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APSC Prelims Notes by SuchitraACS (Sample Copy)

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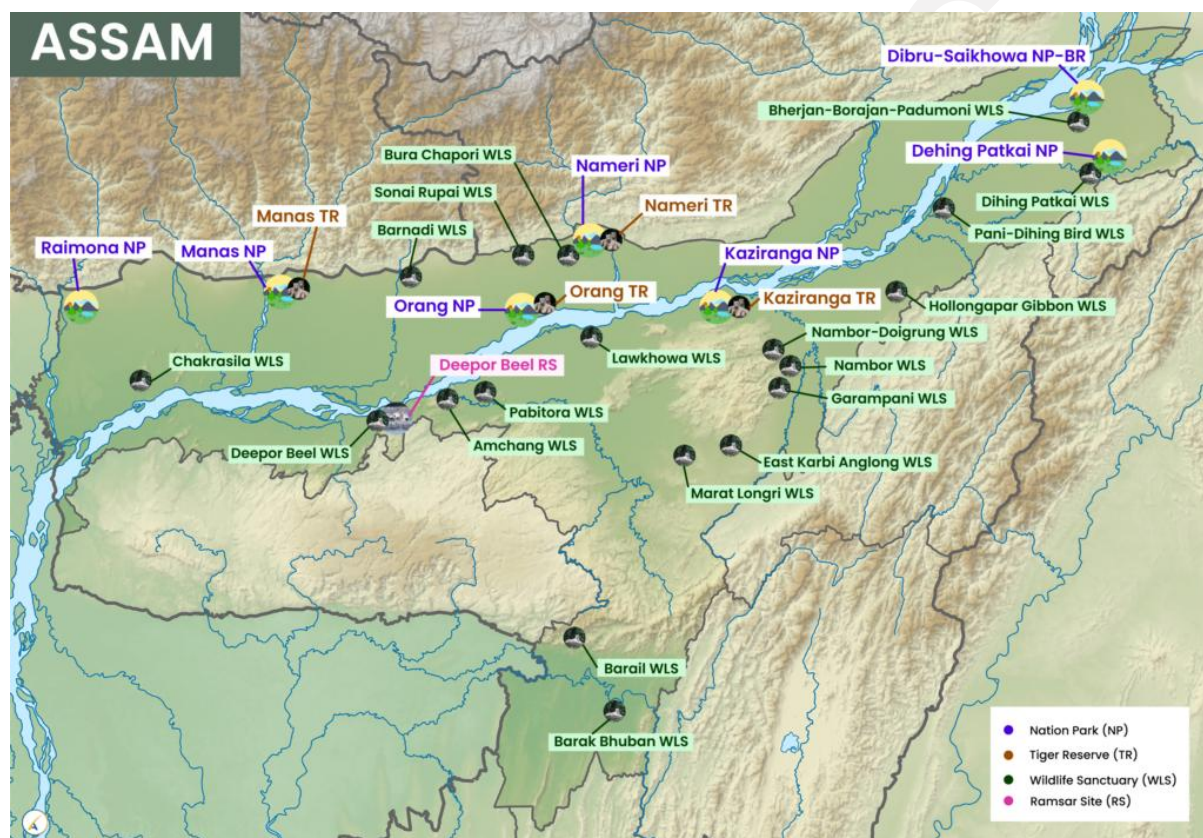
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Protected areas of Assam

About

Assam protected areas includes **Seven** national parks (2.51% of Assam's area), 17 wildlife sanctuaries (1.88% of Assam's area), and three proposed wildlife sanctuaries.



List of National parks of Assam

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km ²)	Date/Year of announced as National Park
1	Kaziranga National Park	Golaghat, Nagaon district and Karbi Anglong	1090	1974
2	Manas National Park	Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa,	500	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 1998
6	Raimona National Park	Kokrajhar	422.00	8 June 2021
7	Dehing Patkai National Park	Dibrugarh and Tinsukia	234.26	9 June 2021
8	Shikna Jwhlwao National Park	Kokrajhar and Chirang	321.90	15 August 2024

List of Wildlife sanctuaries

Sl. No.	Name	Location	Area (km ²)	Year of Notification
1	Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary	Jorhat	20.98	1997
2	Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary	Karbi Anglong	6.05	
3	Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary	Sonitpur	44.06	
4	Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary	Udalguri and Baksa	26.22	1980
5	Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary	Sonitpur	220	1998
6	Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary	Marigaon	38.80	1987
7	Panidihing Bird Sanctuary	Sibsagar	33.93	
8	Bherjan-Borajan-Padumoni Wildlife Sanctuary	Tinsukia	7.22	
9	Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary	Karbi Anglong	37.00	
10	East Karbi-Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary	Karbi Anglong	222.81	
11	Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary	Nagaon	70.13	

12	Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary	Dhubri and Kokrajhar	45.57	
13	Marat Longri Wildlife Sanctuary	Karbi Anglong	451.00	
14	Nambor-Doigrung Wildlife Sanctuary	Golaghat	97.15	
15	Borail Wildlife Sanctuary	Cachar and Dima Hasao	326.25	
16	Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary	Kamrup Metro	78.64	
17	Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary	Kamrup Metro	4.1	1989

National Parks of Assam in detail

Dihing Patkai National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, ER

- It is located **within the larger Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve**, which spreads across the coal- and oil-rich districts of **Upper Assam** (Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts).
- **Dehing** is the name of the **river that flows through this forest** and **Patkai** is the **hill** at the foot of which the sanctuary lies.
- The Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is **also known as the Jeypore Rainforest**, it harbours the **largest stretch of lowland rainforests in India**.
- The **Digboi Oil Refinery (the oldest refinery of Asia)** and **Lido Coal Mines** are located near the park.
- It has the highest concentration of the **White Winged Wood Duck (EN)**, the **state bird of Assam**.
- Vegetation: Assam Valley tropical wet evergreen forest (rainforest with distinct four layers).
- Major Fauna:
 - Rare fauna found in the region include **Chinese pangolin**, flying fox, wild pig, sambar, barking deer, **gaur**, **serow** and **Malayan giant squirrels**.
 - It is the **only sanctuary in India which is home to seven different species of wild cats – tiger, leopard, clouded leopard, leopard cat, golden cat, jungle cat and marbled cat**.
 - **Assamese macaque**, a primate found in the forest, is in the **red list of Near Threatened species**.
 - It has the **highest concentration of the rare endangered White Winged Wood Duck**.
- Major Avifauna: Oriental darter, lesser adjutant, greater spotted eagle, hornbills, hill myna.

- Threats: **Coal mining, oil extraction**, tea gardens, village settlements, deforestation.

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Biosphere Reserve

- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is located in **Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts**, Assam. It was designated a **Biosphere Reserve** in July 1997.
- It is bounded by the **Brahmaputra** and **Lohit Rivers** in the north and **Dibru River** in the south.
- It is famous for **Feral horses** (descendants of horses who bolted out of stables set up by the British Army in and around Tinsukia during World War II).
- Vegetation: Wet evergreen and semi-evergreen, deciduous, littoral and swamp forests.
- Major Fauna: Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, clouded leopard, sloth bear, dhole, **Gangetic dolphin**, Asian elephant, wild boar, sambar, hog deer, barking deer.

Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, National Park

- Kaziranga National Park is a prestigious national park of India situated in the northeastern part of the country in the **district of Golaghat and Nagoan** in the state of **Assam**.
- It was created in the year of **1904**. It was declared a National Park in **1974**. **It was declared a tiger reserve in 2007**.
- It lies in the **Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot** and the **Brahmaputra River** flows through the park.
- This park which hosts **2/3rd of the world's one-horned rhinoceroses**, is a **World Heritage Site**. It is recognized as an **Important Bird Area** by **BirdLife International**.
- Vegetation: Alluvial grasslands and savanna woodlands, and tropical moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forests.
- Major Flora: Spear grass, elephant grass, common reed, cotton tree, and elephant apple.
- Major Fauna: **One-Horned rhinoceros (VU), Royal Bengal Tiger, Asian elephant, wild water buffalo (EN) and swamp deer** are collectively known as the '**Big Five**' of **Kaziranga**. Other important fauna: fishing cat, small Indian civets, sloth bear, Chinese pangolin, Indian pangolins.
- Threats: Floods and encroachment by people.
- **Rivers and Highways:**
 - The **National Highway 37** passes through the park area.
 - The park also has more than 250 seasonal water bodies, besides the **Diphlu River** running through it.

One-horned Rhino

- The greater one-horned rhino (or "Indian rhino") is the **largest** of the rhino species.
- It is found in **Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and India**.

- It is **Vulnerable** in the IUCN Red List and lies in **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act**.
- It is in **Appendix I** of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**:
- India is home to over 85 % population. It is found in UP, West Bengal and Assam.
- **According to WWF** data from 2012, **Assam** has 91 % of the total Rhino in India which is mainly concentrated in **Kaziranga National Park**, and **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary**. Others include **Manas Tiger Reserve**, **Orang Tiger Reserve** and **Laokhowa Reserved Forests**
- There are **five rhino species**:
 - Great One horned rhino- **Vulnerable** in the IUCN Red List.
 - White rhinos - near threatened in the IUCN Red List.
 - Black rhinos in Africa - **critically endangered** in the IUCN Red List.
 - Javan rhino- **Critically endangered** in IUCN Red List.
 - Sumatran rhinos- extinct.

Manas Biosphere Reserve, National Park, Tiger Reserve, ER

- It is a **UNESCO Natural World Heritage site** located on the **Himalayan Foothills**. It is contiguous with the **Royal Manas National Park (Bhutan)**.
- **Manas river** (a tributary of Brahmaputra) passes through the heart of the National Park.
- The **bhabar-terai region** with riverine succession makes it one of the richest areas of biodiversity.
- Vegetation: Semi-evergreen forests, moist and dry deciduous forests, savanna woodland, and grasslands.
- Major Fauna: Hispid hare, pygmy hog, **wild water buffalo (EN)**, rhinoceros (reintroduced in 2007), elephants, sambar, Chinese pangolin, clouded leopards.
- Major Avifauna: It has the **world's largest population of the endangered Bengal florican**. Other major bird species include great hornbills, pelicans, eagles, and herons.

Nameri National Park, Tiger Reserve

- Nameri National Park is in the **foothills of the eastern Himalayas** in the **Sonitpur District** of Assam. It is part of the **Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot**.
- **Kameng River** flows along its southern boundary. Its northern boundary is shared with the **Pakke 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.

- It has two core areas: **Nameri National Park** & **Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- Major Flora: Ajar, hollock, nahor and orchids.
- Major Fauna: **Tiger**, leopard, sambar, dhole, gaur, **clouded leopard (VU)**, barking deer, marbled cat, Himalayan black bear, capped langur, Indian giant squirrel.
 - It is particularly famous for its population of the **Bengal tiger and the Indian elephant**.
- Major Avifauna: White-winged wood duck.
- Threats: Logging, human-elephant conflict, poaching.

Orang National Park, Tiger Reserve

- Orang National Park is located in the **Darrang and Sonitpur districts** of Assam.
- It lies on the northern **bank of the Brahmaputra River**. Pachnoi River, Belsiri River and **Dhanshiri River** border the park.
- The park, formed of alluvial flood plains, is an integral part of the **Indo-Burma hotspot** of biodiversity.
- It is also known as the **mini Kaziranga National Park** (IUCN site) since the two parks have a similar landscape made up of **marshes, streams and grasslands** and are inhabited by the Great Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros.
- Vegetation: Moist deciduous forest, swamp forest, wet alluvial and savannah grassland.
- Major Fauna: **Indian rhinoceros (VU)**, **pygmy hog (EN)**, Asian elephant, **wild water buffalo (EN)**, Bengal tiger, hog deer, **Gangetic dolphin (EN)**, **Indian pangolin (EN)**.
- Non-human Primates: Rhesus macaque
- Threats: Illegal occupation by immigrants, poaching, and wide river channels.

Raimona National Park

- The Raimona National Park is **within the Bodoland Territorial Region**.
- It is located along the **Himalayan foothills** together with **Buxa Tiger Reserve of West Bengal** and **Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park of Bhutan**.
- It is bounded by the **Sankosh River** on the west, the **Saralbhanga River** on the east, the **Indo-Bhutan border** on the north and **Ripu RF** on the south. The **Pekua river** defines Raimona's **southern boundary**.
- Vegetation: Moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forest.
- Major Fauna: Asian elephant, Bengal tiger, **clouded leopard (VU)**, Indian gaur, **wild water buffalo**, chital, hornbill.
- Non-human Primates: **Golden langur (EN)** (**endemic to the region; named as the mascot of Bodoland region**).

- Major Avifauna: White-bellied heron, Oriental darter, lesser adjutant, Bengal florican, hill myna.

Wildlife Sanctuaries of Assam in detail

Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is a **proposed Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Assam's Barak Valley (between the Barak River and the Sonai River)**.
- Major Fauna: Slow loris, rhesus macaque, pig-tailed macaque, stump-tailed macaque, Assamese macaque, capped langur, hoolock gibbon.

Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary

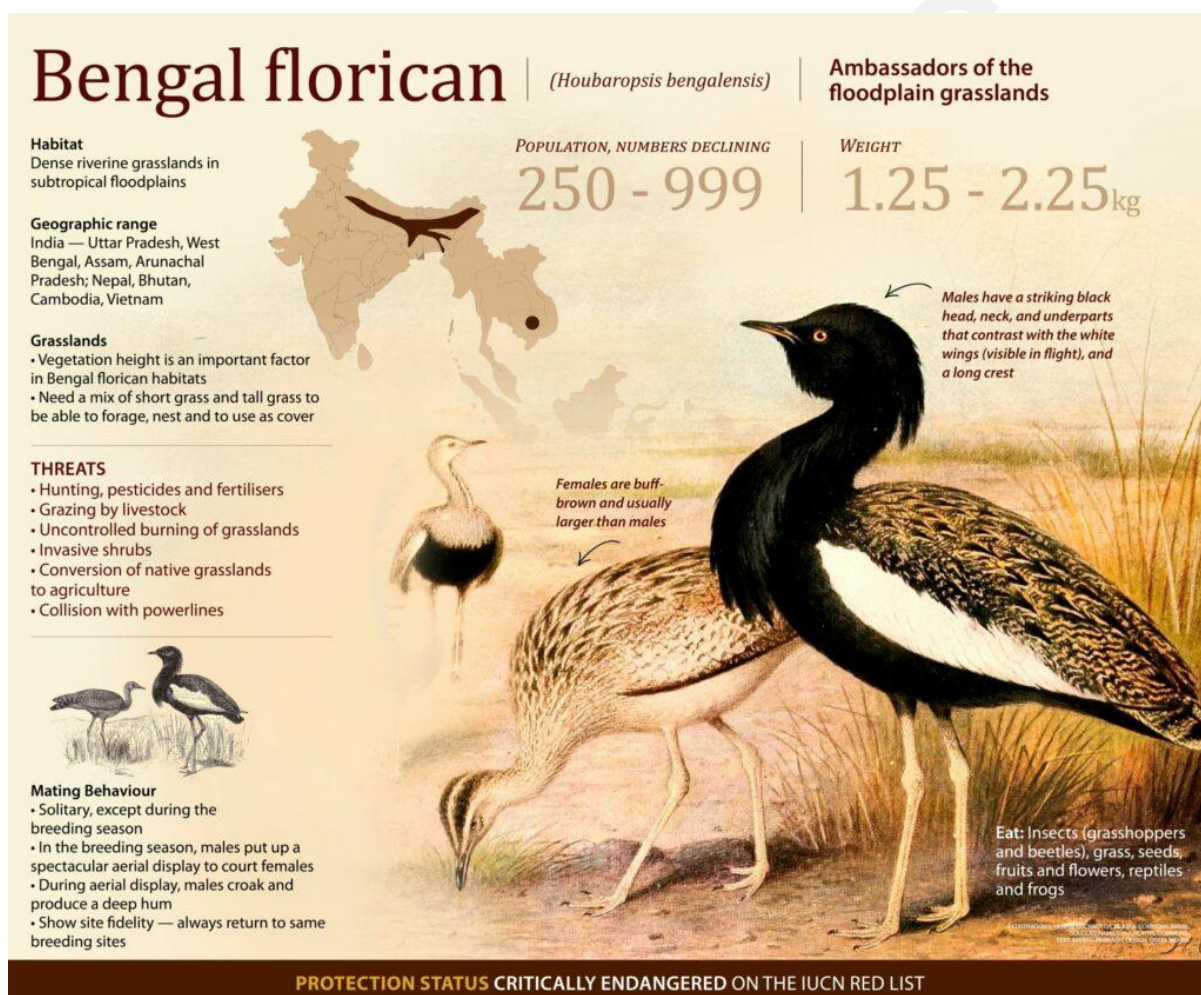
- Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) is located in northern **Assam's Baksa and Udalguri districts bordering Bhutan**.
- The Sanctuary is bordered by the **Barnadi river and Nalapara river** to the west and east respectively.
- It was **established to protect the hispid hare (EN) and pigmy hog (EN)**.
- **Biodiversity:**
 - This is important for threatened species such as the **Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus), Tiger (Panthera tigris) and Gaur Bos frontalis**.
 - About 60% of the BWS is reported to be grassland, most of it is now grassy woodland.
 - The main Forest types are Tropical Moist Deciduous along the northern edge of the Sanctuary, and mixed scrub and grassland in the southern part with few trees.
- **Vegetation:**
 - The vegetation has been drastically **modified by human activity**.
 - Most of the **natural vegetation has been cleared and replaced by commercial plantations** of Bombax ceiba, Tectona grandis and Eucalyptus and by thatch grasses (mostly Saccharum, with some Phragmites and Themeda).

Burachapari Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is situated on the south **bank of the Brahmaputra River**.
- It forms an **integral part of the Laokhowa-Burachapari eco-system and is a notified buffer of the Kaziranga Tiger reserve**.
- It is home to the **Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros**, tiger, leopard, wild buffalo, hog deer, wild pig, and elephants.
- It includes the highly endangered **Bengal Florican**.
- It also makes it **an ideal breeding place** for several species of migratory birds during the winter season.

Bengal florican

- Also called the **Bengal bustard**, is a bustard species native to the Indian subcontinent, Cambodia, and Vietnam.
- The Bengal florican has two disjunct populations.
 - One occurs from Uttar Pradesh through the Terai of Nepal to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in India, and historically to Bangladesh.
 - The other occurs in Cambodia and perhaps adjacent southern Vietnam.
- Migrations are not long-distance, however, and probably are restricted to a few dozen kilometers.
- Bengal floricans live in **open tall grassland** habitats with scattered bushes.



Chakrasila Wildlife Sanctuary

- Chakrasila Wildlife Sanctuary is falling under **Kokrajhar district** and some adjacent areas of **Dhubri district** of Assam.
- It is situated on the **north bank of the Brahmaputra River**.
- It is an **important protected habitat for golden langur (EN) after Manas National Park**.

- The sanctuary is mainly a hilly tract running north-south and there are two lakes (**Dheer Beel and Diplai Beel**) on either side, which are integral to the eco-system of the sanctuary.

Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary (Ramsar Site)

- It is a **permanent freshwater lake in a former channel of the Brahmaputra river**.
- It is a few kilometres to the left of **Guwahati**, whereas **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary** is around 35 km to the right.

Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary

- Located in **Karbi Anglong district**, Assam.
- It is located **adjacent to Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- It contains **hot water spring** and waterfalls.

Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary

- Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, formerly known as **Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary**, is located in Assam's Jorhat district, India.
- It contains **India's only apes** – the **hoolock gibbons (EN)**, and **North-eastern India's only nocturnal primate** – the **Bengal slow loris (VU)**.
- Threats: **Tea gardens**.

Hoolock Gibbons

- Hoolock Gibbons, known as the **smallest and fastest of all apes, inhabit tropical and subtropical forests in Southeast Asia**.
- They have high intelligence, distinct personalities, and strong family bonds similar to other apes.
- They represent one of the 20 gibbon species found worldwide.
- **Hoolock Gibbons are India's only ape species.**
- **Gibbon Species in India:**
 - **Western Hoolock Gibbon (Hoolock hoolock):**
 - It inhabits in **all the states of the north-east**, restricted **between the south of the Brahmaputra River and east of the Dibang River**. Outside India, it is found in **eastern Bangladesh and north-west Myanmar**.
 - **IUCN: Endangered**
 - **Eastern Hoolock Gibbon (Hoolock leuconedys):**
 - It inhabits specific pockets of **Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India, and in southern China and north-east Myanmar outside India**.
 - **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable**

- In India, both species are listed on **Schedule 1 of the Indian (Wildlife) Protection Act 1972.**
- **Characteristics:**
 - They are known for their **distinct white eyebrows, long arms, and a throat sac used for vocalizations.**
- **Arboreal Lifestyle:**
 - Gibbons are exclusively **arboreal, spending their lives in the treetops of tropical forests.**

Lawkhowa Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is situated **between Kaziranga National Park and Orang National Park**, on the south bank of the Brahmaputra River in **Nagaon district**, Assam.
- It is an ideal habitat for **Indian rhinoceros (VU)** and **Asiatic water buffaloes (EN)**.
 - Other animals found here are the Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, Indian boar, leopard cat, hog deer.
- It is a part of the **Laokhowa-Burachapori eco-system.**

Marat Longri Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located a few kilometres from Diphu, Karbi Anglong.
- It is an **important component of Dhansiri-Lungding Elephant Reserve.**
- It is part of the **Karbi plateau** and the plains of the Kopili and Diyung rivers, with the Jamuna River marking its northern boundary.
- The sanctuary falls under a **tropical monsoon climate zone**, with hot and wet summers and cool and dry winters.
- The area also includes abandoned **jhums** (slash-and-burn shifting cultivation) covered with various grasses and shrubs, as well as plantations of teak, Gmelina, and Albizzia.

Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located **on the periphery of the Mikir Hills (Karbi Anglong Plateau).**
- Together with **Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary** of Karbi Anglong and **Nambor-Doigrung Wildlife Sanctuary** of Golaghat district it forms a larger complex of wilderness.

Nambor-Doigrung Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in the Golaghat district in Assam.
- The sanctuary **along with Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary, Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary are part of the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong ER.**

Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary

- Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary is on the **southern bank of the Brahmaputra in Morigaon district** in Assam.

- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary holds one of the **largest Indian rhinoceros populations** in Assam.
- **Pobitora (Mini Kaziranga)** has exceeded its rhino-bearing capacity. Under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020) several rhinos were Translocated from Pobitora and **re-introduced into the Manas National Park**.
- It is also an Important Bird Area.

Pani-Dihing Wildlife Sanctuary (BS)

- It is to the north-east of **Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- Pani-Dihing is a complex of **grassland and wetland**.
- The sanctuary is bordered by the **Brahmaputra** and the **Disang** rivers in the north west and south respectively.

Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the north-western part of **Sonitpur district** in Assam.
- It is located to the west of **Pakke Tiger Reserve (Arunachal Pradesh)** and **Nameri National Park (Assam)**.
- It is located along the foothills of the Great Himalayan Range.

Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary

- Located on the fringe of Guwahati (between Guwahati & **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary**).
- It is known for its elephants which have become isolated with no movement with other elephant-populations.
- It stretches from the **Brahmaputra River in the north** to the hilly forests of Meghalaya in the south, forming a continuous forest belt through Meghalaya's Maradokdola Reserve Forests.
- **Flora:** Khasi Hill Sal Forests, East Himalayan Mixed Deciduous Forest, Eastern Alluvial Secondary Semi-evergreen Forests and East Himalayan Sal Forests.
- **Fauna:** Flying fox, Slow loris, Assamese macaque, Rhesus macaque, Hoolock gibbon, Porcupine. White-backed Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture.
- **Tree yellow butterflies** (gancana harina) are found at the Amchang wildlife sanctuary which is indigenous to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and northeast India

Barail Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Barail Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the **Cachar district** of Assam, India. It is situated southern part of Assam.
- The sanctuary consists of the **North Cachar Reserved Forest** and **Barail Reserved Forest**, located within Cachar district.

East Karbi Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary

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- Near Diphu, East Karbi Anglong district.
- It is also known as the **"East Karbi Anglong Reserve Forest"**.
- The dominant forest types in the sanctuary are **Tropical Semi-evergreen forests**, with patches of **Tropical Moist Deciduous forests**.

Ramsar Sites of Assam in detail

Deepor Beel

- It is one of the **largest freshwater lakes in Assam** and the **State's only Ramsar site** besides being an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International.
- It is located towards the southwest of **Guwahati city, Assam** and is the erstwhile water channel of River Brahmaputra.
- Deepor Beel **adjoins the Rani Reserve Forest from where herds of elephants come periodically** to forage in the wetland.
- Threats: over-fishing, hunting, pollution from pesticides, and infestation by **water hyacinth**.
- Endangered Avifauna: Grey Pelican or Spot-billed pelican (VU), Lesser Adjutant Stork (VU), Greater Adjutant Stork (EN), **Baer's Pochard (CR)**.



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Geographical Indications (GI) Tags from Assam, 2025

What is a geographical indication?

- A geographical indication (GI) is a label used on products that **originate from a specific geographic region** and have certain qualities or reputation due to that region. To qualify as a GI, a label must identify a product that comes from a particular place.
- Geographical indications are considered a **part of intellectual property rights** under **Articles 1(2) and 10 of the Paris Convention** for the Protection of Industrial Property. They are covered by **Articles 22 to 24 of the TRIPS Agreement**, which was included in the **GATT negotiations** that concluded the **Uruguay Round**.
- As a member of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, India enacted the Geographical Indications of **Goods (Registration & Protection) Act in 1999**, which became effective on September 15, 2003, to register and protect GIs.
- India's **first GI Tag** was given to **Darjeeling Tea**.

Handicrafts & Traditional Artifacts

GI Product	Description
Assam Jaapi	Traditional conical bamboo hat, symbol of Assamese identity.
Assam Asharikandi Terracotta Craft	Famous from Dhubri; used for toys and figurines.
Assam Mishing Handloom Products	Handwoven products by the Mishing tribe, especially "galuk."
Assam Bihu Dhol	Traditional drum used in Bihu celebrations.
Assam Pani Meteka Craft	Crafts made from water hyacinth (Pani Meteka), e.g., bags, mats.
Sarthebari Metal Craft	Bell-metal utensils made in Sarthebari, Barpeta.
Majuli Mask of Assam	Made of clay, bamboo & cloth, used in Bhaona performances.
Majuli Manuscript Painting	Traditional art form from Satras of Majuli with religious themes.

Textiles & Garments

GI Product	Description
Bodo Dokhona	Traditional wrap-around skirt worn by Bodo women.
Bodo Eri Silk	Indigenous silk, also called "Endi," eco-friendly.
Bodo Jwmgra	Shoulder cloth used by Bodo women.
Bodo Gamsa	Male garment, similar to gamocha.
Bodo Keradapini, Thorkha, Gongar Dunjia, Kham, Serja, Sifung	Traditional Bodo garments & instruments, received GI tag as cultural crafts.

Bodo Khardwi, Gongona, Jotha	Ethnic jewellery, crafts, and traditional items of the Bodo tribe.
Gamosa of Assam	Iconic Assamese cloth, used in rituals and honors.
Muga Silk of Assam	Exclusive golden-hued silk produced only in Assam.
Muga Silk of Assam (Logo)	Trademark/logo of Muga recognized with GI protection.

Agriculture, Food & Beverages

GI Product	Description
Assam Orthodox Tea	Premium quality black tea with strong aroma.
Assam Karbi Anglong Ginger	Organic ginger with high oleoresin content.
Tezpur Litchi	Known for high sugar content and unique taste.
Joha Rice of Assam	Aromatic rice variety, popular in lower Assam.
Boka Chaul	Soft rice variety consumed without boiling.
Kaji Nemu	Elongated, juicy lemon (state fruit of Assam).
Chokuwa Rice of Assam	Sticky rice, soaked and consumed raw.
Judima	Traditional rice wine of the Dimasa community (also GI of Dima Hasao).

Others Linked to Assam but Shared

GI Product	Description
Arunachal Pradesh Singpho Phalap (Singpho Tea)	Fermented tea of Singpho tribe, also prevalent in eastern Assam.

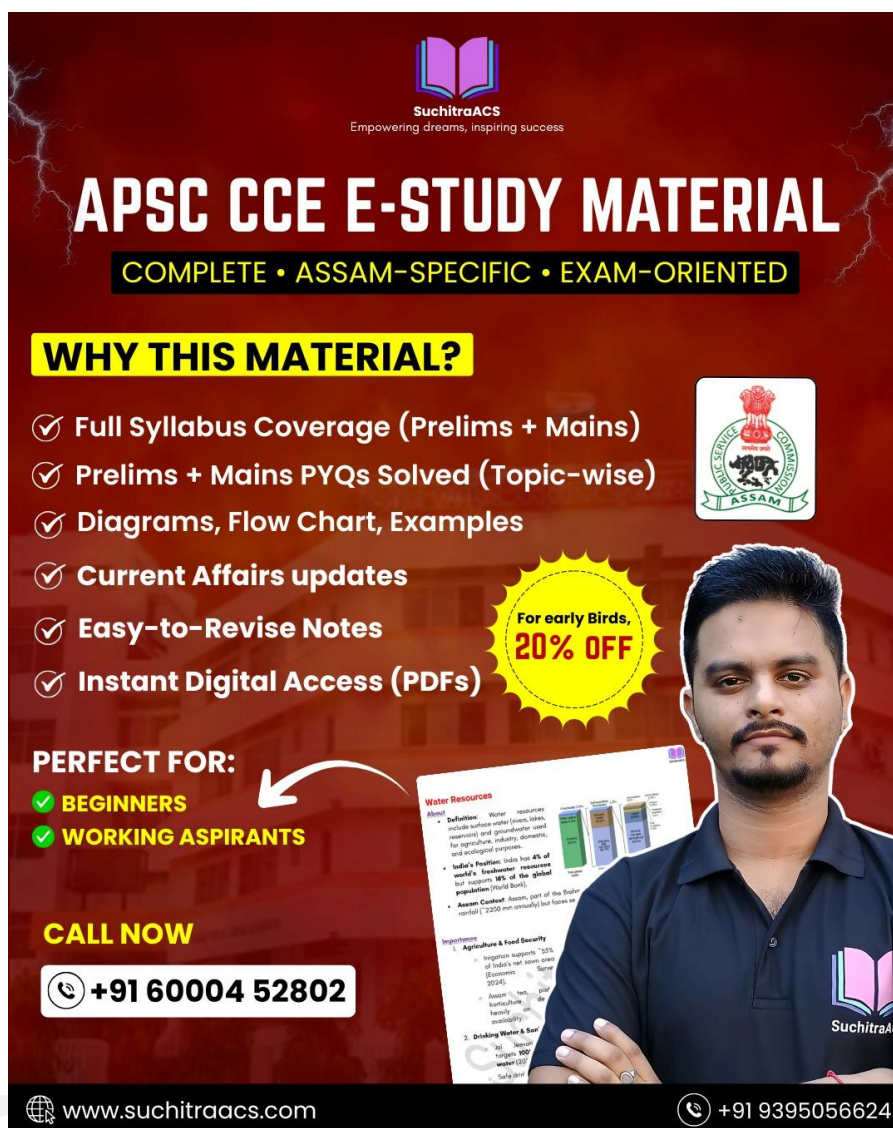
Recently Awarded in 2024-2025 (Additions)

GI Product	Year	Highlights
Axomiya Gohona (Assamese Traditional Jewellery)	2025	Gold jewellery with enamel work; motifs like Japi, Lokaparo.
Bodo Napham, Bodo Narzi, Bodo Gwkha, Bodo Jou Gwran, Maibra Jou Bidwi	2024	Ethnic fermented foods & beverages from Bodo culture.

APSC CCE Prelims Revision Points

- Assam has **over 35 GI tags** now (as of April 2025).
- Bodo community** contributed **10+ items** in 2024.
- Kaji Nemu** declared **State Fruit** and holds GI tag.

- **Muga Silk, Gamosa, Joha Rice, Judima, and Orthodox Tea** are perennial favorites in exams.
- **Majuli's dual entries:** mask-making & manuscript painting.



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Foreign Travelers

who visited India in Medieval Period during various ruler's reign

13th Century

1. **Marco Polo (Italy)** - 1288-1292 AD - Pandya Kingdom

14th Century

2. **Ibn Battuta (Morocco)** - 1333-1342 AD - Muhammad bin Tughlaq
3. **Niccolò de' Conti (Italy)** - 1420-1422 AD - Deva Raya I (Vijayanagar)
4. **Ma Huan (China)** - 1421-1431 AD - Jalaluddin (Bengal)
5. **Abdur Razzak (Persian Ambassador from Iran)** - 1442-1443 AD - Deva Raya II (Vijayanagar)

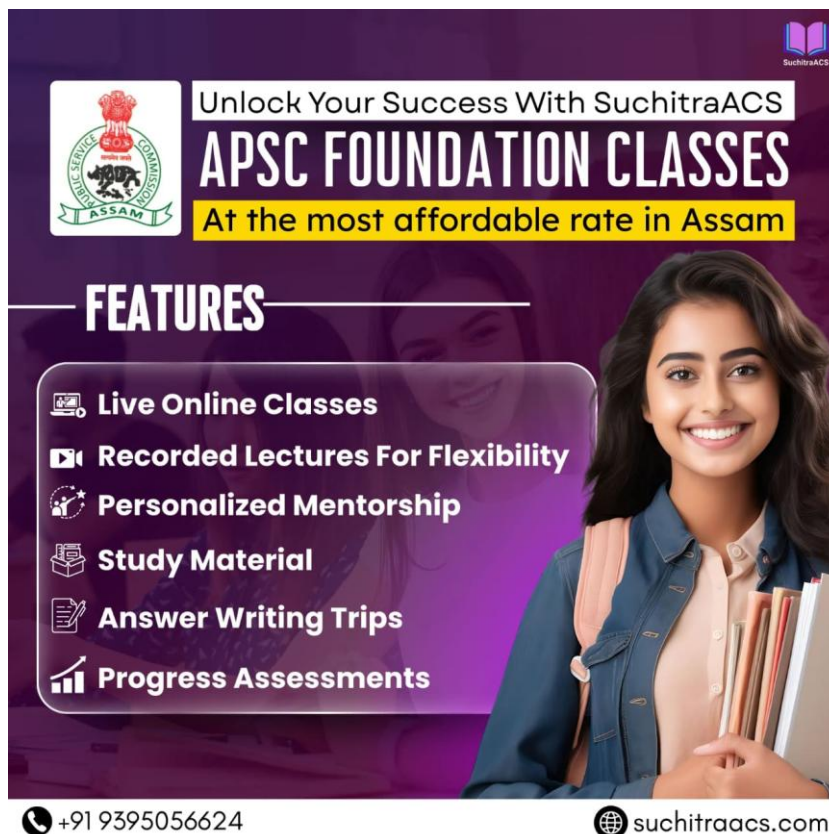
6. **Afanasy Nikitin (Russia)** – 1470-1474 AD – Muhammad III (Bahmani Sultanate)

15th-16th Century

7. **Bartholomeu Dias (Portugal, Navigator)** – 1503-1508 AD – Deccan Region
8. **Duarte Barbosa (Portugal)** – 1516-1518 AD – Krishnadevaraya (Vijayanagar)
9. **Domingos Paes (Portugal)** – 1520-1522 AD – Krishnadevaraya (Vijayanagar)
10. **Fernão Nuniz (Portugal, Merchant)** – 1535-1537 AD – Achyuta Deva Raya (Vijayanagar)
11. **António Monserrate (Portuguese Priest)** – 1578-1582 AD – Akbar
12. **Ralph Fitch (First English Traveller)** – 1585-1591 AD – Akbar
13. **Cesare Federici (Italy, Merchant)** – 16th Century – Vijayanagar
14. **Jan Huyghen van Linschoten (Dutch)** – 16th Century – Vijayanagar
15. **Lama Taranath (Tibet, Buddhist Scholar)** – 16th Century – Eastern India

17th Century

16. **William Finch (England, Traveller)** – 1608-1611 AD – Jahangir
17. **Captain William Hawkins (England, Diplomat)** – 1608-1613 AD – Jahangir
18. **John Jourdain (England, Merchant)** – 1608-1617 AD – Jahangir
19. **Nicholas Downton (England, Naval Officer)** – 1610-1615 AD – Jahangir
20. **Nicholas Withington (England, Trader)** – 1612-1616 AD – Jahangir
21. **Thomas Coryate (England, Writer & Traveller)** – 1612-1617 AD – Jahangir
22. **Sir Thomas Roe (England, Ambassador)** – 1615-1619 AD – Jahangir
23. **Paul Canning (England, Traveller)** – 1615-1625 AD – Jahangir
24. **Edward Terry (England, Priest)** – 1616-1619 AD – Jahangir
25. **Francisco Pelsaert (Dutch, Merchant)** – 1620-1627 AD – Jahangir
26. **Pietro Della Valle (Italy, Traveller & Writer)** – 1622-1660 AD – Jahangir
27. **Johann van Linschoten (Dutch, Traveller)** – 1626-1633 AD – Shah Jahan
28. **John Fryer (England, Doctor & Traveller)** – 1627-1681 AD – Shah Jahan
29. **Peter Mundy (England, Traveller)** – 1630-1634 AD – Shah Jahan
30. **Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (France, Jeweller & Traveller)** – 1641-1687 AD – Shah Jahan & Aurangzeb
31. **Niccolao Manucci (Italy, Venetian Writer & Traveller)** – 1656-1687 AD – Aurangzeb
32. **François Bernier (France, Physician & Traveller)** – 1658-1668 AD – Aurangzeb
33. **Jean Thévenot (France, Traveller & Writer)** – 1666-1668 AD – Aurangzeb
34. **Gemelli Careri (Italy, Traveller)** – 1695-1697 AD – Aurangzeb



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Assam Rivers and Drainage System

About

The state of Assam, located in the northeastern part of India, is characterized by two prominent valleys: the Brahmaputra Valley and the Barak Valley. These valleys form the backbone of Assam's riverine and drainage system, playing a pivotal role in shaping the geography, economy, and environment of the region.

Flood-Prone Areas in Assam

Assam faces significant flood-related challenges. According to the Rashtriya Barh Ayog, the flood-prone area of the state is approximately **31,500 square kilometers**, which constitutes about **39.58% of Assam's total land area**. In comparison, the national average flood-prone area is only **10.2%** of the total area. This indicates that Assam's flood-prone region is nearly four times the national average.

The issue of floods is exacerbated by severe erosion along both banks of the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries. Since 1950, an estimated **4.27 lakh hectares** (7.4% of Assam's total area) have been lost to river erosion. The annual rate of erosion is approximately **8,000 hectares**, and even iconic landmarks like the **Majuli River Island** have been affected, with **60% of its original area** lost to erosion.

Brahmaputra River System



Overview

The Brahmaputra River is one of the largest rivers in the world, ranking fifth in terms of average discharge. Originating from the **Kailash Ranges in the Himalayas** at an elevation of **5,300 meters**, it flows through Tibet (China), Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Bangladesh before merging with the Bay of Bengal.

Key Facts:

- **Catchment Area:**
 - Tibet (China): **2,93,000 sq. km**
 - India and Bhutan: **2,40,000 sq. km**
 - Bangladesh: **47,000 sq. km**
 - Total: **5,80,000 sq. km**
- **Average Width: 5.46 km**
- **Maximum Discharge at Pandu (Guwahati): 72,779 cumec (23rd August 1962)**
- **Minimum Discharge: 1,757 cumec (22nd February 1963)**
- **Annual Discharge: 20,000 cumec**
- **Dry Season Discharge: 4,420 cumec**

The river's steep slope in Tibet reduces drastically in the Assam Valley, transforming its nature into a braided river. From **Kobo to Dhubri**, the Brahmaputra is joined by **20 major tributaries** on its north bank and **13 tributaries** on its south bank. This sudden flattening of the slope and the influx of sediment from tributaries exacerbate flooding and riverbank erosion.

Major Tributaries:

- **North Bank:** Subansiri, Ranganadi, Dikrong, Jiabharali, Manas, Puthimari, Beki, Aie, and Sonkosh.
- **South Bank:** Buridehing, Desang, Dikhow, Dhansiri (South), Kopili, Kulsi, and Krishnai.

Characteristics of Tributaries:

1. North Bank Tributaries:

- Steep slopes with shallow braided channels.
- Boulder and coarse sandy beds.
- High silt content and flashy floods.

2. South Bank Tributaries:

- Flatter grades and deep meandering channels.
- Lower silt content compared to north bank tributaries.

Notable Tributaries:

1. **Teesta River:** Lifeline of Sikkim; forms the border between Sikkim and West Bengal before joining the Brahmaputra in Bangladesh. Total length: **315 km**.
2. **Manas River:** Originates in Bhutan; joins the Brahmaputra in western Assam.
3. **Subansiri River:** Largest tributary of the Brahmaputra. Length: **442 km**, drainage area: **32,640 sq. km**.
4. **Dhansiri River:** Originates from Nagaland; flows 352 km to join the Brahmaputra.

Barak River System



Overview

The Barak River is the major river system in **South Assam**, forming part of the Surma-Meghna River System. Originating in Manipur, the river flows through Mizoram and Assam before entering Bangladesh, where it bifurcates into the Surma and Kushiya rivers.

Key Facts:

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- **Total Length in Assam: 225 km**
- **Drainage Area in Assam: 6,962 sq. km**
- **Geographical Coverage:** Covers **9%** of Assam's total area, including Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, and parts of Dima Hasao.

Characteristics:

- The Barak River flows through the narrow **Cachar Plain** with a highly meandering course.
- Important **North Bank Tributaries:** Jiri, Siri, Madhura, Jatinga, and Larang.
- Important **South Bank Tributaries:** Sonai, Ghagra, Katakhal, Dhaleswari, Singla, and Longai.

Barak Sub-Basin:

The Barak sub-basin drains parts of India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. The area within India is **41,723 sq. km**, accounting for **1.38% of the country's geographical area**. The sub-basin lies to the north of the Barail Range, east of the Lushai Hills, and south of Bangladesh.

Environmental and Hydrological Significance

1. Flood Dynamics:

- Heavy rainfall during the southwest monsoon season (May to September) causes multiple flood waves in the Brahmaputra and Barak Rivers.
- Flood synchronization between tributaries and the main rivers leads to severe devastation.

2. Erosion Impact:

- Continuous erosion threatens agricultural lands, infrastructure, and habitats.
- Majuli, the world's largest river island, has lost **60% of its original area** to erosion.

3. Sediment Load:

- Tributaries contribute a significant sediment load, influencing the braided nature of the Brahmaputra.

Conclusion

Assam's rivers and drainage system are integral to its geography and economy, but they also pose challenges such as floods and erosion. Addressing these issues requires sustainable river management, advanced erosion control measures, and effective flood mitigation strategies. Comprehensive understanding and conservation efforts can ensure the balanced coexistence of Assam's communities with its dynamic river systems.

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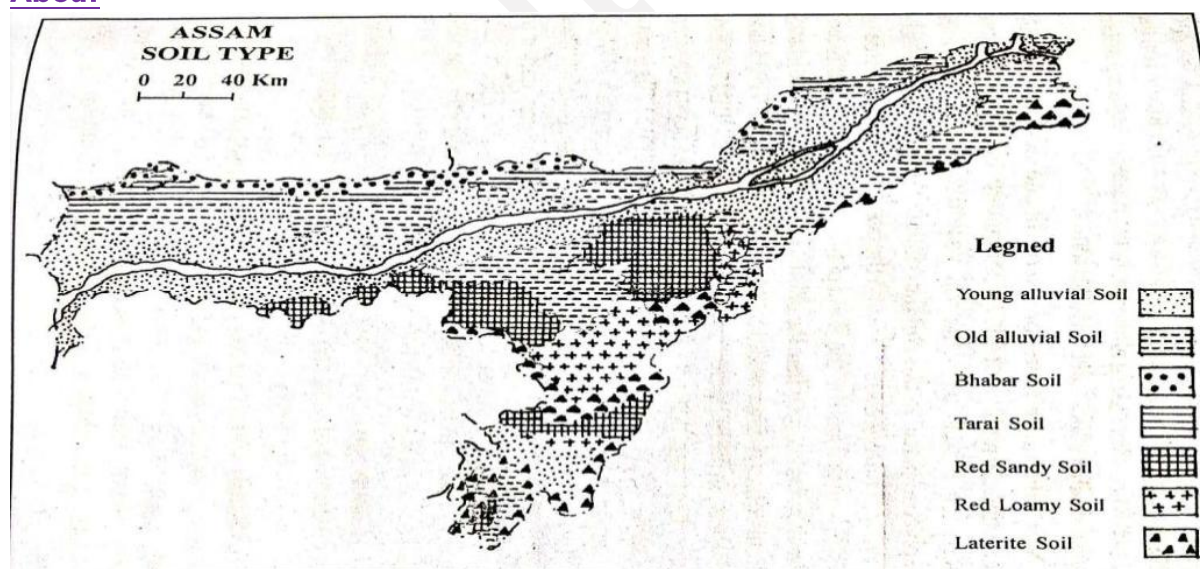
Amit Sir
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Soil Types in Assam

About



1. Alluvial Soils:

- **Location:** Predominantly in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Fertile, with varying acidity; western Brahmaputra Valley soils are less acidic compared to the eastern parts.

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- Composed of silt and sand; proximity to rivers influences texture—sandy near rivers, silty farther away.
- **Subtypes:**
 - **Old Alluvium:** Found on higher grounds and foothills; sandy, acidic, less fertile.
 - **New Alluvium:** Located on riverbanks; loamy, rich in nutrients, highly suitable for agriculture.

2. Red Loamy (Hilly Red) Soils:

- **Location:** Hilly regions, including parts of Sibsagar, Jorhat, Golaghat, Nagaon, and Karbi Anglong.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Rich in humus and acidic content but deficient in phosphate and potash.
 - Loose texture; becomes sticky when wet and develops cracks when dry.
- **Suitability:** Favorable for fruits like oranges and pineapples, as well as crops like rice, cotton, maize, and vegetables.

3. Lateritic Soils:

- **Location:** Highland areas and certain parts of Sibsagar and Nagaon districts.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Red due to high iron content; deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus, lime, and acidic.
 - Highly leached, leading to reduced fertility.
- **Suitability:** With irrigation, supports crops like millets, pulses, cotton, wheat, rice, sugarcane, and tea.

Soil Erosion in Assam

- **Causes:**
 - Deforestation, shifting cultivation (slash and burn), and overgrazing.
 - Heavy rainfall and rugged terrain exacerbate erosion, particularly in hilly areas.
- **Impacts:**
 - Loss of fertile topsoil, reducing agricultural productivity.
 - Sedimentation in rivers, leading to flooding and habitat disruption.
- **Conservation Measures:**
 - **Afforestation:** Planting trees to stabilize soil and reduce runoff.
 - **Terracing and Contour Bunding:** Constructing terraces and bunds on slopes to slow water flow and prevent erosion.

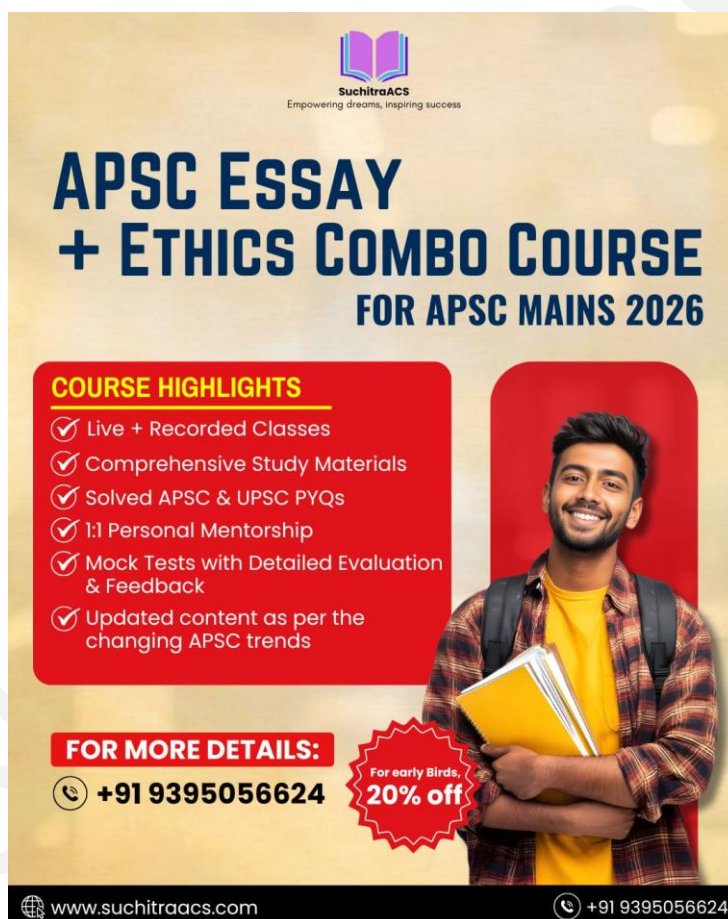
- **Gully Control Works:** Implementing structures to prevent the formation and expansion of gullies.
- **River Bank Stabilization:** Constructing spurs, boulder revetments, and pitching works to prevent riverbank erosion.

Recent Initiatives

The Assam government has allocated ₹24.5 crore for soil conservation efforts, emphasizing sustainable practices to combat erosion and enhance soil health.

Conclusion

Understanding the diverse soil types in Assam and their characteristics is crucial for effective agricultural planning and environmental conservation. Implementing appropriate soil management and conservation strategies can mitigate erosion, enhance fertility, and ensure sustainable use of this vital natural resource.



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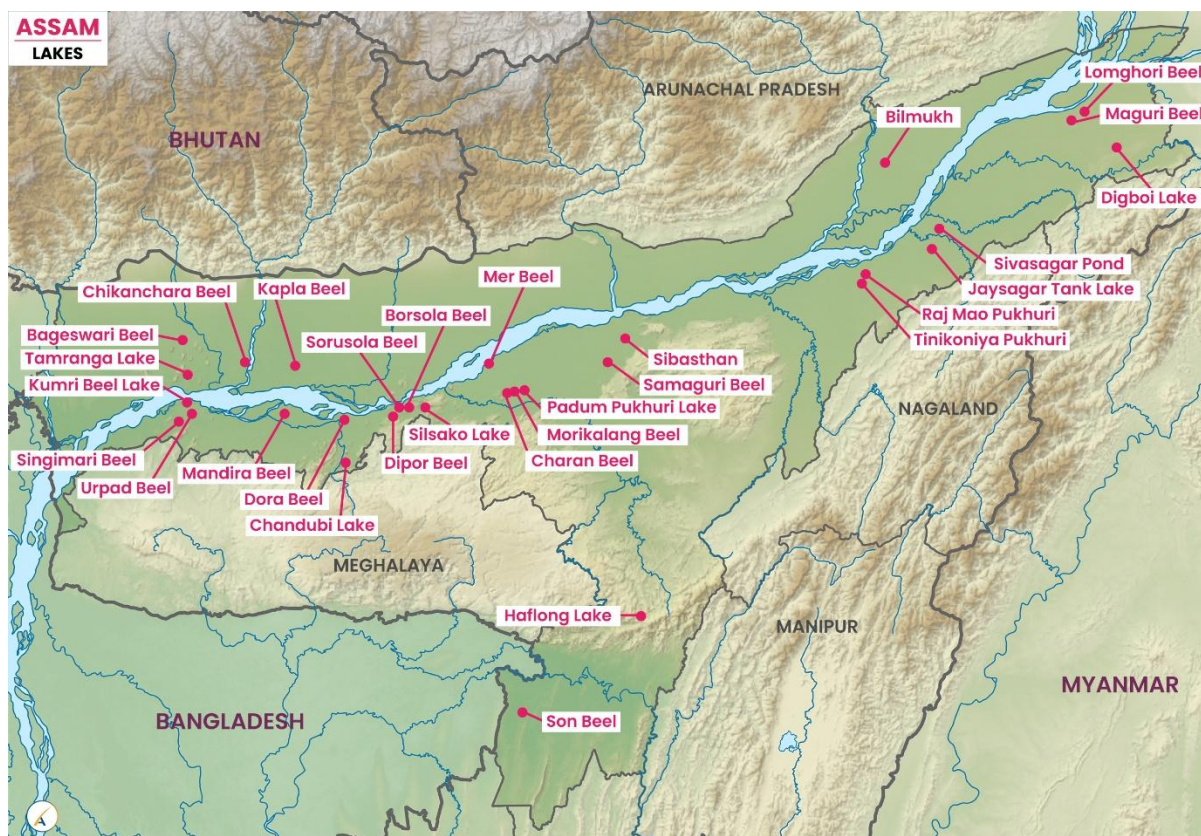
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Lakes/Ponds of Assam

About

The lakes and ponds of Assam cover approximately **0.20%** of the total geographical area of the state. These water bodies play a significant role in maintaining ecological balance, supporting biodiversity, and serving as vital resources for local communities.



District-wise Distribution

- The **highest number of ponds/lakes** are found in **Golaghat district**.
- **Kamrup district** has the **largest area** covered by lakes/ponds.

Important Lakes and Ponds of Assam

1. Chandubi Lake

- **Location:** Kamrup district, at the foothills of the Garo Hills.
- **Type:** Natural lake.
- **Significance:** Created on **12 June 1897** due to a massive earthquake.
- **Ecology:** A winter destination for **migratory birds** and a popular eco-tourism site.

2. Deepor Beel

- **Location:** Guwahati, Kamrup Metro district.
- **Type:** Freshwater wetland.
- **Significance:** The **only wetland in Assam designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance**.
- **Biodiversity:** Home to numerous bird species, including the **spot-billed pelican**.
- **Threats:** Encroachment, pollution, and loss of habitat due to urbanization.

3. Dighalipukhuri

- **Location:** Guwahati, Kamrup Metro district.
- **Type:** Man-made pond.
- **Historical Significance:** Believed to have been **excavated by King Bhagadatta** during the swayamvar of his daughter Bhanumati.
- **Current Usage:** A recreational site and cultural landmark.

4. Haflong Lake

- **Location:** Dima Hasao district.
- **Type:** Natural lake.
- **Ecology:** Serves as a habitat for **migratory birds** during winter.
- **Significance:** One of the cleanest lakes in Assam and a major tourist attraction.

5. Son Beel (Shon Bill)

- **Location:** Karimganj district.
- **Type:** **Seasonal wetland**, one of the largest in Asia.
- **Unique Feature:** During winter, the lake dries up and is converted into farmland for **rice cultivation**, while during monsoon, it fills with water and functions as a lake.
- **Significance:** **Largest wetland in Assam** and an important fishing ground.

6. Joysagar Lake

- **Location:** Sivasagar district.
- **Type:** **Largest man-made pond in India.**
- **Historical Significance:** Built by **Ahom King Rudra Singha** in memory of his mother.
- **Landmarks:** The **Joy Dol** temple and other temples are located along its banks.

7. Borpukhuri

- **Location:** Sivasagar district.
- **Type:** Man-made pond.
- **Historical Significance:** Built by **Queen Ambika**, wife of Ahom king **Siva Singha**.
- **Landmarks:** Located near the famous **Sivadol Temple**.

8. Urpad Beel

- **Location:** Goalpara district.
- **Type:** Natural lake.
- **Ecology:** Supports aquatic biodiversity and serves as a habitat for migratory birds.

9. Hakama Lake

- **Location:** Dhubri district.

- **Type:** Natural lake.

10. Dalu Lake

- **Location:** Silchar, Cachar district.

11. Tamranga Beel

- **Location:** Bongaigaon district.

12. Dora Beel

- **Location:** Kamrup district.
- **Ecology:** Fed by the **Kulsi River**, which acts as both an **inlet and outlet** for the lake.

13. Kumri Beel

- **Location:** Goalpara district.
- **Ecology:** A winter habitat for migratory birds.

14. Mer Beel

- **Location:** Nagaon district.

15. Morikalang Beel

- **Location:** Morigaon district.

16. Borsola Beel

- **Location:** Guwahati, Kamrup Metro district.
- **Significance:** A part of the **Bharalu river water system**.

17. Kalpa Beel

- **Location:** Barpeta district.

18. Maguri Motapung Beel

- **Location:** Tinsukia district.
- **Ecology:** Adjacent to **Dibru-Saikhowa National Park** and an important wetland for aquatic biodiversity.
- **Threats:** Pollution, siltation, and overfishing.

19. Samaguri Beel

- **Location:** Nagaon district.
- **Type:** Ox-bow lake.
- **Significance:** Located within the **Brahmaputra river basin**.

20. Silsako Lake

- **Location:** Kamrup Metro district.
- **Threats:** Rapid urbanization and encroachment have reduced its size.

Ecological and Economic Importance

1. **Biodiversity Hotspots:** Many lakes serve as breeding and resting grounds for **migratory birds**.
2. **Fishing Industry:** Wetlands like **Deepor Beel and Son Beel** support traditional fishing communities.
3. **Flood Regulation:** Beels act as **natural reservoirs**, helping in flood mitigation.
4. **Tourism Potential:** Lakes like **Chandubi, Haflong, and Joysagar** are important eco-tourism destinations.

Threats

1. **Encroachment:** Rapid urban expansion has led to the shrinkage of several lakes, such as **Silsako and Deepor Beel**.
2. **Pollution:** Industrial and domestic waste affects water quality.
3. **Climate Change:** Rising temperatures and erratic rainfall patterns impact water levels.
4. **Overfishing and Illegal Activities:** Depletes fish populations and affects the lake ecosystems.

Conservation Efforts

1. **Protected Status:** Deepor Beel is designated as a **Ramsar site**.
2. **Community Participation:** Eco-tourism and community-led conservation initiatives are encouraged.
3. **Government Interventions:** Restoration projects for **Deepor Beel, Joysagar Lake, and Borsola Beel**.

Conclusion

The lakes and beels of Assam are not only ecologically important but also hold immense historical, economic, and cultural significance. Conservation efforts must be strengthened to protect these vital water bodies from encroachment, pollution, and degradation.



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Assamese Books and Authors who won Sahitya Akademi Award

About

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- SAHITYA AKADEMI FELLOWSHIP, The highest honour conferred by the Akademi on a writer is by electing him as its Fellow-(three from assam honoured this prestigious award) Nagen Saikia (2019); Nilmani Phookan (2002); Syed Abdul Malik (1999).
- No awards were conferred in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1971, 1973 and 2013.

Important Books

Year	Book	Author	Category of Books
1955	<i>Bana Phul</i>	Jatindranath Dowara	Poetry
1960	<i>Kangrechar Kachiyali Ra'dat</i>	Benudhar Sharma	Reminiscences

1961	<i>Iyaruigam</i>	Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya	Novel
1964	<i>Asamar Loka Sanskriti</i>	Birinchi Kumar Barua	Study in folk culture
1966	<i>Bedanar Ulka</i>	Ambikagiri Raichoudhury	Poetry
1967	<i>Adhunik Galpa Sahitya</i>	Trailokyanath Goswami	Literary criticism
1968	<i>Alakananda</i>	Nalinibala Devi	Poetry
1969	<i>Manchalekha</i>	Atul Chandra Hazarika	Study of Assamese theatre
1970	<i>Mahatmar Pora Rupkonarloi</i>	Lakshminath Phukan	Reminiscences
1972	<i>Aghari Atmar Kahini</i>	Syed Abdul Malik	Novel
1974	<i>Golam</i>	Saurabh Kumar Chaliha	Short stories
1975	<i>Koka Deutar har</i>	Nabakanta Barua	Novel
1976	<i>Srinkhal</i>	Bhabendra Nath Saikia	Short stories
1977	<i>Bakul Banar Kavita</i>	Anand Chandra Barua	Poetry
1978	<i>Pita Putra</i>	Homen Borgohain	Novel
1979	<i>Sonali Jahaj</i>	Bhaben Barua	Poetry
1980	<i>Prithibir Axukh</i>	Jogesh Das	Short stories
1981	<i>Kabita</i>	Nilamani Phookan (Jr.)	Poetry
1982	<i>Mamare Dhara Tarowal Aru Dukhan Upanyasa</i>	Mamoni Roysom Goswami (Indira Goswami)	Novel
1983	<i>Sudirgha Din Aru Ritu</i>	Nirmalprabha Bordoloi	Poetry
1984	<i>Jangam</i>	Debendra Nath Acharya	Novel
1985	<i>Krishna Kanta Handique Rachna-Sambhar</i>	Krishna Kanta Handique	Literary criticism
1986	<i>Benudhar Sarma</i>	Tirthanath Sarma	Biography
1987	<i>Aan Ejan</i>	Harekrishna Deka	Poetry
1988	<i>Patal Bhairavi</i>	Lakshmi Nandan Bora	Novel
1989	<i>Asamiya Jatiya Jivanata Mahapurushiya Parampara</i>	Hiren Gohain	Literary criticism
1990	<i>Snehadevir Ekuki Galpa</i>	Sneha Devi	Short stories
1991	<i>Brahmaputra Ityadi Padya</i>	Ajit Barua	Poetry
1992	<i>Shaichar Pathar Manuh</i>	Hiren Bhattacharyya	Poetry

1993	<i>Mor Je Kiman Hepah</i>	Keshav Mahanta	Poetry
1994	<i>Madhupur Bahudur</i>	Sheelabhadra (Rebati Mohan Dutta Choudhury)	Short stories
1995	<i>Maharathi</i>	Chandra Prasad Saikia	Novel
1996	<i>Abhijatri</i>	Nirupama Borgohain	Novel
1997	<i>Andharat Nijar Mukh</i>	Nagen Saikia	Short stories
1998	<i>Asirbadar Rang</i>	Arun Sarma	Novel
1999	<i>Bipponna Samay</i>	Medini Choudhury	Novel
2000	<i>Baghe Tapur Rati</i>	Apurba Sharma	Short stories
2001	<i>Edhani Mahir Hahi</i>	Mahim Bora	Novel
2002	<i>Mahat Oitiyya</i>	Nalinidhar Bhattacharyya	Prose
2003	<i>Anek Manuh Anek Thai Aru Nirjanata</i>	Bireswar Barua	Poetry
2004	<i>Manuh Anukule</i>	Hirendra Nath Dutta	Poetry
2005	<i>Mouna Uth Mukhar Hridoy</i>	Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi	Novel
2006	<i>Cheneh Jorir Ganthi</i>	Atulananda Goswami	Short stories
2007	<i>Santanukulanandan</i>	Purabi Bormudoi	Novel
2008	<i>Deo Langkhui</i>	Rita Chowdhury	Novel
2009	<i>Katha Ratnakar</i>	Dhrubajyoti Bora	Novel
2010	<i>Assamiya Ramayani sahitya:kathabastur atiguri</i>	Keshada Mahanta	Article
2011	<i>Aei anuragi aei udas</i>	Kabin Phukan	Poetry
2012	<i>Patkai Epare Mor Des</i>	Chandana Goswami	Novel
2013	<i>Dhuliyori Bharir Sans</i>	Rabindra Sarkar	Poetry
2014	<i>Mariam Astin Athaba Hira Barua</i>	Arupa Kalita Patangia	Short Stories
2015	<i>Akashar Chhabi Aru Anyanya Galpa</i>	Kula Saikia	Short Stories
2016	<i>Maghmalar Bhraman</i>	Jnan Pujari	Poetry collection
2017	<i>Moriahola</i>	Jayanta Madhab Bora	Novel
2018	<i>Kaliloir Dintu Amar Hobo</i>	Sananta Tanty	Poetry collection
2019	<i>Chanakya</i>	Joyasree Goswami Mahanta	Novel

2020	<i>Bengsata</i>	Apurba Kumar Saikia	Short stories
2021	<i>Yat Ekhon Aranya Asil</i>	Anuradha Sharma Pujari	Novel
2022	<i>Bhool Satya</i>	Manoj Kumar Goswami	Short stories
2023	<i>Dr. Pranavjyoti Dekar Srestha Galpa</i>	Pranavjyoti Deka	Short stories

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