** succeeded his father Sukhampha. He had been known by various names: **Bura Raja (aged)**, **Budhhi Swarga Narayana (wise)**, **Pratap Singha** (because of his great deeds during his reign).
- In 1608 AD, Pratap Singha married **Magaladahi**- daughter of Koch ruler Parikshit(son of Raghu Dev).
- In 1615 AD, Balinarayan was defeated by Mughals and he fled to Ahom kingdom and Pratap Singha cordially received him.
- The Mughal claim on the Koch territory to the east of Barnadi and the trading adventures of Mughal merchants has initiated the Ahom-Mughal conflicts.
- In 1616 AD, during Pratap Singha's reign, a Muslim trader was killed in Kaliabor on suspicion of being a spy.
- Following this, to take revenge Sheikh Kasim—the governor of Bengal sent an expedition to Ahom Kingdom led by Sayed Hakim and Syed Abu Bakkar and Chatrajit.
- The Ahom army resisted the Mughal army in Bharali but got defeated.
- Later Ahom army made a surprise night attack on the Mughal army both on land and water and defeated them and many commanders and soldiers were captured and put to death.
- A vivid description of the plight of the Mughal soldiers is given in the Baharistan-i-Ghayil by Mirza Nathan- a Mughal general.
- At this victory, Pratap Singha performed the Rikkhvan ceremony.
- It was followed by a series of campaigns against the Mughals. In 1618 AD, there was another serious battle at Hajo in which the Ahoms lost nearly 4000 boats and an equal number of men were killed. The Ahom soldiers retreated.
- During his reign, war between Ahoms and Mughals reached his zenith. As a result of the decline and division of the Koch Kingdom in the 17th century, the Ahom kingdom was brought in direct line of confrontation with the Mughals.
- During his reign, the Ahom- Mughal conflict continued for over three decades at a stretch without any conflict.
- At that time **Langi Panisiya**, has been able to restore order among fugitive Ahom soldiers and Pratap Singha rewarded him by offering the newly created post of Barphukan.
- Barphukan was placed in charge of lower Assam west of Kaliabor and also head of diplomatic relations with the West.
- Pratap Singha also created another important post Barbarua. He was placed as the head of the secretariat and Judiciary immediately under the king. Mumai Tamuli was the first Barbarua of Ahom kingdom. He was the father of Lachit Barphukan.
- Frequent wars were happening- ultimately peace **was** restored by a treaty concluded by Momai Tamuli Barbarua and Allah Yar Khan in 1639 AD. By that treaty, the Barnadi on the North and the Asurar ali on the South were fixed as the boundary between the Ahoms and Mughal territories.
- **Pratap Singha introduced the Paik system in Ahom kingdom.**

Previous Years' Questions - APSC Previous Years' Questions – APSC

1. The 1st Ahom King to assume the Hindu title Swarganarayan was (2000)
 - a) Siva Singha
 - b) Pratap Singha
 - c) Jayadhvaj Singha
 - d) **Suhungmung**
2. The title of overall administration head of lower Assam Region during the Ahom rule was (2000, 2013)
 - a) Barphukan
 - b) Rajkhowa
 - c) Barpatra Gohain
 - d) Khongea Barua
3. Sadiya Khowa Gohain was a (2000, 2013)
 - a) Zamindar
 - b) King
 - c) Frontier Officer
4. The office of the Barbarua and Barphukan is created by (2001)
 - a) Sudangpha
 - b) **Suhungmung Dihingiya Raja**
 - c) Pratap Singha
 - d) Jayadhavaj Singha

MAINS QUESTION:

1. Who was known as Bamuni Konwar? (2016)
2. Discuss the Paik and Khel system of Ahom administration. Can this be considered as the foundation ground for the modern Panchayat System? (2014)

Momai Tamuli Barbarua

- He was the **first Barbarua** under Pratap Singha's reign.
- His sons- Lachit Barphukan, Lukuksola Borphukan, Baduli Phukan and daughter Pakhori Gabhoru.
- Momai Tamuli was Susengpha's uncle and therefore his **daughter Pakhori Gabhoru** was married to King Jayadhvaj Singha.
- Jayadhvaj Singha and Pakhori Gabhoru's daughter **Ramani Gabhoru** was married to Muhammad Azam Shah (son of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb)
- **Momai Tamuli Barbarua was responsible for designing the Paik system.**

Rulers after Pratap Singha

- The rulers after Pratap Singha did not have any significant events associated to their years of rule. Successors were **Surampha- Sutingpha- Sutamla etc.**
- **Sutingpha** suffered from poor health conditions from a very initial years of his birth and therefore he was nicknamed as **Nariya Raja** (Nariya in Assamese means sick). He too had a curved spine and got the name "Kekora" or crab.
- Due to ill health he was succeeded by **Sutamla**.

Sutamla

- Like his forefathers he assumed the HINDU(Brahminical) name **Jayadhwaj Singha**.
- Soon after his accession, several conspiracies were made against Jayadhwaj Singha. But all were repressed and conspirators were put to death.
- In 1650 AD, he sent an expedition to control the Nagas. This followed a series of conflicts and eventually after few years the Naga chief made submission to Jayadhwaj Singha.
- In 1655AD, Miris killed 2 Ahom subjects. After that an expedition was sent against the Miris and they were defeated. The Miris agreed to pay tribute to Jayadhwaj Singha.
- During this time, Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan fell sick and following this, Koch ruler Pran Narayan threw off the Mughal allegiance.
- After few years as a retaliatory action, **Mir Jhumla**- the newly appointed Nawab of Bengal led a huge force to invade Ahom kingdom in 1662 AD.
- Mir Jhumla was accompanied by **Rashid Khan**.
- With a huge force, Mir Jhumla and his army overran the defences put up at **Hatichala-Baritala** and **Jagighopa** fort and occupied Guwahati.
- After the occupation of the fort at Simalugarh and Samdhara, the Mughal army had a **naval victory** near Kaliabor on the river Brahmaputra.
- The Mughal army advanced towards the Ahom capital **Garhgoan** and Jayadhwaj Singha with his family and close associates evacuated the capital and fled to **Namrup**. Hence **Jayadhwaj Singha** was nicknamed as "**Bhaganiya Raja**".
- Then Mir Jhumla occupied Garhgoan on March 17, 1662 and established outpost at several places in Upper Assam.(Sibsagar)
- However when the rainy season started, these outposts had been cut off by flood and became isolated. The Ahom army also started harassing by guerrilla method of warfare. Jayadhwaj Singha also returned from Namrup.
- The Mughal army was placed under great hardship and finally they agreed to peace treaty proposed by the Ahom side.
- Thus on January 9, **1663 AD** the **Treaty of Ghiladharighat** was drawn up between Mir Jhumla and Jayadhwaj Singha.
- Large territories captured during Pratap Singha's time were lost to the Mughal empire.

Terms and Conditions of the Treaty

- Jayadhwaj became a tributary of the Mughal Emperor and he agreed to pay a huge compensation—several thousand tolas of Gold and silver and large number of elephants.
- The boundary between Mughal and the Ahoms were fixed between the Bharali River in the North Bank of Brahmaputra River and Kolong on the South bank of the Brahmaputra.
- Jayadhwaj Singha's daughter **Ramani Gabhoru** was sent to Delhi.
- The sons of ministers were sent as hostage with the Mughals till full payment was made.
- Lastly, all prisoners must be released.
- Soon after the treaty, Mir Jhumla and his army initiated return journey and he passed away on 30th March 1663 AD during the return journey.

- **Mir Jhumla was the first Mughal commander to occupy Ahom capital.**
- Mir Jhumla was accompanied by a reporter named **Shiyabuddin Talish** who wrote **Fatiyah-i-Ibriyah** where a valuable account of Assam –its climate, population, products etc was mentioned.

Reign of Jayadhwaj Singha

- After Mir Jhumla's return, Jayadhwaj Singha returned to Bokota as Garhgoan was ravished by the Mughals.
- He was the first Ahom king to embrace Hinduism by receiving initiation from a Vaishnava priest. He made large revenue free land grants with paiks to several Satras.
- One of the notable achievements of Jayadhwaj Singha's reign was the planned settlement of villages in certain tracts of the country.
- **Jayadhwaj Singha passed away in 1663 AD.**

Reign of Chakradhwaj Singha

- Jayadhwaj Singha was succeeded by **Chakradhwaj Singha**. His Ahom name was **Supangmung**.
- Soon after he ascended the throne 2 Mughals officials visited with the reminder that the balance of war compensation(**Treaty of Ghiladharighat**) was overdue and presented him a gown(siropa) sent by Mughal court to him as a tributary king.
- Chakradhwaj Singha was a person of indomitable courage and he refused to wear the gown. He said **"Death is preferable to a state of subordination to Bengal he uttered."**
- In 1667 AD, Mughal administrator of Guwahati Said Firoz Khan sent a strong worded letter to Chakradhwaj Singha demanding the outstanding indemnity.
- However, Chakradhwaj decided to fight against the Mughals and he entrusted the Command to the great warrior **Lachit Barphukan**.
- Next to Lachit Barphukan the Ahom army took charge with other generals including **Rajmantri Aton Burhagohain Dangoriya**.
- They first occupied the Mughals outpost at Kajali and Bansari and captured prisoners, horses, cannons were sent back to Garhgoan.
- Soon Guwahati and Pandu was captured by Ahom army, Guwahati was made the head quarters of BarPhukan and both the places were strongly fortified.
- An inscription in Assamese was recorded regarding this victory in **Kanai Barasi Bowa**.
- The Mughal Emperor **Aurangzeb** despatched a Rajput general named **Ram Singha** with a huge force to invade Ahom kingdom.
- Following this, Ahom erected some more fortifications. Due to the negligence in erecting a fort on the bank of Brahmaputra Lachit Barphukan beheaded his uncle. [**"Dekhot koi mumai danger nhoi"**]

The remains of this fortification is called **"Momai-Kota Garh"**.

In the engagement in Tezpur Ahoms got defeated.

However later in a naval war Ahoms defeated Mughals and Mughal army retreated to Hajo.

At this juncture, Ram Singha invited Chakradhwaj Singha for a single combat but he declined and ordered Lachit Barphukan for a renewed attack.

The war dragged on for years with loss on both sides,so Ram Singha offered a peace treaty.

- In 1670AD Chakradhwaj Singha passed away and he was succeeded by his brother (**Maju Gohain**)- **Udayaditya Singha**. [Ahom name- **Sunyatpha**]
- However the Ahoms defeated the Mughals in the famous **Battle of Saraighat** [**April 1671**].
- This defeat initiated the boundary between Ahoms and the Mughals which remained till the British occupation into Assam in the year 1826.

Goalpara in the South

Manas on the North

- Lachit Barphukan died after the victory in the Battle of Saraighat.
- His remains lie in rest at Lachit Maidam constructed in 1672AD by Udayaditya Singha at **Holongapar, Jorhat**.
- On **24th November** each year Lachit Divas is celebrated in Assam as a state holiday to commemorate the heroism of Lachit Barphukan.

Previous Years' Questions -APSC

1. In the Battle of Saraighat next to Lachit Barphukan who was in leadership(2000)
 - a) Koliabhumura Barphukan
 - b) Miri Sandiloi
 - c) **Rajmantri Atan Burhagohain**
 - d) Manthir Bharali Barua
2. The king nicknamed as Bhagoniya raja was (2000)
 - a) **Sutamla**
 - b) Sunyatpha
 - c) Surampha
 - d) Sutyampha
3. Maidams are(2000)
 - a) **Elaborate burial tanks of Ahom nobility and kings**
 - b) Large fields
 - c) Temples
 - d) Enclosure for sporting activities
4. The founder of the Ahom kingdom, Chaolung Sukapha ruled Assam from 1228 to 1268. After his death, who succeeded him? (2020)
 - a) **Suteupha**
 - b) Subinpha
 - c) Sukhaangpha
 - d) Sutupha
5. **Chao** Suhungmung was the first Ahom king to adopt a Hindu title, indicating a move towards an inclusive polity. Which Hindu name did he take?(2020)
 - a) **Swarganarayan**
 - b) Durlavnarayana
 - c) Udayaditya Singha
 - d) Jayadhwaj Singha

6. The brave Assamese lady warrior Mula Gabharu died fighting against (2020)
 - a) Mir Jhumla
 - b) Detchung
 - c) **Turbak Khan**
 - d) Mirza Nathan
7. The best passing out cadet of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla (Pune) is conferred the(2020)
 - a) Chatrapati Shivaji Gold Medal
 - b) **Lachit Barphukan Gold Medal**
 - c) Rani Laxmibai Gold Medal
 - d) President's Gold Medal

Period of Unstable Ahom Kingdom

- After Udayaditya Singha, who was poisoned to death in August 1673 AD, the nobles choose Ramdhawaj Singha(Suklampha)to the throne. He was Udayaditya's brother.
- His reign was full of power clashes between high officials in his kingdom. For instance, the Barbarua during his reign was Debera who caused the king to be poisoned and killed him in March 1675. (Infact Debera was responsible for the death of 3 kings viz; Suklampha, Suhung and Gobar Raja)
- **No doubt** Ramdhawaj Singha was followed by Suhung, Gobar Roja, Sujinpha and Sudaipha but it was a period of weak and unstable Ahom kingdom. Thus, several weak and young kings were placed on the throne and then quickly removed by ministers and high officials for their own **selfish** gains.
- Debera was ultimately killed by **Aton Burhagohain**. It was under his leadership that many revolts were subsumed. Infact **Aton Burhagohain** got the opportunity to nominate kings to the throne.
- **For instance, he nominated Sudaipha** who took the Hindu title "**Parvatia Raja**" as he resided at Charaideo Hills(parvat).
- These events provided immense power to Aton Burhagohain. He was almost virtually controlling the state and this aspect was not liked by his officials.
- Uniting the officials who were not happy with Sudaipha's reign, Luluksola Barphukan killed the king.
- By taking advantage of the situation, **Luluksola Barphukan** handed Guwahati to the Mughals. Many Ahom high officials were dissatisfied with **Sudaipha** and therefore allied with Luluksola Barphukan.
- In 1679 AD, Sudaipha was killed and **Sulikpha** was choosen to the throne.

Sulikpha/Lora Raja/Ratnadhvaj Singha

- In 1679 AD, Sulikpha was choosed at a very early age to the throne.
- Soon Luluksola Barphukan became **greedy** and **ambitious** and started misusing his power in every affairs of the state.He instigated Sulikpha to provide death penalty to several Ahom Kuwors(princes).
- He maimed or killed any possible contender to the throne. However he couldnot kill **Godapani**.

Godapani/Gadadhar Singha's Reign (Supatpha)

- **Godapani** was from the **Tungkhungiya Phoid**(clan) who was the most capable prince to take over as a king.
- Due to Sulikpha's atrocities, he fled from Ahom Kingdom and sought shelter at **Sattras** (Vaishnava Monastries) and the adjoining hills outside the Ahom Kingdom.
- Failing to trace Prince Godapani, Sulikpha's soldiers brought his wife **Joymoti** to **Jerenga Pathar**. Despite horrific torture she refused to tell his whereabouts. After continuous torture over 14 days she died on **27 March, 1680 AD**.
- She was accorded the **honorific Mohiyokhi (Sati) due to her supreme sacrifice** for the safe of her husband and the Ahom Kingdom.
- Soon after the death of Joymoti, **Laluksola Barphukan** was assassinated by his bodyguards **Bhutai Deka, Madhav Tamuli and Aghuna Kachari** and Sulikpha too was killed.
- Nobels chose Gadadhar Singha to the throne and he restored the authority of the king and brought stability.
- He sent a huge Ahom force to reoccupy Guwahati and engaged with a full front war with Mughals at Itakhuli near Guwahati.
- Defeated Mughal **Faujdar Mansoor Khan** fled and Ahoms occupied Guwahati.
- This **Battle of Itakuli in 1682 AD** was the **last battle between Ahoms and Mughals**.
- Gadadhar Singha repressed several conspiracies against him. He also sent expeditions against Miris and Nagas.
- By that time, **Eksaran Naam Dharma (Neo Vaishnavite)** and the Vaishnava Satras have attained remarkable influence in Ahom Kingdom and the country become full of Vaishnava followers. Many people became followers of Neo- Vaishnavism to get **exemption from the Paik System**.
- Moreover Gadhadhar Singha had developed personal grudge against some Gossains or Satradhikars as they refused to give him shelter during his exile.
- So, Gadadhar Singha decided to break the power of Sattras and Gossains. At the order, many Gossains were captured and killed. Their properties were also confiscated.
- The disciples or followers of Satras were captured and robbed of their property and forcefully engaged them in various works.
- By engaging the idle (Dhud) followers a long road on the south bank of Brahmaputra and hence it came to be known as **Dhudor Ali**.
- Dhudor Ali- 212km long road starting from Kamargoan in Golaghat to Joypur in Dibrugarh touching Mariani, Jorhat and now it is a **State Highway**.
- He also initiated a **detailed** land survey of Ahom Kingdom for the first time.
- Gadadhar Singha built the Shiva Temple at **Ummananda Island (Peacock island)**
- He was a Shakta follower. Died in 1696 AD and was succeeded by his son **Lai**.

Reign of Rudra Singha

- After the death of Gadadhar Singha his elder son Lai assumed the named **Sukhrungpha** and Hindu name **Rudra singha**.

- He inherited a strong monarchy and a peaceful kingdom from his father.
- He reversed the policy of Gadadhar Singha towards Vaishnava Satras and Gossains were allowed to resume their old position. However they were asked to make **Majuli** their headquarters. Since then Majuli became the chief seat of the Vaishnava Satras.
- From this decision, Rudra Singha can be seen as a Diplomatic King who in order to keep his kingdom at peace reversed the policy of his father. However this step can also be understood as a policy to keep this strong power at check (before his eyes) rather than letting them free to retaliate back to the Ahom kingdom all of a sudden with a great force.
- Although he was illiterate, Rudra Singha had a dynamic personality. Apart from maintaining balance in his empire he too took step to send expeditions for trade expansions. Instead of **isolationist policy** he had an international vision. He established extensive trade with **Tibet** and also sent his ambassadors to various parts of India.
- Rudra Singha imported an artisan named **Ghanashyam** from Bengal and under his supervision a capital city was constructed in **Rangpur** and several brick palaces were built.
- He built the **Joy Daul** and **Joy Sagar Tank** in memory of his mother Joymoti.
- He built the **Ranganath Daul, Fakua Daul**. A **RANG GHAR** was built using **BAMBOO** and **CANE** during his reign. **Later Pramatta Singha had erected the masonry Rang Ghar.**
- During his reign, masonry bridges over Namdang and Demow River. Metaka Ali, Kharikatia Ali are some roads constructed during his reign.
- The detailed land survey initiated during the reign of Gadadhar Singha was completed by Rudra Singha.
- He created the post of **Bezbaruah** for practising traditional medicine.
- Earlier alongwith the dead king servants were also buried in the maidams and Rudra Singha put an end to this inhumane custom. Rudra Singha also patronised games and sports, culture and literature.
- He created the post of **Gyan Baruah and Kukura Suwa Baruah** to look after music, dance and sports respectively.
- Rudra Singha celebrated the **BIHU** festival in his palace with pomp and grandeur. He too was fond of watching animal fights and therefore constructed the **Royal Sports pavilion- Rang Garh with Bamboo.**
- Rudra Singha patronised several scholars and authors. **Kaviraj Chakraborty** was the royal poet of his court.
- Rudra Singha decided to formally embrace Hinduism and invited **Krishnaram Bhattacharya** but later he asked his sons to follow it.
- He had 5 sons- **Siva Singha, Pramatta Singha, Rajeswar Singha, Lakshmi Singha and Barjana Gohain.**

Sutanpha's Reign

- After ascending the throne he assumed the Hindu name **Siva Singha** and as per his father's wish he became a disciple of Krishnaram Bhattacharya.
- He gave the management of Kamakhya Temple situated in Nilachal Hills to Krishnaram Bhattacharya. And his successors came to be known as **Parbatiya Gosains.**

- During the reign of Siva Singha, there was unprecedented growth of Hindu religious proclivities. The King was completely under the influence of Brahminical priest and astrologers.
- In 1722 AD, Siva Singha was alarmed by their astrologers that his rule will soon come to an end(will die) and to avert that he declared chief **Queen Phuleswari as Bar Raja** and handed over the royal power to her.
- She too was under the influence of Brahmans and therefore wanted to make **Shaktism** the state religion. She ordered the Vaishnava Mahantas and their followers to worship Goddess Durga.
- When refused she forced some Gosains to be brought to a Shakta shrine where sacrifices were being offered and their forehead was smeared with blood of the sacrificed animals.
- The Moamorias never forgave this insult and these incidents will slowly gear up the Moamoriya rebellion.
- Queen Phuleswari died in 1731AD and Siva Singha married her sister **Draupadi** and made her Bar Raja with the name **Queen Ambika**.
- **It was during her reign that the tallest Daul SHIVA DAUL** was constructed at Sibsagar.
- Queen Ambika died in 1741 AD and she was followed by **Enadari** who took the name **Sarbeswari**.
- **Dhai Ali** was built during Siva Singha's reign. Bar Raja Phuleswari built **Gauri Sagar Tank and a survey** was initiated in Kamrup and Bakota and recorded in **Pera Kagoz. (Register)**
- Bar Raja Phuleswari patronised **education** and learning to a great extent. She established several **"Toll"** for learning.
- During the reign of Shiva Singha, Kabiraj Chakravarty authored **Sakuntala Kabya**. Ananta Acharya authored **Ananta Lahari** and **Kabichandra Dwij** authored **Ram Kumar Harana and Dharma Puran**.
- In 1734 AD at **Phuleswari's** order, **Sukumar Barkaith** authored the famous book on medical treatment and training of elephants—**"Hasti Bidyarnava"**.
- In 1739AD four Europeans paid a visit to Siba Singha namely- **Bill, Godwin, Lister and Mill**.

Reign of Pramatta Singha

- After the death of Siva Singha, his brother Pramatta Singha ascended the throne in 1744 AD.
- He assumed the Ahom name **Sunenpha**. He constructed the **masonry Rang Ghar**- the Royal Sports pavilion to watch animal fights and other sports.
- New Masonry buildings and gateways were constructed at Garhgoan. The **Rudreswar** and **Sukreswar** temples were constructed at Guwahati.
- His reign was almost peaceful without any major conflict and expedition and after an uneventful reign of 7 years he died in 1751AD.
- After his death, his brother **Rajeswar Singha ascended the throne in 1751AD**.

Reign of Rajeswar Singha (Surampha)

- In 1758 AD, Dafalas **committed** several raids in Ghiladharighat.
- As a punishment Rajeswar Singha erected forts and prohibited the Dafalas to enter the plains.
- Finally they made submission to Ahom Kings and an agreement was made to allow Dafalas to levy taxes from frontier areas.
- In 1765 AD two huge expeditions were sent against the Mikirs as they have stopped paying tributes to Ahom King.
- Following that Mikirs came in **with tribute** and begged forgiveness.

- In November 1765 AD Kachari King **Sandhikari** was summoned but he refused and then Rajeswar Singha sent a force under **Kirtichandra Barbaruah**.
- Following this, Kachari king came and paid tribute to Rajeswar Singha. He was accompanied by Raja of **Manipur Jai Singh**.
- Jai Singh was taking shelter in Kachari Kingdom because his country was invaded by the **Burmese**.
- Manipuri King Jai Singh sought help from the Ahom king to fight against the Burmese.
- Rajeswar Singha agreed to help him and dispatched **Harnath Phukan** to Manipur with a huge Ahom force.
- To reach Manipur at earliest, the force marched through hills to the South of Charaideo. But on their way through deep and dense jungle, the Ahom soldiers lost their way and they had to find ways by **clearing creeplings (Lota)**. Hence it was named as **Lota Kota Ron**.
- The soldiers faced great hardships many got killed, some were killed by Nagas and finally they had to return.
- After that in 1768AD another force with ten thousand troops was sent to Manipur under Kirtichandra Barbaruah.
- With the help of this force, Jai Singh has driven out the Burmese and re-occupied the throne of Manipur.
- Jai Singh sent valuables and also gave his daughter **Kuranganayani** in marriage to Rajeswar Singha.
- A number of Manipuri people accompanied Kuranganayani and they settled in Desoi river. It came to be known as Managala Hat as Ahoms called Manipuris as Mangalu.
- Soon after Rajeswar Singha fell ill and dies in 1769 AD at Dergoan.
- Rajeswar Singha was a able king but he preferred **pleasure** to state affairs and hence he left the government in the hands of Kirtichandra barbaruah.
- Barbaruah however became greedy **and ambitious** and therefore caused resentment among the nobles.
- **Numali Bar Gohain** wrote a Buranji named **Chakaripheti** where it was mentioned that Kirtichandra was from a lower descent.
- Following that Kirtichandra Barbaruah obtained the ascent from the king to examine all Buranji's in existence at that time and which contained any objectionable content were burnt.
- Soon after, several assassinations were plotted against Kirtichandra but failed.

Note

- Rajeswar Singha was a strict Hindu. Soon after his accession he paid a long visit to Guwahati to worship in various temples.
- He erected several temples and Dauls. He erected dauls in Bashistha ashram, Manikarneswar and Nabagrah Dewalaya.
- He also erected a new dual in Negheriting.
- Construction of **Kareng Ghar** and **Talatal Ghar** were the best notable works of Rajeswar Singha.

Reign of **Lakshmi Singha** and the Moamoriya rebellion

- After the death of Rajeswar Singha, there was a difference of opinion amongst the nobles regarding the successor of the throne.
- One side headed by Kirtichandra was in favour of Lakshmi Singha and the other side was in favour of Namrup Raja- the eldest son of Rajeswar Singha.
- Finally Lakshmi Singha ascended the throne in 1769AD and he assumed the name **Sunyeopha**. He was already old (55 years) when he became king and hence he left the state affairs in the hands of Kirtichandra barbaruah.
- Lakshmi Singha's reign was disrupted by the **Revolt of Moamoriyas**. Several causes can be attributed to the rise of that revolt.

NOTE: After the death of Srimanta sankardev(**Mahaprayan**), the Vaishnava sattras were divided into four Songhotis due to disagreements and fights among the disciples. They are:-

1. **Kaal**
2. **Brahma**
3. **Purush**
4. **Nika**

The Moamoriya Rebellion (1769-1805)

- The Moamoriyas were the followers of the Mayamara Sattras which belonged to the Kaal Songhoti.
- The word Moamoriya has originated from the word '**Mayamara**'. 'Mayamara' was the name of a Vaishnava Sattras.
- Although it included people of various caste the primary tribe was that of Moran (tribe).
- The religious preceptor (**Satradhikar**) of this sattras belonged to the Sudra caste. He was referred to as the **Mahanta**. Since these low caste people found special dignity and preference they felt empowered and this led to the increasing number of followers and devotees of the guru.
- This growing power led the Mahantas an equal power to that of the Ahom royalty and this feeling of equal status and power created a dislike between the two.
- There were various reasons be it political, religious or social economic behind this clash of power.
- However the relation between the Moamoriyas and the Ahom Kings have started degrading since the time of Pratap Singha.
- After that, Surampha and Gadadhar Singha provided death penalties to Moamoriya Mahanta **Nityanandadev and Baikunthadev** respectively. Bar Raja Phuleswari forced the Moamoriyas to follow Shakta rituals and smear their forehead with the blood of sacrificed animals.
- Kirtichandra Barbaruah provided physical punishment to **NAHAR**- the chief of the Morans who came to make annual offer of elephants. Nahar was offended at this and was looking for support to take revenge on the Barbarua.
- One day Lakshmi Singha was travelling **along with** Kirtichandra and they met Moamoriya Gossain. He showed respect to the king but did not offer any respect to the latter. So Kirtichandra got offended and abused Moamoriya Gossain.
- Soon the Moamoriyas decided to fight and appointed his son **Bagan** to lead the rebels.

- In 1769 AD, the revolt took place. The first engagement they were defeated but soon another Moran named **Raghab Sakia** led the force and defeated Ahom soldiers in several engagements.
- The Moamriya rebels then occupied the capital Rangpur.
- Lakshmi Singha was captured and held captive in Jay Sagar Daul and Kirtichandra Barbaruah was put to death.
- Raghab assumed the post of Barbaruah and **Ramakanta**- son of Moran Chief Nahar was chosen to the throne.
- Coins were minted in Ramakanta's name in 1769AD.
- The **Moamriyas preserved the entire structure of the Ahoms** government and for several years the new regime didn't face any opposition from the Ahoms.
- But soon Ahom officials **along with Queen Kuranganayani** planned to overthrow Moamriya regime.
- Finally in 1770AD taking advantage of Bihu festival **Raghab Barbaruah** was killed.
- Ramakanta escaped but many other Moamriya officers were put to death.
- Lakshmi Singha was released from captivity and was reinstalled in the throne.
- After that a vigorous persecution of Moamriyas took place. A large number of Moamriyas were captured and killed at Lakshmi Singha's order.
- In 1780AD lakshmi Singha died at an age of 68years.

Reign of Gaurinath Singha

- Lakshmi Singha was succeeded by his son Gaurinath Singha in 1780AD.
- The Ahom kingdom **began to decline from the time of Gaurinath Singha**.
- In 1782, the Moamriyas **insurrection rose again** with renewed vigour and increased hostilities.
- They advanced to garhgoan but the rebels were treated with severity and many were executed.
- In the same year 1782AD, **Purnanada Burhagohain** got appointed. He was a brave farsighted and efficient Ahom officer. He advised Gaurinath Singha to adopt liberal policy towards Moamriyas.
- In 1785AD Gaurinath Singha allowed Moamriyas to have a Guru and Pitambardev was appointed as Moamriya Mahanta.
- After a brief pause, the tributary caused by the Moamriyas swept down across the north bank.
- This time **Harihar Tanti** led the Moamriyas the defeated Ahom soldiers in several engagements and advanced towards the capital Rangpur.
- Gaurinath Singha sought assistance from Manipur, Kachari, Jayantia and the chiefs of Rani, Beltola, Luki. Before the help arrived the rebels occupied Rangpur.
- Gaurinath Singha with his family escaped to Guwahati.
- At Rangpur, the Moamriyas set up Bharat Singha as king and the Hatisungi Morans set up Sarbananda as their king of the territory to the east of Dihing and both minted coins in their names.
- Then Ahom administration was shifted to **Dichoi** and from there Purnananda Burhagohain continued fight against Moamriyas.
- Krishnanarayan of Darrang rebelled and occupied North Guwahati.

- At that time several petty chiefs declared independence and finally Gaurinath Singha sought British assistance.

Reign of Gaurinath Singha & Burmese Invasion

- Gaurinath Singha appealed for help of men and materials to the British East India Company.
- He appealed through a salt merchant named **Raush and commissioner of Koch Bihar—Mr. Douglas.**
- In response to this the Governor General Lord Cornwallis dispatched Captain Thomas Welsh with sepoys and he arrived at Goalpara in November 1792.
- The meeting between Gaurinath Singha and Captain Welsh took place at Nagarbera on the Brahmaputra.

Operation of Captain Thomas Welsh

- Captain Welsh suppressed the rebellious elements in Guwahati and on the North Bank.
- He also pacified Darrang Raja Krishnanarayan and expelled many of the Burkundazes (hired North Indian soldiers) who assisted him.
- Then Captain Welsh advanced to Jorhat. Then he defeated the Moamorias in Rangpur and restored the authority of Gaurinath Singha at Rangpur in 1794 AD.
- Soon after this success, **Captain Welsh was recalled** by Governor General Sir John Shore and he left Assam.
- During his stay in the kingdom, Captain Welsh concluded a commercial treaty in 1793 by which commerce between Assam and Bengal was sought to be put on “reciprocal basis.”
- The Report of Captain Welsh which he submitted to his government gives some important information in regard to the administration of Ahoms, trade and commerce, products etc.
- Gaurinath Singha was very cruel and vindictive. But he did some good work like abolition of human sacrifice at the Kechaikhati temple at Sadiya.
- In 1794 AD, he **permanently shifted the Ahom Capital to Dichoi(Jorhat).**

Reign of Kamaleswar Singha

- Gaurinath Singha died in 1795 and he was succeeded by Kamaleswar Singha.
- He left the administration to the most efficient officer—Purnananda Burha Gohain.
- His reign witnessed localised revolts at several places in Kamrup, at Sadiya by the Khamtis, Pani Noras, Miris, fresh Moamaria insurrection in league with the Daflas but all those were successfully suppressed.
- The revolt at Kamrup was led by Haradutta and his brother Birdutta. They organised some Barkundez soldiers. The local people called them Dumdumiya and hence the revolt was known as Dumduniya or Donduwa Droh.
- The Donduwa Droh was soon repressed and Haradutta and Birdutta was killed by Kalia Bhomora Barphukan and he was offered the title Pratap Ballav by Kamaleswar Singha.
- Kalia Bhomara Barphukan also decided to build a bridge over Brahmaputra near Silghat. The second bridge over Brahmaputra “Kolia Bhomora Setu”(1987) connecting Kaliabor and Tezpur has been named after Kalia Bhomora.
- In 1805, there was a fresh rising of Momariyas under Sarbanada Singha.

- Moamoriyas also brought Burmese twice to the country for assistance but Purnananda bribed the Burmese and sent them back.
- Finally Purnanda Burhagohain concluded a treaty with Moamoriyas and they settled in between Brahmaputra and Burhidihing which came to known as **“Matak” state**. Their chief was given the title **“Bar Senapati”**.
- Kamaleswar Singha connected the new capital Jorhat by constructing several new roads like the Na-Ali, Rajabahar Ali, Mohobandha Ali, Kamarbandha Ali etc.
- He also built a copper- house at Kamakhya
- Kamaleswar Singha died in 1810 AD.

Reign of Chandrakanta Singha

- Kamaleswar Singha was succeeded by Chandra Kanta Singha.
- He assumed the Ahom name Sudenpha. As he was very young at in age, the control of Ahom Kingdom remained at the hands of Purnananda.
- The reign of Chandra Kanta Singha saw the Burmese invasion.
- Chandra Kanta Singha developed a great friendship with Satram who soon became greedy and insolent and plotted assassination of Burhagohain. He was captured and banished to Namrup.
- Consequently at the death of Kalia Bomora, Badanchandra was appointed as the Barphukan.
- The appointment of Badanchandra Barphukan was the most disastrous decision for Ahom kingdom.
- Badanchandra Barphukan was very corrupt and soon friction was developed between Purnananda Buragohain and Badan Chandra Barphukan.
- Finally Burhagohain sent man to arrest Badan Chandra but he fled and went to Calcutta and sought British assistance . But the British refused to intervene.
- Following that Badan Chandra went to Burmese capital Amarapura and pleaded for assistance against the Burhagohain. The Burmese Monarch Bodoupaya already had his eye on Assam.

First Burmese Invasion

- Bodoupaya took the opportunity and in 1817AD he dispatched a huge Burmese army of about 16000 men with Badan Chandra to Assam. It was the first Burmese invasion to Assam.
- Purnananda Singha sent Ahom army to resist Burmese. At that juncture, unfortunately he died of heart attack.
- Purnananda’s death was a big blow to Ahom Kingdom. He was succeeded by his son Ruchinath Burhagohain.
- In this **first Battle at Ghiladharighat**, Burmese defeated the Ahom army. Then the Burmese army marched forward and arrived at Jorhat.
- On their line of March, Burmese army burnt thousands of villages.
- The Burmese army arrived at Jorhat.
- Badanchandra was reinstated as Barphukan and he became all powerful.
- Chandrakanta Singha was retained as a nominal king and all relatives and adherents of Burha Gohain was killed.

- In April 1817 AD the Burmese returned to their country and took with them an Ahom girl named **Hemo Aideo** and a very huge amount of presents.

Fall of the Ahom Kingdom

- In April 1817 AD, Burmese army returned and soon after their departure, Barbarua quarrelled with Badan Barphukan.
- The king's mother Numali Rajmao, Nirbhay Narayan Bargohain took side with Barbarua.
- Finally Badanchandra was assassinated in 1818AD.
- Ruchinath Burghagohain decided to place Brajnath Singha in Ahom throne. But he was ineligible and his son Purandar Singha was chosen to the throne.
- Chandrakanta Singha was captured and mutilated and made ineligible for further accession to the throne.

Second Burmese Invasion 1819

- Soon Burmese king came to know about the assassination of Barphukan, a huge force was sent under Alu Mirgi and they reached Assam in February, 1819AD.
- It was the **second Burmese** invasion to Assam.
- In the Battle near Nazira, initially Ahom army successfully resisted the Burmese. But later the Ahom army successfully resisted the Burmese. But later the Ahom army retreated and Burmese army advanced to Jorhat.
- Purandar Singha and Ruchinath fled to Guwahati, Purandar Singha reached Calcutta and appealed the British East India Company to assist him but they refused to intervene.
- Chandra Kanta Singha was once again restored to the throne by the Burmese. He was only nominal ruler and the real authority was vested on Burmese commander.
- In 1819AD, Alu Mingri returned by retaining few Burmese army in Ahom Kingdom under **Mingimaha Tiluwa**.
- After the departure of the Burmese, Chandra K. Singha sought to raise a fort at Jaipur against further Burmese invasion. It was supervised by Patal Barbaruah.
- In 1821 **Burmese Monarch Bagyidew** sent a Burmese force with presents of ornaments and dress to Chandrakanta Singha.

Third Burmese Invasion

- The Burmese force soon reached near Jaipur and seeing such preparations for the fort they killed Patal Bararuah.
- Chandrakanta got afraid of this hostile move and in February 1821AD he fled to Guwahati. The Burmese tried to convince him to return but failed.
- In 1821 AD, the Burmese placed Jogeswar Singha as a nominal king and the real authority was vested on Burmese commander Mingimaha Tiluwa.
- Chandrakanta Singha crossed the border and entered Bengal where he collected arms and men to fight the Burmese.

Fall of the Ahom Kingdom

- In 1882 AD, Mingimaha Bendula arrived in Assam, with a large reinforcement.

- In April 1822 AD the Battle of Mahgarh took place between Chandra Kanta Singha and Burmese but Chandrakanta was defeated.
- In June 1822 AD Chandrakanta fought the last Battle of Hadirachaki and there also he got defeated.
- Chandrakanta fought with exemplary bravery but he was badly defeated due to shortage of ammunition.
- After the battle of Hadirachaki, the Burmese formally took over Ahom kingdom.

Manor Din

Period of Burmese rule

- The period from 1821-1824 is called period of Burmese rule.
- During this period, the Burmese devastated the country and committed atrocities by plunder and killing of innocent people.
- People were burnt alive, some portions of their bodies were cut off alive.
- Their apprehension were so horrific that it cannot be described.
- In addition to that, the Singphos allied with Burmese and made constant raids and carried off helpless Assamese people as their slaves.
- Even after so many years Burmese left, people of Assam remember Manor Din or Manor Upodrob with horror.

Friction Between Burmese & British

- The Burmese started demanding the surrender of refugees including Chandrakanta Singha and their supporters.
- In that time, the border conflict in the East India Company's Chittagong Frontier with the Burmese empire also took serious turn.
- Bengal was the most prized possession of British and anticipating a Burmese invasion on Bengal, British Governor. General Lord Amherest decided to fight.
- Governor General Lord Amherest declared war on the 5th of March 1824 against Burma(Myanmar) under the command of General Archibald Campbell.

Anglo-Burmese War

- The British army entered Goalpara frontier of Assam, defeated the small Burmese garrisons in Lower Assam and advanced to upper Assam.
- The British army in Brahmaputra Valley was led by a civilian(agent of Governor General) David Scott, Colonel Richards and Captain Neufuille.
- At first British troops occupied Moramukh- main establishment of Burmese.
- On 21st January 1825 British army occupied Rangpur and martial law was declared. David Scott was appointed as civil officer incharge of civil matters and Col. Richards incharge of the army.
- The Burmese and their ally Singphos were driven out of Assam.
- In 1824 Colonel Innes with the help of Gambhir Singh driven out the Burmese from Manipur.
- In June 1825 Captain Neufuille defeated the allies of Burmese and Singphos. The Burmese were expelled and Singphos submitted. In that mission, Captain Neufuille rescued around 6000 Assamese captives.

- The British army invaded Burma and in the Battle of Yangon and Battle of Prome, the Burmese were badly defeated.
- Narratives of Burmese War by Wilson provides a detailed account of Anglo Burmese War.

Treaty of Yandaboo, 1826

- Finally on **24th February 1826** a treaty of peace and friendship was concluded between the British and the Burmese at Yandaboo.
- By this treaty of Yandaboo, the Burmese monarch renounced all claims upon and promised to refrain from all interference with Assam, Manipur and Arakan and also recognised Gambhir Singh as the Raja of Manipur.
- British kept Assam under its occupation. It was constituted as province of Assam and British administration was introduced.

The Moamoriya Rebellion (1769-1805)

Reasons for the rebellion

1. Change in Religious Policy of Ahom

- **In equal** royal patronages to various sattras
- The policy of oppression and domination of Vaishnava and the suppression of the Sattra institution by the Ahom king Gadadhar Singha. He took steps to curtail the power of the Sattras which were gaining momentum as a parallel kingdom.
- King Rudra Singha used the policy of divide and rule. He gave special privileges to Brahmanical Sattras by which he created a rift between them and the Sudra Sattras.
- Queen Phuleswari insulted the Sudra mahantas by forcing them and their disciples to smear the blood of sacrificed animals on their forehead as “tilak”.
- The difference between Hindu Brahminism and Mahapurishiya Vaishnavism was another major cause for the rebellion.
- Swargadeo Rudra Singha invited a Shakta Brahman Pandit named Krishnaram Bhattacharya from Bengal . Almost all kings after Rudra Singha became his disciple. At times these rulers acted in a biased manner increasing the social isolation.
- Paik **system** responsible for Moamoriya rebellion.
- Decrease in the number of Paiks in a GOT: Earlier 4 Paiks made up a Got and they rendered services for 3 months in rotation. However during the reign of Rajeswar Singha, each Got was to comprise 3 Paiks which were to provide service for 3months to the state in rotation.
- Exploited the hardworking common people, they were not ready for change.
- Division of Paiks into Chamua and Kanri Paiks
- The idea that since the economy of the Ahom state depended completely on the Paiks, the Ahoms will understand their troubles were falsified.
- Socio-Economic cause(imbalance)
- To end the long saga of exploitation, individual leaders like ‘Gagini’ the son of Moamoriya Mahanta Ashtabhuj took up the responsibility for the future rebellion.

The events of the Moamoriya Rebellion

AIM : To end the Ahom rule

- Towards the end of 1769 Moamoriyas collected 7000 soldiers and step forward for the revolt.
- First instance they neglected the Ahom kings authority and attacked a group that had gone into the forests in the Moran inhabited area to collect timber on behalf of the king.
- The king responded immediately by sending a force of 2000 soldiers against them.
- Ahoms defeated in this encounter.
- Then Swargadeo Lakshmi Singha dispatched a huge army of 14000 soldiers to quell the rebellion.
- The Commander of this force was **Harnam Bhitruwal Phukan**.
- Ahoms defeated again and Phukan was captivated. Then the Moamoriyas marched towards the Charaideo Hills and proceeded towards the capital. They captured the king and imprisoned him in the JOYDOUL. Kritichandra too was imprisoned.
- The Moamoriyas captured the Ahom capital and established Nahor Khora's son Ramakanta or Ramananda on the throne.
- **Ragha Moran** became the **Borbarua**.

The Second Phase of the Rebellion

- After Lakshmi Singha was reinstated inhuman activities too started in a huge scale.
- In the second phase the Burhagohain was **Ghanashyam**.
- He tried to bring normalcy in the kingdom but almost half of the entire Ahom kingdom was de-populated.

The Third Phase of the Rebellion

- The desire for revenge made the Moamoriyas join hands with the Daflas and Bahatiyas and once again the revolt started against the Ahoms.
- As a result on 19th January 1788, Swargadeo Gaurinath Singha left his capital for Guwahati.
- The Moamoriyas captured the capital and established a relative of the Mahanta, **Bharat Singha** on the throne.
- After the death of **Ghanashyam Burhagohain**, his son, **Lari Gohain** became the Burhagohain. This person is famous as **Purnananda Burhagohain**.
- After the 3rd Phase of the rebellion the British entered but they returned back.
- The **British** first came to Assam on the invitation of the Ahom **Swargadeo Gaurinath Singha in 1792**.
- A **Trade** treaty was concluded between Gaurinath Singha and Captain Welsh on 8th February 1793 according to which:
 1. Tax of 10% was levied on **any** commodity **imported** into Assam from any English dominated region.
 2. Tax of 10% was levied on **any** commodity **exported** from Assam to any English dominated region.
 3. **No tax was to be collected on grain and rice.**
 4. Two custom offices were set up in Guwahati and Kandahar for collection of import and export duties.
 5. No other European traders were to trade in Assam without the permission of the English or the Ahom government.

- The Assamese soldiers alongwith the British compelled the Moamoriyas to flee Rangpur. A large number of Moamoriyas were killed.
- Raja Bharat Singha was badly injured and he escaped. On 21st March 1794 Gaurinath Singha entered the capital.

The Fourth Phase of the Rebellion

- **Sir John Shore the new Governor General after Lord Cornwallis** adopted a new policy of **non-intervention**. Therefore he called back Captain Welsh from Assam.
- As soon as he returned the political turmoil **once again** raised its head in the state.
- The Moamoriyas took over Rangpur again. Gaurinath singha too died in 1795 leaving the state in a chaotic condition.
- During this time, Purnananda Burhagohain was looking after the state affairs and therefore he nominated the son of **Kadamdighala Gohain- KINARAM** as the successor of Gaurinath Singha.
- Kinaram took the Hindu name **Kamaleswar Singha** and the Ahom name **Suklengpha**.

NOTE:

- After the death of Bharat Singha, the Moamoriyas revolted again in **Bengmara**(present day Tinsukia).
- They were led by **Sarbananda Singha** and helped by the Singphos.
- With the help of the Singphos they too came in contact with the Burmese.
- Purnananda Burhagohain very well understood that this friendship with the Burmese was a bad omen for the kingdom and as such he tried his best to solve issues with the Moamoriyas.
- Purnananda realised that among Moamoriyas the Moran were the majority and the strongest.
- He therefore concluded a treaty with the Moamoriya leader **Sarbananda**.
- With Bengmara as the centre the area between Brahmaputra and Dihing was named as **Matak Rajya- and this was given to Sarbananda**.
- Sarbananda agreed to pay tribute to the Ahoms.

Captain Welsh description of Assam

- His account consisted of details regarding the Ahom administration, the Paik system, the process of selecting Ahom kings etc.
- He also highlighted the dictatorship of Kirtichandra Barbarua and the power struggles between the Mahantas and the Ahom royalty.
- Regarding trade and economy, Welsh mentioned that Assam and Bengal had large scale trade, revenue amounting to Rs. 90000 per year. But only Rs. 26000 reached the royal treasury.
- There was scarcity of **Salt and** much has to be imported and therefore it was the expensive commodity.
- Inferior quality salt was present in **Sadiya and Nagapahar in Assam**.

Burmese Invasion of Assam

Note:

- The way Sarbananda was made an independent king of Matak Rajya by Purnananda Burhagohain. Similarly in order to diplomatically handle the Singphos, the Burhagohain gave to the **Singpho Chief- Bichanong** an Ahom girl named **Rangili** to establish cordial relations.
- Bichanong however presented Rangili to the Burmese king **Bodawpaya** to maintain good relations.
- Ironically it will be **Rangili** who later will help Bandachandra against Purnananda Burhagohain.

First Burmese Invasion, 1817

- Badan Chandra with the help of Burmese army attacked the Ahoms led by **Daman Gogoi** and **Hau Bora**.
- However the Ahoms were defeated and this news saddened Purnananda so much that he died.
- His son **Ruchinath** succeeded him.
- **1st engagement** between Ahoms and Burmese- At **Ghiladharighat**
- **2nd engagement - Kathalbari**, which lies to the east of Dihing.
- **Ruchinath** fled after he lost in the second engagement.
- **The Burmese made** Badan as the Barphukan and he became all powerful, Chandra Kanta Singha became just a nominal king.
- Along with Badan, two scribes came to Assam and they wrote a note on the Burmese military operations in Assam. They are **“Baishali Hukong”** and **“Baishali Mung-dun-sun-kham”**.
- The first invasion of the Burmese 1817 cannot be termed as a real **invasion** because they only came to help Badan Chandra.

Second Burmese Invasion

- Numali Rajmao along with some officials hatched a conspiracy to get rid of Badan Chandra as he was becoming all powerful. As per their plot Ban Chandra was killed in 1818 by a Subedar named Rup Singh.
- Soon Burmese king came to know about the assassination of Barphukan, a huge force was sent under Alu Mirgi and they reached Assam in February, 1819AD.
- It was the second Burmese invasion to Assam.
- In the battle near Nazira, initially Ahom army successfully resisted the Burmese. But later the Ahom army successfully resisted the Burmese. But later the Ahom army retreated and Burmese army advanced to Jorhat.
- Purandar Singha and Ruchinath fled to Guwahati, Purandar Singha reached Calcutta and appealed the British East India Company to assist him but they refused to intervene.
- Chandra Kanta Singha was once again restored to the throne by the Burmese. He was only nominal ruler and the real authority was vested on Burmese commander.
- In 1819AD, Alu Mingri returned by retaining few Burmese army in Ahom Kingdom under Mingimaha Tiluwa.
- After the departure of the Burmese, Chandra K. Singha sought to raise a fort at Jaipur against further Burmese invasion. It was supervised by Patal Barbaruah.

Third Burmese Invasion

- In 1821 Burmese Monarch Bagyidew sent a Burmese force with presents of ornaments and dress to Chandrakanta Singha.
- The Burmese force soon reached near Jaipur and seeing such preparations for the fort they killed Patal Bararuah.
- Chandrakanta got afraid of this hostile move and in February 1821AD he fled to Guwahati. The Burmese tried to convince him to return but failed.
- In 1821 AD, the Burmese placed Jogeswar Singha as a nominal king and the real authority was vested on Burmese commander Mingimaha Tiluwa.
- Chandrakanta Singha crossed the border and entered Bengal where he collected arms and men to fight the Burmese.

Fall of the Ahom Kingdom & the Burmese

- The Burmese had already won **Arakan, Manipur and Cachar**. By bringing Assam into their control, they at once became the rivals of the British.
- The presence of the Burmese in Assam and the neighbouring states posed a threat to the English power.
- Their efforts to stop the Burmese advance led to the **First Anglo-Burmese War of 1824-1826**.

The First Anglo-Burmese War

- The imperialistic activities plus the frequent raids in the British territories made the Burmese enemies with the East India **Company**.
- The Burmese too took steps to conquer British occupied territories .
- From Nogoan and through Manipur, which they won in 1819, the Burmese entered Cachar.
- Meanwhile Cachar King, **Govind Chandra** unable to withstand the attack of the Manipuri king **Gambhir Singh** took refuge with the English.
- The English understood that if Cachar came under the Burmese, then it could pose a threat to Srihatta(Sylhet), which lies on the Cachar frontier, under British domination.
- Hence they undertook necessary steps to prevent the Burmese aggression.
- On **5th March, 1824 AD** the English Governor General **Lord Amherst** declared war against the Burmese King.
- With full preparation the British attacked from 3 sides.
 1. Under **Lord MacMoraine** a British force advanced up the Brahmaputra from Goalpara to Guwahati.
 2. Under **David Scott** another troop advanced through Chattagram and the Srihatta frontier through Arakan towards Manipur and the Jayantia Country.
 3. Under **Sir Archibald Campbell** the soldiers advanced by way of the Irrawaddy river to Rangoon.
- On **28th March 1824 AD**, the English forces easily occupied Guwahati.
- Later when the English army occupied the Burmese town of Yandaboo, the king of Burma had no option but to conclude a peace treaty.
- Peace treaty: **Treaty of Yandaboo, 24th February, 1826**.

- **Article 2 of the Yandaboo treaty concerned Assam.** According to it, the king of Ava(Burma) renounced all claims over Assam and would abstain from future interference.
- They too wont interfere in other states like Cachar and Jayantia.
- **NOTE: Neither the Burmese handed over Assam to the English, nor anyone on behalf of Assam had signed in the Yandaboo treaty.** Infact, there was no unified or common power to represent Assam.
- Towards the end of 1826, the Ahom king Jogeswar Singha died at Jagighopa.

Treaty of Yandaboo

Main provisions

1. The Burmese king had to pay an amount of Rs. One crore as war indemnity to the English Company.
2. The British would take over **Arakan and Tanasserim.**
3. The Burmese would not be able to interfere in Assam, Cachar and Jayantia country.
4. The Burmese recognized Gambhir Singh as the king of Manipur.
5. There would be a British Resident at Ava. The British too allowed the king of Ava to station an officer at Calcutta.

The English forces entered Assam in 1824 to drive out the Burmese. In 1826 they expelled the Burmese from Assam.

British Rule & its Consolidation

- The advent of British into Assam was in regards of issuing a helping hand to the Ahoms fight the Burmese. However the Company annexed Assam all of a sudden which was not the **intention prior** to the Anglo- Burmese war.
- By bringing almost 30,000 Assamese people who were taken by the Burmese as slaves, the British too appeared as saviour.
- The political imbalance, the atrocities etc all created suitable conditions for the British to be accepted by the Assam people as their rulers.

Governance of David Scott

- After the death of Jogeswar Singha in 1825, the immediate **responsibility** of **David Scott** was to nominate a representative from the Ahom Dynasty to take up the throne.
- Till **February 1824**, the British Government had no intentions to annex Assam.
- Scott put forward 2 advice to the Company:
 1. British to re-establish the Ahom representative as a tributary king and to provide him security and thus qualify the British to interfere in the internal affairs
 2. British to keep Lower Assam under their control till Bishwanath and to restore an Ahom representative to govern Upper Assam excluding the areas under Moamorias, Khamtis and the Singphos.
- **However, the British Government refused the advice of David Scott.**
- **For administrative convenience** the British divided Assam into two parts-

1. **Western or Lower Assam** [appointed David Scott as the Senior Commissioner for Lower Assam. Head office- Guwahati]
2. **Eastern or Upper Assam** [appointed Col. Richards as the Junior Commissioner for Upper Assam. Head office- Rangpur]
3. **Biswanath was marked as the middle point**

Reforms of David Scott

Military Reforms

- In 1826, the **Assam Light Infantry** was formed as a result of the withdrawal of permanent British soldiers from Assam.
- Soldiers comprising the Hindustani **Gorkhas, Manipuris and Rangpur Local Corps** formed this army.
- These troops were stationed at Biswanath and Sadiya.

Revenue Reforms

- **David Scott did not** make any great transformation in the Ahom revenue system rather he designed the system based on the earlier Khel system only.
- **However he made small modifications to it-**
 1. Earlier every Paik had to render services in the form of labour and now they had to pay a sum of Rs 3 as annual tax instead of labour.
 2. Janardhan **Barbarua was incharge** of collecting these revenue.
 3. The revenue system of **Lower Assam** was to be based on the model of Bengal.
 4. Shirastedar was to be appointed instead of Barphukan and this responsibility was carried on by the members of **Duwariya family, Haliram Dhekiyal Phukan.**

Tax Reforms

- David Scott levied a tax of Rs.2 (gadhan) to every paik as they were allotted three puras of cultivable land (gamati).
- Apart from it, every male had to pay poll tax. This tax was called in Kamrup poll tax or paik tax or plough tax; in Darrang, it was called mess-pots; and in Nagoan, it was called a capitation tax.
- Kharikatana and Sarukar were two different taxes introduced in Kamrup and Darrang.
- Taxes were also imposed in muga weavers, gold washers, fisherman, blacksmiths along with market place(huts) and ghats. Opium cultivated lands were heavily taxed.

Judicial Reforms

- David Scott preferred a simple judicial system according to which **Lambodhar Phukan** (relative of Chandrakanta Singha) and **Janardhan Barbarua** were given the responsibility of settling the civil cases.
- The **Junior Commissioner** handled the criminal cases.

- In **Lower Assam**, the Senior Commissioner gave **judgement** on every cases except **capital Punishment**.
- To make judicial system more efficient, **David Scott** formed Panchayats in **Nagaon**, Kaliabor and Chariduar.

After David Scott

- **David Scott died in 1831.**
- After his death, **Cracroft** was appointed to serve in Assam in a temporary capacity, as the Agent to the Governor General.
- In **April 1832**, **T.C.Robertson** was appointed in this post. He served till 1834.

Reforms of T.C.Robertson

Revenue Reforms

- He imposed land revenue tax on the basis of the **quality and quantity of the land**.
- He issued **land pattas** to the cultivators.
- Other taxes include land tax, capitation tax on house etc.
- The ryots were issued receipts of taxes paid and this system was beneficial to them.

Administrative Tax

- Robertson divided Assam into **five districts** and each district was placed under one British officer.
- Both Munsiff court and the Panchayat Court were present for Judicial matters.

T.C.Robertson was succeeded by Captain Jenkins as the Commissioner of Assam and as agent to the Governor-General . Prior to this charge, he had already made survey of **Cachar, Manipur and Assam** with Pemberton in 1831.

- It was Captain Jenkins who proposed that Assam's land should be used for tea cultivation, sugarcane and indigo.
- His name was associated with **Tea, Coal and Oil industries**. For these experiences, Captain Jenkins was sent to Assam as an administrator.
- It was during his time that the first steamship sailed in the Brahmaputra.
- He too paid attention for the transport and road communications.
- He too established English medium schools in Guwahati and Sivasagar.
- **Captain Jenkins opposed** the appointment of **Bengalees bureaucrats in Assam** and he wanted the development of the local people of Assam. He wrote an article regarding Assam in the **Journal of "Asiatic Society Bengal."**

Reforms of Captain Jenkins

- Jenkins strengthened the Treasury of the Government by reforming land settlement and revenue collection.
- Districts were divided into some revenue unit called '**Tangani**' and were placed under **Phukan, Rajkhowa and Barua**. They were assisted by **Hazarika, Saikia and Bora**.
- Later, Tanganis were replaced by the formation of Mauzas which were managed by the 'Mauzadars'.
- The **Common people** during his time **were appointed** as Mauzadars alongwith the aristocratic class.

- This even though reduced the **Class distinction** in the society but somewhere brought discontent amongst the aristocratic class.
- The reforms of **Jenkins** improved the condition of the British traders as well as the British Government rather than the local Assamese people which was to be proved by the **Revolt of 1857**.
- Captain Jenkins too increased the land tax. A number of taxes were imposed on **grazing lands, forest wood, bamboo, chom tree etc**. He imposed stamp duty in 1858, income tax in 1860, import duty, licence tax etc.
- To show progressive attitude, the British government in Assam **abolished slave system** on bonded labour in 1843 AD. This indirectly helped the Britishers as they could engage the free slave in tea gardens as labourers.
- On grounds of non-payment of tax many kingdoms like Matok, Kachari etc were annexed by Jenkins.
- Increased taxation, imposition of new taxes made all the classes of people enraged with the British. Most of them who could not pay the tax left their lands barren.
- The worst sufferers were the common people and the peasants. **Jenkins banned opium cultivation in Assam** but they continued with their export and production of opium.
- The opium eaters could not live without opium and therefore they were compelled to buy it from the government store. They too were forced to work in the tea gardens as their opium cultivation was banned.
- Opium addiction ruined Assamese people both physically and mentally, money lending system started. A class of interest exploiter started called **MAHAJAN**.

Districts in the Brahmaputra Valley

- By the time British occupied Assam, the Brahmaputra Valley was divided into 4 districts.
 1. Goalpara
 2. Kamrup
 3. Darrang (including Biswanath)
 4. **Nagaon**. [Earlier it was called **Khagarijan**]
- **Robertson** and **Purandar Singh** signed a treaty and in 1832 AD, **Purandar Singha** was restored as the Raja of Upper Assam **excluding Motak (Matak) Kingdom and Sadiya** on the condition that he would pay **Rs. 50000** per year as tribute.
- As he failed to pay the tribute, British directly brought his Kingdom under their jurisdiction in 1838. His kingdom was transformed into two Districts:- **Lakhimpur and Sivasagar** whose headquarters were respectively Lakhimpur and Jorhat.

Previous Years' Questions- APSC

1. The Treaty of Yandaboo was signed in 1826 between (2000) (2013)

- (a) East India Company and Ahom King
- (b) East India Company and the Burmese
- (c) British King and the Ahom king
- (d) British king and the Burmese king

Anti-British Uprisings (1828-1839)

First Anti- British Uprising

Although the people of Assam welcomed the Britishers as saviours but their policies created situations which resulted into 3 Anti-British uprisings within a period of 2 years.

First Anti- British Uprising:

- The first man to oppose British administration in Assam was **Gomdhar Konwar**. He belonged to the Ahom Royal family and was supported by **Dhananjoy and his son Harnath Jeuram Dulia Baruah** etc.
- British withdrew **martial law** from upper Assam and the soldiers were shifted. Taking this advantage Gomdhar declared himself as the Swargadeo.
- However the British were not so weak and therefore they easily regained their authority and suppressed the revolt.
- Gomdhar was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment and Dhananjoy was sentenced to death. However the later fled away from prison and took shelter in Nagaland.

Second Anti-British Uprising

- Under the leadership of Gadadhar Singha in 1829 AD, second anti-British uprising took place.
- As the nobility took steps to make Gomdhar Singha as the Ahom king, he sought help from the Burmese as well as from the **Assam Light Infantry**, and he also **approached Zalim Singh, Subedar of the regiment**, to expel the British. However, the Subedar Zalim Singh instead of helping, got Gomdhar Singha arrested.

Third Anti-British Uprising

- This uprising took place under the leadership of **Dhananjoy** again.
- This time his associates were his son Harnath, his son-in-law Jeuram Dulia Barua and son of Badan Borphukan (**Peoli Phukan**), Roopchand Konwar, Deuram Dihingia Barua and Boum Singphou.
- Two letters written by Dhanjoy to Sadiya Khowa Gohain were intercepted by the British with the conspiracy of the Khamti Gohain.
- In the meantime the rebellions set fire to the British Garrison. But their attack failed and they were captured.
- Dhanjoy and Harkanta fled and the trial was held for the extremists.
- In the trial Peoli Barphukan, Jeuram Dulia Barua, Roopchand Konwar, Boum Singphou etc were sentenced to death.
- This judgement was sent to David Scott by Neufill. Commissioner's court in Cherapunji verdicted death sentence to Peoli Phukan and Jeuram Dulia Baruah **only** others were exiled for fourteen years.

- **Peoli Phukan and Jeuram Dulia Barua were hanged till death at Sivasagar** on August 1830.
- Thus it can be seen that the British did not bring entire Assam under their control at first. They brought Lower Assam under their direct rule and other places were restored to their local chiefs with agreement. They had to abide by the British supremacy.
- After that it is seen that **Muttock, Singpho, Khamti, Cachar, Jaintia, Khasi, Gobha Kingdom, Garo Hills, Naga Hills, Lushai Hills etc** were annexed on different grounds. Finally hills and plains all were incorporated to the British rule.

Anti-British Uprisings and the Peasant Revolts in Assam

- The Britishers did not take up any policies to erase the sorrows and difficulties of the peasants and the people.
- The new land revenue policy and the money economy of the British government created deep resentment among the Assamese common people.
- At that time the villages in Assam were self sufficient and there was hardly any scope of earning money by selling the local produce.
- The fact that the land revenue struck at the backbone of the Assamese people, was also written by **Anandaram Dhekial Phukan** in his application to **Moffat Mills in 1853**. He pointed out that the land revenue fixed by the British was much more than what could be afforded by the peasants.
- In the early part of the 19th century the British has established tea gardens in Upper Assam. To encourage the tea gardeners land revenue of the lands falling within the gardens was exempted. As a result the burden of making up for this loss of revenue fell upon the poor peasants.
- British administration too was responsible for the **deterioration of the cottage industry**. **Paat and Muga silk** during the ahom dynasty had a special demand in the Indian market but the patronage of the British administration to import **foreign cloth** material had a very negative impact on the people associated with this industry.
- The condition of the aristocratic class was similar to that of the common people because they were not being able to keep themselves at par with the British administration. Due to **lack of modern education** the majority could not become a part of the new administration.
- The British rulers however had to import **educated Bengali Babu's** from Bengal to work in the administration.
- British stopped **slavery** in Assam in **1843**. But this did not uplift the common people's position. It was to engage this group of people as labourers in the newly established tea gardens of the British that they had been freed from the control of the Assamese aristocrats.
- They felt humiliated on being compelled to perform manual labour in their own fields and other works like their erstwhile slaves.
- According to eminent Historian **H.K.Borpujari** several Brahmin Purohits of Upper Assam joined in the revolt of 1857 against the British rule because the government took away the excess of the **Lakheraj and untaxed lands** which they were occupying for so long.

Revolt of 1857 and its Impact on Assam

- Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar II, Nana Saheb of Kanpur, Maratha leader Tantia Tope, Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi etc. led this revolt. The revolutionaries wanted to place Bahadur Shah Zafar II as the Mughal Emperor once again and end the British rule in India forever.
- The Revolt of 1857 provided a golden opportunity to the elite class of Assam to throw off the yoke of British rule and re-establish the Ahom monarchy.
- When the revolt broke out in North India, there were two British army regiments posted in Assam- **The First Assam Light Infantry in Dibrugarh and the Second Assam Light Infantry in Guwahati.**
- The two battalions along with the group of soldiers were very loyal to the British even after the outbreak of the Mutiny in some parts of India in 1857. In Assam, the strength of soldiers was very less, and the army comprised of **Gorkhas, Manipuris and Singphos** who were outsiders. The situation was quite normal in the initial times however it changed lately.
- Taking the advantage, **Maniram Dewan** planned for a revolt to establish **Kandarpeswar Singha** at the Ahom throne.
- **Maniram Barbhandar Barua** popularly known as Maniram Dewan was in Calcutta when the Indian Soldiers declared mutiny in **Meerut.**
- He went there to file an application to the British government requesting that a portion of Upper Assam be placed under the rule of an Ahom king.
- In Calcutta Maniram Dewan met **Madhu Mallik, a Bengali Mukhtiyar** and together they hatched a conspiracy to drive the British out of Assam.
- They decided that Ahom Prince **Kandarpeswar Singha** would lead the soldiers in Assam in revolt and Maniram Dewan would bring **arms and ammunitions** from Calcutta to help them.
- However this conspiracy failed as Principal Assistant Captain Holroyd intercepted many letters written by Maniram Dewan wherein their plans regarding the conspiracy against the British were clearly mentioned.
- Prince Kandarpeswar Singha (minor) was jailed and **Maniram Dewan and Piyoli Barua** as per a special Court of Justice were **sentenced** to be hanged to death.
- **26th February 1858** both were hanged.

Peasant Uprising

- The Revolt of 1857 left the British treasury in a pitiable condition and **in order** to compensate their loss they started increasing the taxes.
- Irrespective of famine or any other natural disaster the Britishers raised the tax to almost 100% and the common people (peasants) were the worst sufferers.
- All these resulted in a series of revolts in Assam from the middle of the 19th century.

Raij Mel

- The peasant revolts in Assam in the 19th century were led by the **People's Assembly (Raij Mels).**
- **Their importance in Assam socio-political history is immense but they were not POLITICAL organizations.**
- They highlight the proverb "**Raijei Roja Gyatiyei Ganga**" in the true sense of the term.

Phulaguri Dhawa (1861)

- It was the first peasant uprising in Assam by the exploited peasants against the British Policy of economic exploitation.
- Phulaguri is a village located near **Nagaon** inhabited by the **Tiwa Community** whose basic occupation was **the cultivation of Poppy**.
- British government banned opium cultivation but they themselves were selling opium extracted from poppy seeds.
- This agitated the community. Moreover there were news that the British too will impose tax on **Tamul-Paan (areca nut and betel leaves)**.
- In September 1861, the peasants organised a Raj Mel, where it was decided to submit a petition to the **Deputy Commissioner (Herbert Sconce)** requesting the removal of the ban and also non-imposition of the tax on tamul-paan.
- The Deputy Commissioner did not pay any heed and this led to protest and accordingly for **5 consecutive** days (from 15th October), the public held Raj Mels.
- The number of peasants in the meetings increased from 1000 to 4000 armed with bamboo sticks.
- Amidst all this, Deputy Commissioner sent his Assistant **Lieutenant Singer** to attend the meeting.
- The public made Singer understand their demands but the former ordered his soldiers to snatch away the bamboo sticks from the peasants.
- However his soldiers failed to do so and one peasant struck Singer on his head and the peasants joined ultimately killing Lieutenant Singer.
- Singer died on spot and his body was thrown into the **Kollong** river.
- This incident is recorded in Assam history as **Phulaguri Dhawa**.
- **Many peasants** were captured after this and on charges of murder many were sentenced to death. **Lakhan Deka, Songbor Lalung and Rangbor Deka** were sentenced to death.
- **Other accused** were sent to Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Kalapani).

Importance of the Revolt

1. Mass Uprising- Peasants got support from every section (aristocrat, middle class, Kaibartta community, elite class etc)
2. Government did not impose tax on Tamul-Paan.
3. Inspired latter events.
4. Common people's attempt to free themselves from the clutches of the British empire.
5. It can also be seen as the beginning of **Non- Corporation** movement which later on Mahatma Gandhi implemented during the Freedom Struggle.

Note: Even after the Phulaguri Dhawa the British government did not take any measures to wipe away the miseries of the peasants. Infact in 1892, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, **Sir William Ward** increased the taxes to 70-80%. This led to a series of revolts known as **Assam Riots**.

Peasant Revolt of Rangia

- **Cause of Revolt:** 100% increase in land revenue

- It began on 24th December 1893, when the people of Rangia ransacked the Rangia market. Moreover, people staged a demonstration on 10th January 1894 in which they raised the slogan of not paying the increased revenue.
- McCabe the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, imposed a ban on holding any Mel.
- All the important leaders of the revolt were soon arrested by the police and the revolt lost its edge.

Lachima Revolt

- **21st January 1894** the incident took place for the same reason as that of the Rangia.
- The only difference was that the rebels of Lachima took recourse to **violence**.

Peasant Revolt of Patharughat (1894)

- **Patharughat** is a place in Mangaldoi circle of Darrang district where peasants turned on a revolt due to the increase in revenue collection.
- The peasants organised Rai Mels, planning a huge public assembly for three days 26-28 January in Patharughat.
- This news was informed to the then Deputy Commissioner **J.D.Anderson** who alongwith a force comprising of police and military personnel and the Police Superintendent **J.R.Berington** arrived in Patharughat on 27th January.
- The peasants properties were confiscated and when the officials announced that under no circumstances will the tax be reduced, the peasants protested against it.
- On orders of Berington, the police fired on the gatherings present there. Even though the farmers tried to fight back with the sticks they had with them, they could not match the British for the **sudden firing**. On that fateful day, **hundreds of people were injured and around 140 of them were killed on spot**.
- This is the reason why the **Revolt of Patharughat** is popularly known as **Assam's Jallianwala Bagh**.

Ethnic (TRIBAL) Revolt

Parallel revolts were going on in the hills against the colonial rule.

Jaintia revolt

- These people burst out in rebellion when the British Government imposed house tax and stamp duty.
- These people felt that they have lost their freedom to the British when the later imposed House tax and stamp duty on them.
- So they raised their voice through a rebellion which lasted from 1860-1863.

U Tirot Sing

- The Khasi tribe under the leadership of U Tirot Sing led a rebellion against the British.
- Reason: Construction of a road across the Khasi hills joining the two valleys of the Brahmaputra and Surma.
- The Khasis got the impression that after the completion of the road, the British would levy tax from them.

- So under the leadership of Tirot Sing, they attacked the British officials posted there and killed them. The conflict between the Khasis and British continued for almost 4 years and ended with the surrender of Tirot Sing in 1834 AD.

The revolt of Nagas, Garo and Lushais

- These people too were discontented with the British not because of the imposition of any tax but for the curtailment of certain rights being enjoyed by them since long.
- They were freedom loving people who could not tolerate the dominance of some outsider.
- However British captured their territory into their province and brought them under the British rule.

Previous Year Questions-APSC

1. Who was hanged with Maniram Dewan? (2017)
 - a) Dutiram Baruah
 - b) Pioli Phukan
 - c) **Pioli Baruah**
 - d) Farmud Ali
2. The first rebellion against the British rule in assam in 1828 was led by (2000)
 - a) Piyali Phukan
 - b) **Maniram Dewan**
 - c) **Gomdhar Konwar**
 - d) Piyali Barua
3. Year 1894 is related to (2000)
 - a) Phulaguri Dhawa
 - b) Rangia revolt
 - c) **Patharughat revolt**
 - d) None of the above

Growth of Assamese Nationalism

- The voice of dissent against the British rule found expression in the writings of several prominent personalities of the time arousing feelings of nationalism in the region. Several socio-cultural organisations were formed to highlight the problems and aspirations of the common people.

1. Asomiya Bhasa Unnati Sabha

- Assam witnessed the growth of a newly emerged educated middle class by the middle of the 19th century.
- They took steps to make the people aware about the Assamese Language.
- **In order** to organise the masses, an organisation called the **Gyan Pradyani Sabha** was the earliest one to be initiated by **Anandaram Dhekial Phukan** and **Gunaviram Barua** in 1857.
- The British government with their motive of divide and rule introduced Bengali language in place of Assamese language in schools, offices and courts in Assam in 1836 AD.
- Assamese language already had its independent identity; therefore this move was not at all acceptable to the people of Assam.

- This issue was retaliated by the Assamese people and in 1873, the Assamese Language was re-introduced.
- Strong initiatives taken to improve Assamese language and literature

2. Assamese Literary Society (1872)

- **Active till -1885**
- Leadership: Devicharan Baruah and Ganga Gobinda Phukan

3. Asomiya Bhasa Unnati Sadhini Sabha (1888)

- Leadership: Hemchandra Goswami, Lakshminath Bezbaruah, Kanaklal Barua, Ramakanta Barkakati and Chandrakumar Agarwala.
- First initiative taken: introduce a correct and standardised grammatical book
- The government undertook the publication of **Hemchandra Barua's "Hemkosh"**.
- ABUSS published a journal **Jonaki** which ushered in a new era in Assamese literature.

4. Assam Chatra Sanmilan

- First student organisation of Assam
- First session held in Guwahati on 25th December 1916 under the Presidentship of **Lakshminath Bezbaruah**. Their mouthpiece was **Milan**.

5. Jorhat Sarbajanik Sabha

- Founded in 1884 at Jorhat by **Jagannath Baruah**.
- **Aim:** To deliver and represent the wishes and aspirations of the people to the British government.
- **This Sabha strongly opposed the Partition of Bengal in 1905.**
- It became weak after the expiry of Jagannath Baruah and survived till 1921

6. Ahom Sabha/Ahom Association

- Formed 1893 by **Padmanath Gohain Baruah**
- First Session was held at Sivasagar in 1893 AD.
- **AIM:** was to demand for privilege for the Ahoms in the British administration and to revive their traditional religion, language and social customs, thereby re-establishing the cultural identity of Ahoms.
- **In 1910** this Sabha was renamed to **Ahom Association** and became a political organisation.

7. Assam Association

- Formed in 1903 by **Manik Chandra Barua**.
- In 1905, the first session was held in **Dibrugarh**. In this session **Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua** was formerly elected as President, **Jagannath Baruah** as Vice-President and **Manik Chandra Baruah** as General Secretary.
- This association opposed the incorporation of Assam into a single province, named **Eastern Bengal and Assam** in 1905.
- In 1907 it submitted a memorandum to the Secretary of State for India to separate Assam from East Bengal.
- The association demanded the introduction of Montague- Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 in Assam by sending **KARMAVEER Nabin Chandra Bordoloi** and **Prasanna Kumar Barua** to London and also a team of 7 members to Calcutta in 1917.

- This association actively participated in the Non- Corporation Movement. Finally in 1921 the Assam Association merged with the APCC.

8. Assam Provincial Congress Committee(APCC)

- First President: **Chobilal Upadhyay (President of the meeting)**
- **Later Presidents’**: Kuladhar Chaliha, Tarun Ram Phukan
- **Members**: Gopinath Bordoloi, Bimala Prasad Chaliha, Chandranath Sarmah etc.
- Under the initiative of this committee itself, **Mahatma Gandhi** was invited to Assam in 1921.
- Objective of the visit: To propagate the message of Non-Corporation amongst the masses. And implement the principals of swadeshi.
- In 1926, the 41st All India Congress Committee session was hosted by the APCC at **Pandu**, Guwahati which was presided over by **Srinivasa Iyengar**.
- The first officially elected President of the APCC was **Bishnuram Medhi** who was elected in 1930 for a period of 9 years.

9. Assam Sahitya Sabha

- It was founded as a non-profit organisation in the field of Assamese literature and the culture of Assam.
- First conference of Assam was held in the month of December 1917. Famous exponent of Assamese literature, **Padmanath Gohain Barua** was the first President of that conference.
- Objective: Promote the literature and culture of Assam.

Swadeshi Movement and Assam

Partition of Bengal (1905)

- A new province was declared, which included Eastern Bengal and Assam.
- At that time, Lieutenant Governor of Dacca **J.B.Fuller** was appointed as Chief Commissioner of Assam.
- Apart from the tea planters and a section of Muslims in Eastern Bengal and Surma Valley, Assam protested against the Partition of Bengal.
- The newly formed **province**, comprising of Assam and East Bengal was first named as “ **Eastern Bengal**” and the name ‘Assam’ was dropped from the title.
- The **European Tea Planters Association** in Assam **protested** against this and argued since the name ‘Assam’ is associated with tea in the International Market.
- Later the British understood the importance and therefore changed it to **Eastern Bengal and Assam**.

Swadeshi and boycott

- Leaders in Assam led the movement were **Padmanath Gohain Baruah, Ambikagiri Ray Choudhary, Triguna Barua, Rakim Bora** etc.

- **Asom Kesari Ambikagiri Raychoudhury and Govinda Lahiri** formed revolutionary organisation among the students of Guwahati.
- They called for using indigenous goods and boycott foreign goods.
- **Ambikagiri Raychoudhury** wrote a revolutionary drama '**Bandini Bharat**'. He also established a revolutionary organisation '**Seva Sangha**' alongwith the revolutionary activists **Khudiram Bose, Barindra Ghosh, Ullaskar Dutta** etc. of Calcutta.

Response of the Government

Lenient Measures

- Introduction of Assamese language and literature in the syllabus of entrance exam of Calcutta University.
- Providing bachelor degrees in all the departments in Cotton College.
- Re-introduction of the Mouzadari system in the Brahmaputra Valley.
- Introduction of 20 point settlement of land.

All these turned out to be indirect benefits of the Swadeshi Movement for Assam

Repressive measures

- Issued the **Carlyle and Risley Circulars** which ordered the management of educational institutions to make sure that students did not participate in any protest against the government.
- Meetings and processions were banned and political leaders jailed.
- The press was heavily censored.
- Many agitators were jailed or even deported.
- All these measures provoked the youth to take up revolutionary activities in Bengal and as a parallel, in Assam, large numbers of secret **societies** were formed.
- **Tarun Sangha, Suhrid Samiti Arunachal Ashram** were very active in the Surma Valley. **Seva Sangha (founded by Ambikagiri Raychoudhury)** developed into a revolutionary organisation in the lines of Anushilan Samiti.

Non-cooperation movement and Assam (NCM)

- When the call for NCM was given, one section led by **Ganga Gobinda Barua, Tara Prasad Chaliha, Ghanshyam Barua and Chandradhar Barua**, all thought that the Asam Association had to maintain its separate identity **in order** to fight for local issues with the British.
- Later, in the annual conference of Assam Association held at Tezpur on December, 1920, Assam Association decided to participate alongside INC in NCM and finally, in 1921 Assam **Association** got merged into APCC.

Impact of the movement

- **Chandradhar Sharma, Hemchandra Barua, Omeo Kumar Das, Mohibuddin Ahmed** organised the youths and successfully boycotted the government educational institutions and in their place, national schools were set up at Guwahati, Nalbari, Tezpur, Sivasagar, Nagaon etc.
- **Nabin Chandra Bordoloi, Kuladhar Chaliha, Tarun Ram Phukan** boycotted the court practices and participated in active politics.

- Business of salt was adversely affected by NCM.
- Reduce use of Opium, after Gandhiji appealed to the Congress workers. This affected the British Opium trade.

Role of Assamese women

- Active participation of women like **Bidyut Prabha Devi, Girija Devi, Nalini Bala Devi, Pushpalata Das, Guneswari Nath and Chandraprabha Saikiani.**
- They organised large meetings in rural and urban areas to spread the message of non-cooperation, swadeshi and constructive work.
- Mungri Maam or Malati of Lalmati tea garden gave up alcohol on the call of Gandhiji and she was the first martyr of the NCM in Assam. She died in a clash that occurred during the picketing of liquor shops.
- In Gobedori(Kamrup District) **Bhanumati Talukdar** mother of 3 children left her home to join the Congress.
- She is popularly known as **Voluntariny Baai.** Gandhiji gave Bhanumati Talukdar the title **Sarojini of Assam.**

Swarajists in Assam

- In Assam the Swaraj Party was formed with **TArun Ram Phukan and Rohini Kumar Choudhury** as its President and Secretary, respectively and **Gopinath Bordoloi** as its Assistant Secretary.

Constructive Works

- While the Swarajists carried on their struggle in the council, the Congress workers carried on their grass-root works on rural reconstruction with emphasis on the promotion of Khadi, National Education, Communal Harmony, Boycott of foreign cloths and anti-liquor and anti-opium propagation.
- **Ambikagiri Raychoundhury** founded the **Sangrakshini Sabha** through which voice was raised for the demands of the Assamese people within the Congress framework.
- His works attracted **Padmanath Gohain barua and Nilumoni Phukan** who also participated in these constructive works.
- The 41st **Congress Session** was held at **Pandu** where Gandhiji also participated. [to accommodate all the delegates the pandal was built with bamboo and mud and was adorned with **Khadi.**

Simon commission and Assam

- In Assam, the first manifestation of Public anger was expressed at a public meeting at Sylhet in November, 1927. A meeting at Jorhat suggested for the appointment of a parallel commission comprising of Indians, after condemning the Simon Commission.
- The Muslims were divided on this issue, and accordingly, there were two factions. The first faction, **Anjuman-i-Islamia**, decided to welcome the Commission, whereas the pro-Jinnah faction, led by **Abdul Matin Choudhury** called upon both Hindus and Muslims to make the boycott a success.

- The day Simon Commission reached India on 3rd February, 1928 many towns in Assam observed hartals.
- The commission decided to visit Assam on January, 1929 and while preparing for the visit, the Government constituted a seven-member committee of the Assam legislative council for the purpose of cooperating with the commission. This proposal was met with strong protests.
- **Assam Chatra Sanmilan** which was until 1928, a non political organisation made **political** resolutions for the first time in 1928.

Previous Years' Questions- 2020 APSC

1. During 1540 and 1587, King Naranarayan ruled over the undivided Koch Kingdom of Kamata, and subsequently subjugated the entire Brahmaputra valley, including the Ahom, Kachari, Tripura and Manipur Kingdoms. What was the real name of King Naranarayan?
 - a) Nara Singh
 - b) Sukladhvaj
 - c) **Malla Deb**
 - d) Parikshit
2. As a great patron of Shakta Hinduism, an Ahom King built the Umananda Temple on Peacock Island of Guwahati around 1694 AD. Who was he?
 - a) Siva Singha
 - b) Rudra Singha
 - c) **Gadadhar Singha**
 - d) Rajeswar Singha
3. King Siva Singha entrusted Krishnaram Bhattacharya, a Shakta priest from Nawadwip in West Bengal, to manage the Kamakhya Temple. How do we know him more popularly?
 - a) Kamrupiya Gosain
 - b) Kamakhya Gosain
 - c) **Parbatiya Gosain**
 - d) Nawadwipor Gosain
4. Chao Suhunmung was the first Ahom King to adopt a Hindu title, indicating a move towards an inclusive polity. Which Hindu name did he take?
 - a) **Swarganarayan**
 - b) Durlavnarayan

- c) Udayaditya Singha
- d) Jayadhwaj Singha**



ASSAM GEOGRAPHY

Physical Features and Major Physiographic Divisions

Location

- Two river valleys basically : Brahmaputra valley and Barak Valley
- Brahmaputra Valley is divided into 3 regions:
 1. The Uttarpar or Uttarkula
 2. The Dhakhinpar or Dakhinakula
 3. The Majuli and other river islands formed by the river Brahmaputra.
- **Length** of Brahmaputra **within** Assam is about **720 km** and it is on the average 8 to 10 km wide.
- **Boundaries : 2 foreign countries and 7 Indian states**
 1. **North-** Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh
 2. **East-** Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur
 3. **South-** Mizoram, Meghalaya
 4. **West-** West Bengal, Bangladesh and Tripura.
- **Decending Order [Inter-state boundary]**
 1. Assam- Meghalaya -723.2 km
 2. Assam- Arunachal Pradesh- 704km
 3. Assam Nagaland- 434km
 4. Assam- Manipur- 132.8km
 5. Assam- Mizoram- 130km
 6. Assam- West Bengal- 128km
 - a. Kokrajhar- Jalpaiguri
 - b. Dhubri- Cooch Behar
 7. Assam- Tripura- 23.3km
- **Present Area of Assam=** 78,438 sq km
- It **covers** about 2.93 % of the total geographic area of India.

Geological structure

There are three physiographical divisions of Assam:

- The Plateau region
- The folded hill region
- The plains [Brahmaputra and Barak plain]

The plateau region

The Plateau Region of Assam is divided into two parts:

1. The Central Karbi Plateau

- The plateau is eroded and fairly subdued by age-old weathering and erosion under hot and humid tropical monsoon conditions.
- In spite of this, the hard crystalline rocks have resisted erosion in the central part of the plateau, which stands out as the **Rengma Range**.
- This range reaches a height of 1,363 m at **Dumbuksu** and 1360m at **Singhasan**.

This is the highest area of the plateau.

- The Central Karbi plateau shows two important geomorphic features:
- There are a series of waterfalls and hot springs extending over a distance of about 80km. It includes **Garampani and Fatasil waterfalls** in the east and the **Champawati(Chapanala)falls** in the west.
- Besides this, there is another series of waterfalls along the eastern face of the highest part of the plateau. This part lying parallel to the Dhansiri River supports **coal and limestone deposits**.
- The waterfalls and hot springs contain **sulphur and phosphorus** in high proportion.
- The second geomorphic feature of the plateau is the presence of a relatively low lying east- west corridor in its middle part. This 90km long corridor is created by the age old erosion of the Jamuna river, a major tributary of the Kapili.
- It may be identified as the Davaka- Dimapur corridor. It divides the plateau into two unequal halves.

The Hamren plateau

- It is in continuity to Jaintia Hills. It rises in height from **Lanka, Hojai, Jogijan and Sahari** foothills of Nagoan district towards south to Jaintia hills.

The Folded hills

- The folded hilly region of Assam is confined to the North Cachar district of Barak Valley. It is popularly known as **Barail Range**.
- The folded mountainous region of Assam is a part of Patkai Hills which is a part of the great Himalayan Range.
- The Barail ranges support the highest peaks of Assam. These include **Theipibung (1866m) Mahadeo(1739m) and Kaukaha(1736m)**.
- The North Cachar Hills are not denuded and subdued like the Karbi Plateau because these are made of **young tertiary folds**; the ranges are high and alternate with valleys.
- As this area is under hot and humid climatic condition, the processes of weathering and erosion are very active that has led to development of deep valleys, gorges and steep slopes.

The plains

- The plains are a result of alleviation of the master streams, tributaries and the sub-tributaries, some of which are rain fed and some snow fed.

The Brahmaputra Plain

- **Largest plain in North-East India.** It is extending from the **Lohit Plain** near **Sadiya** in the east to the **Sankosh Plain** in the West.
- The Brahmaputra Plain has the highest drainage frequency in the world.
- This fertile plain is formed by about 57 northern tributaries and 32 tributaries from the south carrying boulders, pebbles, sand, silt and soil.

Geomorphologic Variations within the Brahmaputra plain. These include:

1. **Bhabhar Zone :** Narrow fertile belt composed of old alluvial fans basically in the foothills of Arunachal. This zone is densely forested and here the water generally percolates down the surface.
2. **Tarai Zone:** Lies in the Southern border of the Bhabhar zone and it is a strip of flat ground all along the north bank of the plain. The water that percolates down in the Bhabhar zone reappears in this zone. Hence this region is damp and swampy. It normally supports tall grass and lots of tall trees.

The Barak plain

- The southern part of Assam is occupied by the Barak Plain, which is relatively a small one.
- The horseshoe shaped basin lies with the Barail Range in the North, Manipur Hills in the East, Lushai hills in the south and generally merges with the Sylhet Plain of Bangladesh in West.
- It generally slopes down westwards to 73m, near Silchar and further to 51 m near Karimganj.
- There are large number of tributaries of Barak River; these include Jiri, Labak, Madhura, Dalu, Jatinga and Larang in the north bank and the Sonai, Katakhal, Dhaleswari, Singla and Langai in the South bank.

The Brahmaputra river

- Known as **Yarlung Tsangpo** in Tibet, The Brahmaputra, Lohit, Siang and Dihang in India and Jamuna in Bangladesh.
- The entire basin of the Brahmaputra inside and outside India is about 5, 80,000 sq Km.
- It has two islands- One **Majuli (largest)** and the other **Ummananda (smallest) in (Guwahati)** .
- **North Tributaries:** Subansiri, Ronganadi, Dikrong, Buroi, Jiabharali, Dhansiri (North), Puthimari, Manas, Beki, Aie, Sankosh are the main tributaries on the North Bank of the river Brahmaputra.
- **South Tributaries:** The Nodihing, Birhidihing, Desang, Dikhow, Bhogdoi, Dhansir (south), Kopili, Kulsi, Krishnai, Dhudnoi, Jinjiran are the main tributaries on the south bank of the river Brahmaputra.

Notes:

- **Subansiri-** known as Gold river, and it is the largest tributary of the Brahmaputra.
- **Lohit :** It is also known as Zayu river in the Kangri Garpo range. It travels through the red laterite soils of the Lohit basin and therefore it is known as “the river of blood”.
- **Manas:** It is a transboundary river in the Himalayan foothills between southern Bhutan and India. It is the largest river system of Bhutan. It is met by three other major streams before it again debouches into India in western Assam.
- **The Manas** flows through the west of the Manas National Park further it splits into two separate rivers, the **Beki and Bholkaduba**.
- The river also acts as an **international border** dividing India and Bhutan.

Soils of Assam

Types of soil in Assam

1. Alluvial (Old and New alluvial soil)

Features:

- Contains both sand and silt.
- **Old alluvium:** Sandy but hard, highly acidic and less fertile, amount of Potash and Phosphate is less. Beneficial for the cultivation of **tea and sugarcane** because of their acidic character.
- **New alluvium:** These soils are formed of silt, sand and organic contents and are highly suitable for agriculture. In this soil the content of phosphate, potash, calcium and nitrogen are more and the acidity is less. It is free of salt.

Located: Floodplains of Brahmaputra and Barak, in the Island of Majuli, other char areas and central plains of the north bank and south bank. This soil is highly suitable for cultivation of rice, jute, wheat, banana, oilseeds, pulses, tobacco, maize, vegetables etc.

2. Laterite Soil

- Soil is having brick red colour because of high iron content. This soil is generally deficient in Nitrogenous materials, phosphorous, acid and lime. It is highly sticky when wet. Suitable for: Jackfruit, orange, potatoes, mangoes, radish, cabbage etc.

3. Red Loamy or Hilly Red Soil

- The hilly red soils are rich in humus, oxygen and acid content but deficient in phosphate and potash. This soil is loose and becomes sticky in presence of water but it develops cracks in the absence of water.

The reddish colour of the soil is because of the oxidation of the iron present in the rock. (Precambrian metamorphic rocks)

This soil on the hill slopes are favourable for production of rice, cotton, maize, millet, wheat, pulses, potatoes, vegetables and fruits especially orange, pineapple, pear, etc. This soil also supports luxuriant tropical deciduous and semi- evergreen vegetation.

Previous Years' Questions -APSC

1. The total area of Assam is (2009)
 - a) 80,645 km²
 - b) 78,438 km²**
 - c) 79,012 km²
 - d) 77,901 km²
2. How much percent of the Indian landmass is covered by the State of Assam? (2013)
 - a) 3.39 percent
 - b) 2.39 percent**
 - c) 4.39 percent
 - d) 2.93 percent
3. North Cachar Hill is known for(2014)
 - a) Graphite
 - b) Rock Salt
 - c) Limestone**

- d) Coal
4. In Assam, Red Soil is the main feature of (2014)
- Bodoland Area
 - North Cachar Hill Area**
 - Barak valley Region
 - Brahmaputra Valley Region
5. Baksa district of Assam was created from the parts of which of the following districts?(2016)
- Barpeta, Nalbari and Kamrup**
 - Goalpara and Kokrajhar
 - Bongaigaon and Kokrajhar
 - Darrang, Barpeta and Nalbari
6. Which among the following is the State Tree of Assam?(2020)
- Titachapa
 - Nahor
 - Hollong**
 - Segun
7. Which among the following cities is known as the “Tea City of India”?(2020)
- Darjeeling
 - Dibrugarh**
 - Siliguri
 - Nainital
8. The four districts under the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) are(2020)
- Kokrajhar, Barpeta, Chirang and Baksa
 - Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang and Udalgori**
 - Kokrajhar, Baksa, Sonitpur and Udalgori
 - Baksa, Chirang, Udalgori and Nalbari

Climate of Assam

Assam falls within **the sub-tropical monsoon regime**.

- The special climate characteristics of Assam are heavy downpour with high temperature during summer and low rainfall associated with low temperature.
- In different districts of the state the mean annual maximum temperature, i.e. July-August, ranges from 30-33 °and the minimum temperature i.e. December- January ranges from 8-15° c.
- Assam experiences an average annual rainfall of 230 cm.
- The rainless months in the state generally are December, January and February.
- Assam may be divided into three distinct rainfall belts on the basis of nature of distribution of rainfall. These regions are as follows:

Heavy rainfall belt: Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Goalpara, Cachar and Karimganj.

Medium Rainfall Belt: Barpeta, Nalbari, Baksa, Kamrup, Darrang, Udalguri, Sonitpur, Morigaon, Nagoan, Golaghat and Karbi Anglong.

Low rainfall belt:

- It includes the southern part of Nagoan district.
- It forms a distinct rain shadow area north of the Meghalaya Plateau.
- The belt runs from Guwahati eastward along the Meghalaya foothills through Hojai, Lanka and Lumding.

Agro-climatic region

- Based on the amount and characteristics of rainfall, temperatures, relative humidity, terrain conditions and soil characteristics Assam can be divided into 6 climatic regions.
1. **The Upper Brahmaputra Valley (North)**
 2. **The Upper Brahmaputra Valley(South)**
 3. **The central Brahmaputra Valley**
 4. **The Lower Brahmaputra Valley**
 5. **The Hills**
 6. **The Barak Valley**

The upper Brahmaputra Valley (NORTH)

- Zone Comprises the districts of Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, **Sonitpur**, Udalguri and Darrang.
- It is a belt of rice, tea, jute, mustard and sugarcane. Rice occupies the first and tea the second position in respect of area covered.

The upper Brahmaputra Valley (SOUTH)

- Zone comprises the districts of Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat.
- Soils are generally acidic and have high sulphur and phosphorous content. Important crops: Rice, tea, mustard and sugarcane.

The central Brahmaputra Valley

- Zone comprises the districts of Nagoan and Morigaon. This zone is **bowl-shaped** and its middle and northern parts is **flood prone**.
- Main crops: Rice, jute, mustard, pulse and vegetables. [NO TEA]

The lower Brahmaputra Valley

- Zone comprises the districts of Kamrup, Nalbari, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Dhubri and Goalpara.

The Hills

- Zone consists of hill districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar hills.
- The Karbi Plateau is in the rain shadow area and hence it has lesser average annual rainfall ranging between 100cm in its southern part to 200 cm in the northern part.'

- The soil of this zone is **Lateritic** and contains a high proportion of acidity providing congenial conditions for **citrus fruits**.

The Barak Valley

- Zone consists of the districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj.
- The soil of this region is sandy loam and is most neutral so far the pH value is concerned.
- Cultivation: JUTE (major)

Previous Years' Questions-APSC

1. Assam state enjoys(2009)

- a) Tropical climate
- b) Hot climate
- c) Warm Climate
- d) Cold climate

Natural vegetation

According to the type of flora and the nature of vegetation found in Assam, the forests of Assam may broadly be divided into:

1. **Evergreen forests**
2. **Mixed deciduous forests**
3. **Riverine forests**
4. **Savanna forests**

Evergreen forests

- Are composed of broad-leaved species where rainfall is usually heavy.
- Common feature- tall trees, presence of thick undergrowth and many creepers and lianas at upper level.
- Both evergreen and semi-evergreen forests flourish in alluvial soil having capacity to retain water.
- Main species: Sal, Bonsum, Titasopa, Hollock, Khokan, Gameri, Hollong, Shishu, Ajhar, Sonaru and other species.

Economic importance

- These are used as timber, wood and as construction materials.
- Hollong and Makai are the most important trees found in this forest because they provide raw materials for plywood industry.
- Softwoods found are used to produce plywood and tea chests.

Mixed Deciduous forests

- The deciduous forests are grown in those areas of Assam where the average annual rainfall is 80 to 200cm.

- The major portions of the mixed deciduous forests are at stages of succession towards climax forests with the tendency towards turning to evergreen if left to nature without human interference or grazing.

Riverine forests

- The forest areas found in Kanamakra, Manas, beki, Pagladiya and Puthimari, Barnadi, Nanoi etc. are instances of riverine forests.
- In the Brahmaputra alluvium of the State, the principal species of the group of forests is **Simul or Simalu**.
- The Jamuna and the Kapili valley alluvium in central Assam contains the mixed type of forests and is composed of trees like Korai, Ajhar, Uriam, Simalu, Outenga etc. and also in the well-drained soils the better species like Sopa, Poma, Gandhsorai, Amari etc.

Savannah forests

- Grasses like **Ikara and Nal** are also found in this type of forests.
- The grass forests of savannah type get burnt every year making the soil very dry and unfit for the invasion and establishment of other species towards the climax forests.

Previous Years' Questions-APSC

1. The National Park of Assam where the rare white-winged duck (Deohah) is found is (2009)
 - a) **Nameri**
 - b) Dibru Saikhowa
 - c) Manas
 - d) Orang
2. Of the total geographical area of Assam the total area under forest is (2009)
 - a) 33 percent
 - b) **22 percent**
 - c) 28 percent
 - d) 19 percent
3. In which year, Kaziranga wildlife Sanctuary was elevated to a National Park? (2013)
 - a) **1974**
 - b) 1975
 - c) 1976
 - d) 1977
4. Pani Dihing Birds Sanctuary is located in which of the following districts of Assam? (2013)
 - a) Jorhat
 - b) Golaghat
 - c) **Sibsagar**
 - d) Dhemaji
5. Arrange the National Parks of Assam correctly in the order of descending size: (2013)
 - a) Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Dibru Saikhowa, Orang
 - b) **Manas, Kaziranga, Dibru Saikhowa, Nameri, Orang**
 - c) Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang, Dibru Saikhowa
 - d) Manas, **Dibru Saikhowa**, Kaziranga, Orang, Nameri

NOTE:

- **Assam-** Land of Red river and Blue Hills
- **Arunachal Pradesh-** Land of Dawn Lit Mountains
- **Nagaland-** Land of Festivals/ **Falcon** Capital of the World.
- **Manipur-** Land of Jewels
- **Mizoram-** Land of Hills/Blue Mountain
- **Tripura-** **Tri(water) and Pra(near)** which in totality means “near water”.
- **Meghalaya-** Abode of Clouds



Biodiversity in Assam

The Bio-spectrum

- The array of floristic richness has prompted many a scholars to describe Assam as the “Biological Gateway” of North East.
- The eminent Plant Taxonomist and Plant Geographer Armen L. Takhtajan observed, “**Cradle of flowering plants lies in between Assam and Fiji**”.

Diversity

- Forest in Assam can be described into following types/ sub types:
 - Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests
 - Tropical Semi Evergreen Forests
 - Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests
 - Sub-tropical Broadleaf Hill Forests
 - Sub-tropical Pine Forests
 - Littoral and Swamp Forests
 - Grassland and Savannahs
- **Hollong (*Dipterocarpus macrocarpus*), the tallest tree of Assam and also the “State Tree”**
- **Important grasses are *Apluda mutica*, *Phragmatis karka*, *Sclerostachya fusca*, *Saccharum species etc.***

Floral diversity

- Orchids grow to their magnificent best in the Evergreen and Semi- Evergreen Forest and to some extent in Moist Deciduous forests.
- Bamboos have gained considerable importance in the socio-economic life of people in Assam for the variety of uses they cater to.
- **Altogether 38 naturally growing species of bamboo are recorded in Assam**
- *Bamboosua vulgaris* is the introduced species cultivated throughout Assam as ornamental plant
- **Bambusa jaintiana and Melocanna arundiana are the species reported only from Assam.**
- **Foxtail orchid is the state flower**

Wetlands and Aquatic Plant Diversity

- Assam has more fresh water wetlands than any other state in the North Eastern Region.
- The two major drainage systems of Assam-**the Brahmaputra and the Barak** and in the flood plains of these river systems exist patches of marshy depressions and swamps as well as perennial water bodies of varying shape, size and depth called locally as beels, haors, jalah, doloni, hola, pitoni etc.
- The wetlands in Assam cover an area of 1,400 sq km. District- wise 3513 numbers of wetlands are identified in Assam-by-Assam Remote Sensing Application Centre, Assam
- **Manmade tanks like Joysagar, Sibsagar, Dighalipukhuri, Jorpukhuri, Hazarapukhuri, Rajhuwa Borpukhuri etc. were also dug by ancient Rulers of Assam.**

- **Highest number of tanks are observed in Sibsagar district (20 number) followed by Kamrup (18 number) and Sonitpur (16 number).**
- **But area wise, the highest area under this category is observed in Sibsagar district (267.00 ha) followed by Sonitpur (83.50 ha) and Kamrup (80.00 ha) districts**
- There are an estimated 3513 beels and hoars, 1,85,623 ponds and tanks and one reservoir in Assam.
- **Deepor beel is a Ramsar site.**

Wetlands	Location
Deepor Beel	Guwahati
Pani Dihing	Sivasagar
Samaguri Beel	Nagaon
Son Beel	Karimganj
Batha Beel	Darrang
Kapla Beel	Barpeta
Dheer Beel & Diplai Beel	Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary under Kokrajhar and Dhubri districts respectively
Tamaranga beel	Bongaigaon
Khamrenga beel	Kamrup (M)
Mer beel	Nagaon
Chandubi	Kamrup (M)
Sohola beel	Kaziranga NP
Jamjing and Sengajan	Dhemaji
Maguri Motapung Beel	Near to Dibru saikhowa, Tinsukia
Gaurisagar Pukhuri, Sibsagar Pukhuri and Joysagar Pukhuri	Sibsagar

- **Free floating hydrophytes** is important with example of **Eichhornia crassipes (Water hyacinth or Meteka)**. It is an **invasive species**, native to Brazil, used mostly as ornamental plants. Uptake of nitrogen and phosphate, and water purification capacity by water hyacinth is a benefit

The Rich Faunal Diversity

- Assam is part of the **transitional zone between the Indian, Indo- Malayan and Indo-Chinese Biographical regions.**
- Assam provides the gateway for spread of both oriental and Palaearctic fauna to other parts of the country.
- The distributional extent of several Indian species including **clawless otter, the spotted deer, the swamp deer, the stone marlin, the hispid hare, the great Indian one horned rhinoceros, the pigmy hog etc. have terminated in Assam plains**
- **White winged duck is the state of Assam**
- The distributional range of several **Indo-Chinese fauna** gets its sustenance from this region. Mention can be made of such species like **clouded leopard, the marbled cat, the golden cat, the spotted linsang, the large Indian civet, the binturong, the crab eating mongoose, the ferret badger, the hog badger, the hoary bamboo rat, the bay bamboo rat etc**
- Assam is home to all the primate species found in the North Eastern region. Besides, many of the relict mammalian fauna of peninsular India particularly those occurring in the Western Ghats have close relationship with Assam and N.E region
- Assam's mammalian diversity is represented by 193 species which are widely distributed in this region. But of late some of the species like **one horned rhinoceros, water buffalo, pigmy hog, swamp deer, golden langur, hoolock gibbon have their distribution limited to isolated pockets and protected areas.**
- The primate species are hoolock gibbon (only Indian ape), golden langur, capped monkey, rhesus macaque, pigtail macaque, stump tailed macaque, Assamese macaque, and slow Lorries.
- **Golden langur or “Sonali Bandar” as it is known locally is confined between Sankosh river in the west; Manas in the east; Brahmaputra in the south and mountains in Bhutan in the north**
- **Slow Lorries is the only prosimian found in Assam and the N.E. region. Locally known as “Lajuki Bandar” they are solitary animals and obligate canopy dwellers.**
- Assam is one of the “endemic bird areas” in the world. With 950 bird species the State is home to 53.5% of the bird species found in the Indian Sub-Continent
- Assam's varied physiography and habitat conditions support a rich variety of reptilian population. Gangetic gharial, 19 species of tortoises and 77 species of snakes and lizards are found in the state.
- Around 1500 species of butterflies are reported from India of which nearly half are reported from Assam and N.E. India. The Swallowtail butterflies occupy an important place and the **IUCN has identified the entire N.E. Region as Swallowtail rich zone under “Swallowtail Conservation Action Plan”.**

Swallowtail Butterflies: An Action Plan for their Conservation

- This is **the first insect Action Plan prepared by the IUCN Species Survival Commission**, and was chosen because swallowtail butterflies are perhaps the most charismatic to non-entomologists.
- Some are the largest butterflies which exist, and the “birdwings” in particular have long excited wonder and comment among naturalists of all persuasions.
- Out of a total of 573 species, 170 are considered to need conservation action.
- This Action Plan exemplifies the wide-ranging conservation needs of swallowtails by selecting a geographically broad suite of faunas and individual taxa for priority conservation action.
- The **plan covers 34 regions throughout the world**, considering within each region the conservation status of particular species, action needed, and how projects could be undertaken, together with an indication of costs involved.

Previous Year Questions

1. Which among the following is the State Tree Of Assam? (2020)

- a) Titachapa
- b) Nahor
- c) **Hollong**
- d) Segum

2. Find the odd pair out (2011)

- a) Dheer beel: Dhubri district
- b) Khamrenga beel: Kamrup (M)
- c) Tamaranga beel: Bongaigaon district
- d) **Mer beel: Jorhat district**

Protected Areas of Assam

Introduction

- Assam protected areas includes **Seven national parks** (2.51% of Assam's area), **18 wildlife sanctuaries** (1.88% of Assam's area), and **two proposed wildlife sanctuaries**

National parks

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km ²)	Date/Year of announcement as National Park
1	Kaziranga National Park	Golaghat, Nagaon district and Karbi Anglong	858.98	1974
2	Manas National Park	Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Bongaigaon	950.00	1990
3	Nameri National Park	Sonitpur	200.00	1998
4	Dibru-Saikhowa National Park	Dibrugarh and Tinsukia	340.00	1999
5	Orang National Park	Darrang and Sonitpur	78.81	13 April 1999
6	Raimona National Park	Kokrajhar	422.00	8 June 2021
7	Dehing Patkai National Park	Dibrugarh and Tinsukia	234.26	9 June 2021

Kaziranga National Park

- Kaziranga National Park is a national park in the of the state of Assam, India.
- The park, which hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses, is a **World Heritage Site**.
- **A four-day rhino census, conducted between 25 March and 28 March 2022 recorded a rise from 2,413 in 2018 to 2,613 in 2022**
- Kaziranga National Park was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2006. The park is home to large breeding populations of elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer
- **Kaziranga is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for conservation of avifaunal species.**
- Located on the edge of the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot
- Kaziranga is a vast expanse of tall elephant grass, marshland, and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests, criss-crossed by four major rivers, including the Brahmaputra, and the park includes numerous small bodies of water.
- Although the etymology of the name Kaziranga is not certain, there exist a number of possible explanations derived from local legends and records. According to one legend, a girl named Rawnga, from a nearby village, and a youth named Kazi, from Karbi Anglong, fell in love. This match was not acceptable to their families, and the couple disappeared into the forest, never to be seen again, and the forest was named after them. According to another legend, Srimanta Sankardeva, the sixteenth-century Vaisnava saint-scholar, once blessed a childless couple, Kazi and Rangai, and asked them to dig a big pond in the region so that their name would live on

Boost Your Knowledge- Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC)

- The Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) at Panbari near the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has completed 20 years on (28th August 2022) of providing emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation to indigenous wild animals displaced due to various reasons.
- The centre was established on August 28, 2002 and is located in Borjuri village adjacent to the Panbari Reserve Forest near Kaziranga National Park in Assam
- It is a joint initiative of the Assam Forest Department, the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
- The CWRC continues to be the only facility of its kind in India to have successfully addressed the welfare where orphaned and/or injured wild animals of several species are hand-raised and/or treated and subsequently returned to the wild.
- It has records of conservation of 357 species including elephant, leopard, rhino, tiger, clouded leopard, black bear, wild buffalo, hog deer, muntjac, wild boar and monkeys.
- It has so far handled 7,397 animals out of which 4,490 (65%) could be sent back to the wild after proper care and treatment

Manas National Park

- Manas National Park is a **national park, Project Tiger reserve, biosphere reserve and an elephant reserve** in Assam, India which is a world heritage site
- Located in the Himalayan foothills, it is contiguous with **Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan**.
- The park is known for its rare and endangered endemic wildlife such as the Assam roofed turtle, hispid hare, golden langur and pygmy hog.
- **Manas is famous for its population of the wild water buffalo**
- **The name of the park is originated from the Manas River. The Manas River is a major tributary of Brahmaputra River, which passes through the heart of the national park**

Nameri National Park

- Nameri National Park is a national park in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas in the Sonitpur District of Assam, India, about 35 km from Tezpur
- Nameri shares its northern boundary with the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Nameri National Park was declared as Tiger Reserve in the year 1999-2000, and is the second Tiger reserve of Assam after Manas Tiger Reserve.
- It has two core areas: Nameri National Park and **Sonai- Rupai Wildlife (Satellite Core of the Nameri Tiger Reserve)**.
- The river Jia-Bhoroli is the lifeline of Nameri, which flows along the southern boundary of the park from northwest to southeast.
- In the east, the river Bor-Dikorai is a tributary of river Jia-Bhoroli, flowing along the southern boundary from northeast to southwest
- The Kameng River of Assam was famous since the time of British for the golden mahseer angling.
- **The white winged wood duck is currently the state bird of Assam which are found in Nameri NP**

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is a national park located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts, Assam, India. It was designated a Biosphere Reserve in July 1997
- It is located at about 12 km (7.5 mi) north of Tinsukia town at an average elevation of 118 m (387 ft), ranging from 110 to 126 m (361 to 413 ft).
- The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north and Dibru River in the south.
- It mainly consists of moist mixed semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, canebrakes and grasslands.
- **It is the largest salix swamp forest in north-eastern India**, with a tropical monsoon climate with a hot and wet summer and cool and usually dry winter.
- It is a haven for many endangered species and rich in fish diversity.
- In December 2020, Gauhati high court stayed a permission given to Oil India Limited for hydrocarbon exploration at seven locations inside the protected area

Orang National Park

- Orang National Park is a national park in India located on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River in the Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam.
- It was established as a sanctuary in 1985 and declared a national park on 13 April 1999.
- It has a rich flora and fauna, including great Indian rhinoceros, pygmy hog, Asian elephant, wild water buffalo and Bengal tiger.
- **It is the only stronghold of rhinoceros on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River.**

Raimona National Park

- Raimona National Park is located in extreme western part of Assam, India. It is spread across Gossaigaon and Kokrajhar subdivisions of Kokrajhar district of BTR.
- It was declared a National Park on 5 June 2021 by the announcement of Assam's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on the occasion of World Environment Day at Gandhi Mandap, Guwahati.
- It is a part of a contiguous forest patch with an area of 422 km² (163 sq mi) covering the northern part of the notified Ripu Reserve Forest (508.62 km² (196.38 sq mi)), which forms the westernmost buffer to Manas Tiger Reserve in the foothills of Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot.
- **Those were made owing to its significance for conservation of Asian elephants, gaur or Indian "bison" and golden langur, all of which have large populations in the area.**
- **It is also part of Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve**

Dehing Patkai National Park

- Dehing Patkai National Park is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam and covers an area of 231.65 km² (89.44 sq mi) rainforest.
- It is located in the Dehing Patkai Landscape which is a dipterocarp-dominated lowland rainforest. The rainforest stretches for more than 575 km² (222 sq mi) in the districts of Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Charaideo.
- The forest further spreads over in the Tirap and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Dehing Patkai National Park harbours the largest stretch of lowland rainforests in India.**
- Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary was declared as Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve under Project Elephant.
- Dehing-Patkai as a potential wildlife sanctuary was identified in late 1980s during a primate survey as "Upper Dehing Wildlife Sanctuary". Subsequently during a study on **white-winged wood duck in early 1990s, it was discovered as a globally important site for this duck** and recommended to be upgraded to "Upper Dehing National Park"

Wildlife sanctuaries

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km ²)	Specifications
1	Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary	Jorhat	20.98	Isolated protected area of evergreen forest. Its forests used to extend to the foothills of the Patkai mountain range. The upper canopy of the forest is dominated by the Hollong tree (<i>Dipterocarpus macrocarpus</i>), while the Nahar (<i>Mesua ferrea</i>) dominates the middle canopy. The lower canopy consists of evergreen shrubs and herbs.
2	Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary	Karbi Anglong	6.05	It is one of the oldest sanctuaries containing hot water spring and waterfalls and surrounded by Nambor Sanctuary having 51 rare species of orchid.
3	Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary	Sonitpur	44.06	It forms an integral part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori eco-system and is a notified buffer of the Kaziranga Tiger reserve. It is considered to be an ideal habitat for the Bengal florican.

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km ²)	Specifications
4	Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary	Udalguri	26.22	The sanctuary was established in 1980 to protect the hispid hare and pigmy hog. The sanctuary is home to many birds such as The White Capped Water Redstart and the Red Billed Blue Magpie.
5	Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary	Sonitpur	220	It is located along the foothills of the Great Himalayan Range. Four rivers flow through the sanctuary: Gabharu, Gelgeli, Sonai and Rupai.

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Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km ²)	Specifications
6	Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary	Marigaon	38.80	<p>Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary holds one of the largest Indian rhinoceros populations in Assam.</p> <p>Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary's grassland vegetation consists of at least 15 grass species</p> <p>The grasslands provide habitat and food resource for the Indian rhinoceros, hosting Assam's second largest population</p> <p>It is an Important Bird Area and home for more than 2000 migratory birds and various reptiles</p> <p>Under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020) which is a joint programme of the Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Assam, WWF-India, the International Rhino Foundation and the US fish & wildlife service, six rhinos were translocated from Pobitora and re-introduced into the</p>

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km ²)	Specifications
				Manas National Park between December 2010 and January 2011. Earlier, under the same programme, two rhinos were similarly translocated from Pobitora to Manas National Park in 2008
7	Panidihing Bird Sanctuary	Sibsagar	33.93	<p>Pani-Dihing is a complex of grassland and wetland. Some of the wetlands including channels or beels include Tokia, Jarjaria, Boloma, Dighali, Singorajan, Sagunpora, Kandhulijan, Fulai and Gaiguma.</p> <p>The first systematic ornithological surveys in the area was conducted by noted conservationist Dr Anwaruddin Choudhury in 1987-88</p>

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km²)	Specifications
8	Bherjan-Borajan-Padumoni Wildlife Sanctuary	Tinsukia	7.22	This wildlife sanctuary is spread across three blocks which consist of three separate forests, namely Bherjan, Borajan and Padumoni. It is a very important forest in terms of conservation and includes habitat for animals such as hoolock gibbon, capped langur, pig-tailed macaque, slow loris, rhesus macaque, leopard, etc
9	Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary	Karbi Anglong	37.00	Together with Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary of Karbi Anglong and Nambor-Doigrung Wildlife Sanctuary of Golaghat district it forms a larger complex of wilderness
10	East Karbi-Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary	Karbi Anglong	222.81	

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km²)	Specifications
11	Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary	Nagaon	70.13	It is situated 40 km downstream of the Kaziranga National Park and 30 km northwest of the Orang National Park on the other side of the river Brahmaputra It is a part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori eco-system. The sanctuary is an ideal habitat for Indian rhinoceros and Asiatic water buffaloes.
12	Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary	Dhubri and Kokrajhar	45.57	It is famous for the golden langur and is the second protected habitat for golden langur in India
13	Marat Longri Wildlife Sanctuary	Karbi Anglong	451.00	It is notified but under developed wildlife sanctuary It is an important component of Dhansiri-Lungding Elephant Reserve

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km²)	Specifications
14	Nambor-Doigrung Wildlife Sanctuary	Golaghat	97.15	<p>The forest type is tropical semi-evergreen with pockets of pure evergreen, interspersed with small forest marshes.</p> <p>The sanctuary along with Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary (6 km²) and Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary are a part of the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve,</p>
15	Borail Wildlife Sanctuary	Cachar and Dima Hasao	326.25	<p>The Dima Hasao part of Barail is not part of this sanctuary</p>

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km ²)	Specifications
16	Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary	Kamrup Metro	78.64	<p>The sanctuary is known for hosting rare and endangered birds and animals.</p> <p>It is the presence of an isolated population of gaur or Indian "bison" that has added significance to Amchang.</p>
17	Behali Reserved Forests Deepor Beel	Bishwanath Kamrup metro	140 14.14	<p>Behali is the only forest in Assam with three new...</p> <p>Staging site for migratory birds</p>

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km ²)	Specifications
18	Barak Bhuban	Between Barak River and the Sonai River	320	Area has eight recording species of primates like slow loris, rhesus macaque, pig-tailed macaque, stump-tailed macaque, Assamese macaque, capped langur, hoolock gibbon and phayre's leaf monkey.



Boost Your Knowledge-

1. Behali Reserved Forest

- Behali Reserved Forest, located in the Biswanath district of Assam is a patch of semi-evergreen forest in the foothills of Eastern Himalayas
- This forest is a part of the greater Sonitpur Elephant Reserve and was declared as a reserved forest in 1917.
- It lies between the two famous protected areas, the Nameri National Park on its west and Kaziranga National Park on its south
- **On 4th May 2022, In The Assam Gazette, The Governor of Assam proposed to declare the Behali Reserved Forest as a Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- It is also recognized as an Important Bird Area in 1994 and a Key Biodiversity Area in 2004

2. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra in Morigaon district in Assam, India.
- It was declared in 1987 and covers 38.85 km² (15.00 sq mi), providing grassland and wetland habitat for the Indian rhinoceros.
- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary holds one of the largest Indian rhinoceros populations in Assam
- Under the **Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020)** which is a joint programme of the **Department of Environment & Forests, Govt of Assam, WWF India, the International Rhino Foundation and the US fish & wildlife service**, six rhinos were translocated from Pobitora and re-introduced into the Manas National Park between December 2010 and January 2011. Earlier, under the same programme, two rhinos were similarly translocated from Pobitora to Manas National Park in 2008

Proposed Wildlife Sanctuaries

- North Karbi Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bordoibam Bilmukh Bird Wildlife Sanctuary

Biosphere reserve of Assam

- Manas
- Dibru-Saikhowa

Bird Sanctuary in Assam

Names	Location
Bordoibam Bilmukh Bird Sanctuary	Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts
Satajaan Bird Sanctuary	Lakhimpur district
Pani dihing	Sivasagar District
Deepor Beel Bird Sanctuary	Kamrup (M)

Previous Year Questions

1. Which of the following Wildlife Sanctuaries is located in Udalguri district? (2018)
 - a) Chakrashila
 - b) Bornadi**
 - c) Amchang
 - d) Bura Chapori
2. Which of the following wildlife sanctuaries /National Parks is located in the Assam–Arunachal Pradesh boarder? (2020)
 - a) Sonai Rupai Wildlife sanctuary**
 - b) Bornadi Wildlife sanctuary
 - c) Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
 - d) Namdapha National Park
3. The two UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Assam are (2020)
 - a) Nameri National Park and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.
 - b) Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park.**
 - c) Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park and Hoolongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary
 - d) Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
4. In which year, Kaziranga wildlife Sanctuary was elevated to a National Park? (2013)
 - a) 1974**
 - b) 1975
 - c) 1976
 - d) 1977
5. Panidihing Birds Sanctuary is located in which of the following districts of Assam? (2013)
 - a) Jorhat
 - b) Golaghat
 - c) Sibsagar**
 - d) Dhemaji
6. Arrange the National Parks of Assam correctly in the order of descending size (2013)
 - a) Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Dibru Saikhowa, Orang
 - b) Manas, Kaziranga, Dibru Saikhowa, Nameri, Orang**
 - c) Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang, Dibru Saikhowa
 - d) Manas, Dibru Saikhowa, Kaziranga, Orang, Nameri
7. The National Park of Assam where the rare white-winged duck (Deohanh) is found is
 - a) Nameri**
 - b) Dibru Saikhowa
 - c) Manas
 - d) Orang

8. Clouded leopard and capped langur are important animals of (2011)

- a) **Manas National Park**
- b) Nameri Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) Boronodi Wildlife Sanctuary

9. Nameri Wildlife Sanctuary which has recently been upgraded to a national park is located in the district of (1998)

- a) Tinsukia
- b) Dhemaji
- c) **Sonitpur**
- d) North Cachar Hills

10. Which one of the following wildlife sanctuaries of N.E. India is related with Project Tiger? (2001)

- a) Dibrugarh-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary
- b) Nameri Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- d) **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary**

11. The National Park of Assam where the rare white-winged duck (Deohanh) is found is (2009)

- a) **Nameri**
- b) Dibru Saikhowa
- c) Manas
- d) Orang

ASSAM POLITY

Specific Functions Entrusted to Governors of Certain States

- These are discretionary powers entrusted to Governors of Maharashtra and Gujarat, Governor of Nagaland, Governor of Sikkim, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and **Governor of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.**
- Any dispute in regard to the state of royalties payable to a District council in Assam or Meghalaya or Tripura or Mizoram by the State government shall be referred to the Governor for determining such share in his discretion.

District Administration in Assam

- The state of Assam is divided into 35 districts for administrative purposes.
- Deputy Commissioner (DC) is the Head of District Administration of Assam.

- DC also acts as District Collector in case of revenue matters, as District Magistrate (DM) in case of maintenance of law and order general administration, as District Election Officer in case of conduct of Election and so on.
- DC is aided by a number of officers like Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Sub-Divisional Officers (SDCs), Circle Officers, Assistant Commissioners and others.
- Assam is divided into five divisions and each division consists of several districts. The officer-in-charge of the division is the Commissioner.

District Administration

Revenue Administration

- Revenue Administration has been historically been the primary responsibility of the District Administration.

Responsibility:

- Collection and fixing of land revenue
- Registration of the same
- Mutation and overall management in regard to land matters- private and public.
- The Mouzadars under the Circle Officers are responsible for collecting land revenue (Khazana) from land owners (Pattadars).
- All the Circle Officers are required to submit 'doul' (demand of revenue) to DC, and after his approval, Mouzadars are to collect revenue as per demand.

Local Administration

- For management and implementation of various development schemes, elected bodies are constituted at the level of Corporation, Municipality and Town Committees for Urban areas and the Panchayat Bodies for Rural areas as per the 73rd and 74th Amendment Act of the Indian Constitution.
- **Gaonbura:** A village usually has a nominal appointed head called the Gaonbura.
- **Block Development Officer:** Rural areas in districts are divided into development blocks for purposes of rural development. It is the lowest unit of community development administration. Each block is in charge of a BDO.

Panchayat and Rural Development of Assam

Functions of Gaon Panchayat:

- Preparation of Annual Plans.
- Preparation of Annual Budget of Gaon Panchayat.
- Mobilization of relief in Natural Calamities.
- Removal of Encroachments on public properties.
- Organizing voluntarily labours and contribution for community works.
- Maintenance of essential statistics of village

Functions of Anchalik Panchayat:

- Preparation and submission of Annual Plans to the Zilla Parishad.
- Consideration and consolidation of Annual Plans of all Gaon Panchayats under it's area.
- Preparation of Annual Budget.
- Performing functions entrusted to it by the Government or by the Zilla Parishad.
- To assist the Government in relief operation during Natural Calamities

Functions of Zilla Parishad:

- Prepare plans for economic development and social justice of the district.
- Ensure the coordinated implementation of such plan.
- Functions related to matters assigned by Government.

NOTE:

- At present, there are 21 Zila Parishads, 185 Anchalik Panchayat and 2201 Gram Panchayats in the State under three-tier PRI systems in 21 Plain Districts, excluding the 6th Schedule Districts.
- Three Hill Districts- Karbi Anglong East, Karbi –Anglong West and Dima Hasao- and four Bodoland Territorial Area Districts under Bodoland Territorial Council do not have Panchayati Raj system.

North Eastern Council

- NEC was established under the **North Eastern Council Act, 1971** as an apex level body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating coordination with the States.

- Subsequent to the Amendment of 2002, NEC has been mandated to function as a **regional planning body** for the North Eastern Area and while formulating a regional plan for this area, shall give priority to the schemes and projects benefiting two or more states provided that in the case of Sikkim, the Council shall formulate specific projects and schemes for that State.
- The Union Cabinet, in June 2018, approved the proposal of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (**DoNER**) for the nomination of the **Union Home Minister as ex-officio Chairman** of North Eastern Council (NEC). The Cabinet also approved that Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of DoNER would serve as Vice Chairman of the Council.
- **NEC and all the Governors and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States will be Members.**

PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS-- APSC

1. The Governor of a state is an integral part of the (2014)
 - a) State Cabinet
 - b) Parliament
 - c) **State Legislature**
 - d) State Public Service Commission
2. Who administer the Oath of Office for the President of India and the Governor of a State respectively? (2014)
 - a) The Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Speaker of the State legislature Assembly
 - b) The Solicitor General of India and the Advocate General of the State
 - c) **The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India and the Chief Justice of High Court of the State**
 - d) None of them.
3. When was Assam detached from Bengal Presidency and was made a separate Chief Commissioner ship?(2020)
 - a) 1870
 - b) 1872
 - c) **1874**

- d) 1876
4. Which of the following Articles empowers the Governor to appoint the Chairman and other members of a State Public Service Commission?(2020)
- a) Article 314
- b) Article 315
- c) **Article 316**
- d) Article 317
5. As per the Tripartite Assam Accord signed among the Government of India, the Government of Assam and the leaders of the Assam Agitation (AASU and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad) on 15th August, 1985, what was set up as the cut-off date for detection and deportation of illegal migrants to Assam? (2020)
- a) 1st January, 1951
- b) 15th August, 1967
- c) 26th January, 1970
- d) **24th March, 1971**
6. The maximum permissible period between two Sessions of a State Legislative Assembly is: (2014)
- a) One year
- b) **Six months**
- c) Three months
- d) Ten months
7. Under which of the following Articles, additional and acting judges can be appointed in the High Courts? (2017)
- a) Article 220
- b) Article 229
- c) **Article 224**

d) Article 231

8. In India, who appoints the District Judges?(2018)

- a) **The Governor**
- b) The Judges of the High Court
- c) The chief Minister
- d) The President

9. The governor of which state has been vested with special powers regarding ST areas (2015)

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) **Assam**
- c) Maharashtra
- d) West Bengal

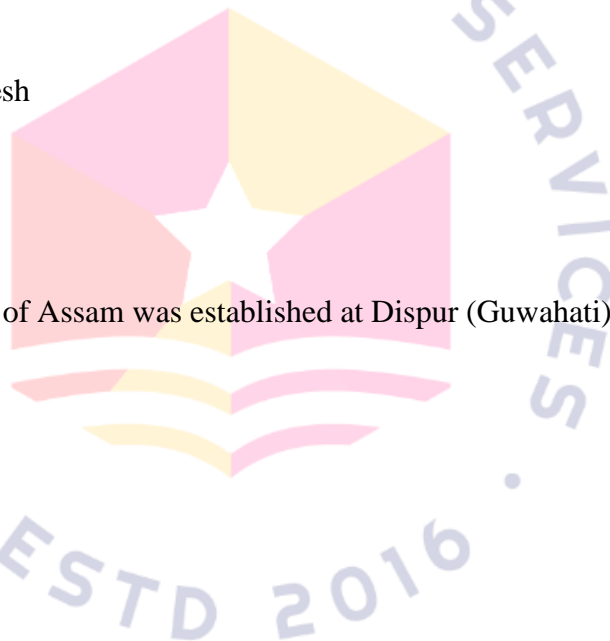
10. The capital city of Assam was established at Dispur (Guwahati) in (2015)

- a) **1973**
- b) 1971
- c) 1975
- d) 1978

11. Baksa district of Assam was created from the parts of which of the following districts?(2015)

- a) **Barpeta, Nalbari and Kamrup**
- b) Goalpara and Kokrajhar
- c) Bongaigaon and Kokrajhar
- d) Darrang, Barpeta and Nalbari

12. The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with (2013)



- a) Administration of OBC/MOBC population
- b) Stat reorganization based on language
- c) **The provisions for administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**
- d) welfare of the SC/ST population

13. When was Assam Provincial Congress formed? (2013)

- a) 1920
- b) **1921**
- c) 1922
- d) 1923

14. Under the Assam Panchayat Act 1994, the quorum for the meeting of the Gram Panchayat is (2011)

- a) One-half of the total number of members
- b) One-half of the total number of members present
- c) **One third of the total number of members**
- d) One-third of the total number of members present

15. Any dispute relating to the validity of the elections of the Vice-President of the Gaon Panchayat under the Assam Panchayat Act, 1994 shall be decided by (2001)

- a) BDO
- b) **Deputy Commissioner**
- c) President of the Gaon Panchayat
- d) Members of the Gaon Panchayat

16. The Sixth Schedule to the constitution of India provides for (2001)

- a) Panchayati Raj Institution
- b) Districts Councils
- c) **Bodo Autonomous Council**
- d) North Eastern Council

17. The Chief Commissionership was introduced in Assam in (2001)

- a) 1873
- b) **1874**
- c) 1875
- d) 1876

18. The total number of Development Blocks in Assam is (**2001**)

- a) 119
- b) 200
- c) **219**
- d) 180



ASSAM ECONOMY

- North East India is often highlighted as a region which is far away from the Country's capital and its topographical complexities had rendered slow economic progress in this part of the world. However, despite this drawback, Assam stands as the largest economy in the North East India.
- Assam is a gateway to the North-East States and is well placed to serve the needs and markets of other states of the North- East.
- Its geographical location is favourable for foreign trade with neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, China etc.

Agricultural and food grains production

- In Assam, the soil, topography, rainfall and climate in general are conducive for agricultural activity, mainly for the production of paddy. Therefore, the concentration of area under paddy cultivation is high in this region.
- The area for paddy cultivation in 2016-17 was estimated at 92.5% of the total area under food grain. While the area under wheat has declined by around 17% in the same year. Other crops like Maize and Oil seeds have increased by 10.2% and 2.3% respectively in 2016 as compared to 2015.
- Assam uses about 54.11% of land for agricultural activities and about 80% of the states are dependent on agriculture.

Cropping pattern

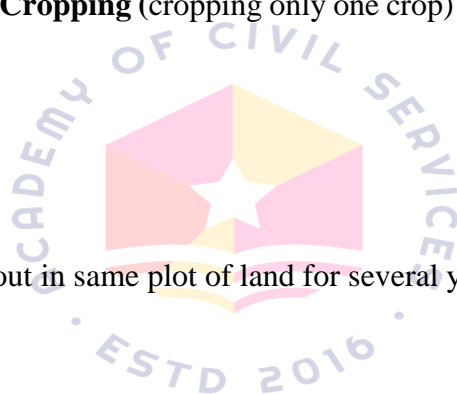
Depending on the crop production season, Assam's agriculture can be divided into three types:

1. **Kharif** crops are grown during April-May when rain starts and are harvested during November – December. The principal Kharif crops of Assam are Sali and bao rice, jute, sugarcane etc.
2. **Rabi** crops are shown during the early part of October-November and harvested during April to June. The major rabi crop are ahu and Bodo rice, mustard, pulses, tobacco, wheat, maize, etc.
3. **The Zaid** crop cultivation is carried out during the period between the Kharif and Rabi crop production. This kind of agriculture is dependent on irrigation.

Major crops: peas, potato, onion, cabbage, watermelon, pumpkin and cucumber.

- **The hill dwellers** in this region use to clear the slopes of the hills through cutting and burning methods. This kind of agriculture is called Jhum Cultivation or Shifting Cultivation.
- In Assam both **Mono Cropping** (cropping only one crop) and **Multi cropping** system are in used in different districts.

cultivation is carried out in same plot of land for several years.



Crop production of Assam

Paddy

- It is the Principle crop of Assam and Paddy is cultivated in 64.52% of total agricultural land of the state.

Jute

- It is the highest cash earning fibre crop. Temperature and moist climate of Assam is suitable for jute cultivation.
- The low lying fertile land where water remains for considerable time is used for jute cultivation.
- The stems of mature jute plants are kept generally under stagnant water for about 20 days. The rotten and soft are removed from the stems which are then washed in Nagoan, Morigoan, Goalpara, Dhubri and Barpeta districts of Assam.

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Tea

- Tea is the Principle cash crop of Assam.
- Assam enjoys Agro- Climatic conditions suitable for tea cultivation.
- Almost all the districts of Assam enjoys annual rainfall from 150cm to 200cm, temperature more than 30 degree centigrade and acidic soil of low slopes.
- As a result, Assam is an important tea producing region in the world.
- There are more than 850 tea gardens and several thousand small tea gardens in Assam.
- Assam ranks second as tea producing region in the world after South China region.
- In Assam, tea leaves are plucked for two times in a year.
- First time plucking is done during March-April and second time plucking is done during June-July.
- The tea leaves plucked during second time provide deep colour and more taste with a malty flavour.

Medicinal plants

- Varieties of medicinal plants are found in the hills and forests of Assam. There are about 300 plus species of vegetables and edible plants that are available in Assam. As many of these plants have medicinal value, there is ample scope for establishment of plant based industries in the state.

Horticulture

- Assam is traditionally rich in horticultural production due to its diverse and unique agro-climatic conditions which is conducive for growing wide range of horticultural crops like varieties of vegetables, fruits, flowers, spices, nuts, tuber crops and medicinal and aromatic plants.

- Assam is encompassed as one under 14 global bio-diversity hotspots.
- 3 types of Horticultural crops in Assam:
 1. Major fruits: Pineapple, bananas, coconuts, jackfruit etc
 2. Major citrus fruits: orange lemon (different types)
 3. Major spice fruits: ginger, turmeric, Bhutjolokia, chilli, pepper etc.

Different industries of Assam

1. Tea industry

- The tea industry in Assam is about 172 years old.
- Robert Bruce in 1823 discovered tea plants growing wild in upper Brahmaputra Valley.
- The first Indian tea produced in Assam was sent to United Kingdom for public sale in the year 1838.
- Nazira became the headquarters of the first company named Assam Company formed in 1839.
- Later this headquarter was shifted to Calcutta in 1965.
- In 1859, the second important tea company the Jorhat Tea Company was formed.
- In 1911, the **Toklai Research Station** was established near Jorhat with a view to carrying on research on cultivation and manufacture of tea.
- The opening of Tea Auction Centre at Guwahati on 25 September 1970 initiated a new era for the tea industry in Assam.

2. Rubber industry

- The Rubber Board has identified Assam as a 'Potential State' from the 'productivity' point of view.
- The area under rubber cultivation has grown from 16.5 thousand hectr in 2006-07 to 57.65 thousand hectre in 2016-2017.

3. Sericulture

- It is one of the major Cottage Industry in Assam. It is prevalent from time immemorial and continues to be an important labour intensive and agro-based cottage industry.
- Sericulture is a sustainable farm-based economic enterprise positively favouring the rural poor in the un-organised sector because of its relatively low requirement of fixed capital and higher returns on investment.
- **Muga, Eri, Oak tassar and Mulberry:** Traditionally Assam exhibits its richness in producing Muga, Eri and Mulberry and lastly oak tassar in the hill districts.
- The State accounts for higher production of non-mulberry silk, muga and eri in the country.

- Assam has the monopoly in the world in the production of Muga, the '**Golden Silk**' as more than 97% of Muga Silk is produced in Assam.
- Assam has also achieved the right of 'Geographical Indication' for Muga thread.
- This industry however faces many problems due to the changes in loom, fabric, design, technology etc.

4. Tourism

- This sector is not only a growth engine but also an employment generator that has the capacity to create large-scale employment both direct and indirect.
- It is the fastest growing industry in Assam.
- Assam provides its unique wildlife, natural beauty, unique flora, holy shrines, lush green tea gardens, turbulent rivers, vibrant and colourful festivals, cuisines etc. which can be considered as factors behind the boom of the tourism industry.

Problems of Tourism development

- Lack of a well-developed network of transport and communication has hindered the growth of the tourism sector.
- Exclusive buses, taxis, cruisers and other means of transport for quick and smooth movement of the tourists are poorly provided within the region.
- Lack of publicity. Though each of the North-east state has a separate tourism department it is yet to gain momentum.
- Socio- Political unrest of the region also hinders its growth.
- Restriction in some regions as per Restricted Area Permit also affects the tourism sector.
- Lack of awareness among both urban and rural educated youth about the high potential of tourism industry.

Mines and minerals of Assam [Natural resources of Assam]

- There are various mineral resources in Assam and so Assam is called the **Treasure House of Minerals**.
- The minerals whose reserves have been detected in the region include fireclay, asbestos, graphite, kaolin, sulphur, alum, mineral salt, shale, mica, copper, gold, gypsum etc.

Coal

- Coal popularly nicknamed as **Black Diamond** was discovered and mined in Assam in Makum in 1865.

- Impurities like sulphur content is high and carbon content are moderate. Coal present in Districts like Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Tinsukia and Karbi Anglong.
- Among all the districts of Assam, the present district of Tinsukia has huge deposits of coal in comparatively young Tertiary rocks.
- For Economic exploration of coal in Assam are:
 - (a) Lower tertiary deposits(found in Karbi Anglong)
 - (b) Middle and Upper Tertiary deposits (found in Ledo-Jaipur- Naginimara areas).

Petroleum

- Assam has rich deposits of crude oil. The traces of crude oil were detected in the forest areas in 1822 at the advice of Mr. **H.B.Medicott**.
- **Oil** was first extracted at Digboi in **1889** with the help of **Assam Railway and Trading Company**. Then in **1901** the Digboi refinery was established which is the best oil refinery in India.
- Assam now contributes about 17 percent of the total production of crude oil in India.
- Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemical Limited(BRPL), Numaligarh and Barauni produce kerosene, petrol,diesel,grease,wax, paraffin,naphtha, synthetic rubber,plastic, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), synthetic fibre and many others by products.

Natural gas

- It is a gaseous mineral of organic origin and is generally associated with crude oil.
- Natural gas contains a high proportion of methane (80-90%) some proportions of ethane (8-9%), propane (2-4%) and butane (0.7-1.7%)
- Assam Gas Company, OIL and ONGC are producing the natural gas.
- The important major industries established based on natural gas produced in Assam are Namrup thermal power project, Namrup fertiliser factory, Assam Gas Company and Assam gas cracker project.
- At present the gas produced in Assam are utilised by ONGC,OIL, BRPL the fibre plant, tea gardens and medical plants.
- Assam alone contributes about 25% of the total gas produced by the nation.

Limestone

- Assam is rich in high-quality limestone deposit. The limestone is mainly available in the Karbi-Anglong and Dima Hasao areas of Assam.

- It is used as raw materials in cement industries, as flux in iron and steel production, as raw material for many chemical industries and white washing of buildings and walls mainly in rural areas and chalk pencil used for writing.

Sillimanite

- It is a valuable mineral found in Karbi Anglong and in small quantity in Nagoan district.
- It is used in the manufacture of refractory materials, sparking plugs for automobile and in glass industry.
- The largest boulder of massive Sillimanite in Assam and Meghalaya was estimated to weigh 300 tons.

Fireclay

- The fireclays are occurring in the **Makum coalfields** and the Assam Railways and Trading Company prepared firebricks and refractories from these clays for their own requirements.

Iron ore

- Quartz- magnetic rocks are stated to be available in the Hahim area within Kamrup district.

Challenges for industrial growth in Assam

- The topography of North East makes mining and other extraction quite dangerous.
- Location disadvantages- Assam is located in the north-eastern corner of India connected with the rest part of India by a narrow corridor of 32km widely known as “**Bengal Duars.**”
- Poorly developed Transport and Communication
- Poor infrastructural development for industrial purposes and less provisions for accidental security. This repels many foreigners from diving into adventures.
- **Bell Metal and Brass Metal** as an industry has flourished in **Sarthebari** and **Hajo** area making Assam a pride in cottage industry.
- The bell-metal industry of Assam is the second largest handicraft sector after bamboo craft. Bell-metal is an alloy of copper and tin and the craftsmen of this industry are referred to as ‘*Kahar*’ or ‘*Orja*’. The objects made are mostly used in domestic and religious purposes.
- Historical records indicate that during seventh century A.D. the king of Kamrupa Kumar Bhaskar Barma presented articles made from bell metal from Sarthebari as a gesture of goodwill

to King Harshabardhan of Kanauj in present day Uttar Pradesh. This incident finds a mention in History of Assam by Sir Edward Gates. Thus it can be inferred that this craft was flourishing since the seventh century, if not earlier and its products were not only popular amongst the commoners but also equally popular among the royal families.

Previous Years' Questions- APSC

1. The first tea company established in Assam was (2009)
 - a) Jorhat Tea Company
 - b) Assam tea Company**
 - c) Assam-Bengal Tea Company
 - d) None of the above
2. Which of the following cottage industry workers in Assam suffer most due to the paucity of raw materials?(2013)
 - a) Brass
 - b) Bell metal
 - c) Ivory artist**
 - d) Potters and blacksmiths
3. The terra-cotta industry in Assam has developed in (2013)
 - a) Goalpara District
 - b) Barak Valley
 - c) Dhubri District**
 - d) Tinsukia District
4. The Assam Gas Cracker Project at Tengakhat does not have the proposal to produce (2013)
 - a) Oxo-alcohols
 - b) Portland cement and hollow bricks**
 - c) Polyethylene
 - d) Ethylene and propylene
5. We often hear the term 'CTC' in the context of Assam Tea. What does CTC stand for? (2020)
 - a) Crush, tear, curl**
 - b) Curl, tear, crush
 - c) Check, thrash, curl
 - d) Check, tear, curl