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APSC CCE PRELIMS

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INSIDE THIS SAMPLE

01 **Ahom Kingdom (1228–1826)**
Assam History · most-asked Assam chapter

02 **Protected Areas & Wildlife of Assam**
Assam Environment

03 **Rivers, Beels & Wetlands of Assam**
Assam Geography

04 **Assamese Language & Literature**
Assam Culture

05 **Fundamental Rights (Part III)**
Indian Polity · General Studies

500 APSC Prelims PYQs analysed, 2020–2025

5 high-yield chapters chosen from PYQ data

40 practice MCQs with explanations

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Practice. Review. Repeat.

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WELCOME, ASPIRANT

Why this material is different

APSC CCE Prelims is not won by reading more. It is won by reading **what APSC actually asks**, in a form you can revise again and again. This sample copy shows you exactly how the complete SuchitraACS Prelims material is built. Read one chapter, attempt its practice questions, and judge the quality for yourself.

★ PYQ-driven
Built on our chapter-wise analysis of **all 500 APSC Prelims GS questions** from the last five papers (2020–2025).

◆ Assam section, in depth
About **one-third of the paper is on Assam**. We cover it with the depth that no all-India book gives you.

✓ Verified and current
Facts checked against official and standard sources, with **dated updates** for anything that changes.

■ Revision-ready format
Tables, timelines, exam traps and memory hooks: notes you can **revise in minutes**, not hours.

✎ Practice built in
Real APSC questions solved **inside the notes**, plus original practice MCQs with full explanations.

✦ Mentor-made
Prepared by **Amit Biswakarma** (Amit Sir), who teaches every SuchitraACS class himself.

How to read this material

Five kinds of boxes appear across the chapters. Each one has a single job:

★ ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025
A real question from an APSC Prelims paper, with the answer and a short reason. These show you **how APSC frames questions** on the topic you just read.

⚠ EXAM TRAP
A confusion APSC likes to exploit: similar names, wrong dates, swapped districts. Read these twice.

✎ MEMORY HOOK
A short trick to remember a list, a sequence or a pair.

✦ VALUE ADDITION
Extra facts that are likely to be asked next.

↻ LATEST UPDATE
Developments up to **November 2026**, so your notes are never out of date.

What the complete material covers

The full SuchitraACS Prelims material covers the **whole APSC CCE Prelims GS Paper I syllabus**: current events; history of India and the national movement; Indian and world geography; polity and governance; economic and social development; environment, ecology and climate change; general science; and the complete **Assam section** (history, culture, geography, economy, polity, environment and Assam GK).

Explore the complete material: View course details » Ask on WhatsApp »

KNOW THE EXAM

APSC CCE Prelims, decoded

- **The Prelims at a glance**

Paper	Questions	Marks	Time	Nature
GS Paper I (General Studies)	100	200	2 hours	**Decides who qualifies for Mains**
GS Paper II (CSAT)	80	200	2 hours	Qualifying: minimum 33%

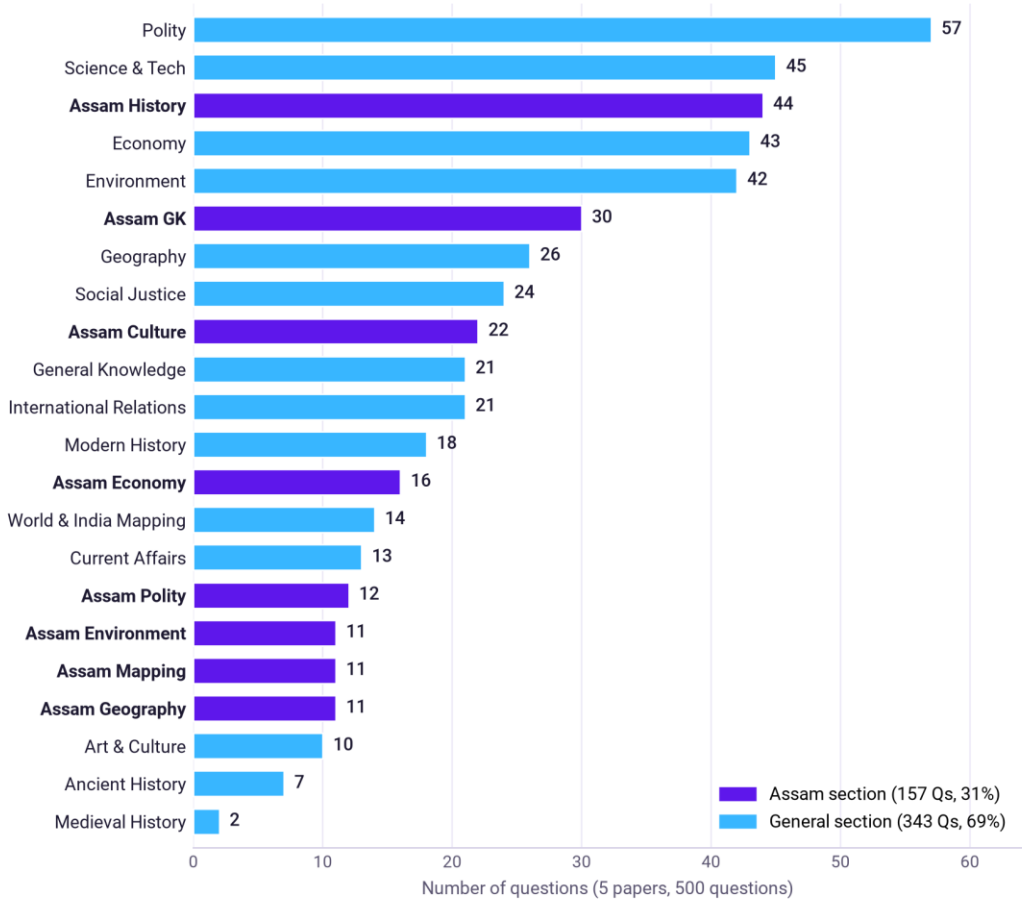
- Both papers are objective (MCQ, OMR). **Wrong answers carry negative marks**, so accuracy matters as much as coverage.
- Prelims marks are **not added to the final merit**, which is decided by Mains and the Interview.
- The latest paper, **APSC CCE 2025 Prelims, was held on 5 Jul 2026**. Its questions are inside this sample.

500
GS Paper I questions analysed (2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)

31%
of all questions came from the **Assam section** (157 of 500)

24%
were **current-affairs based** (122 of 500)

Where the 500 questions came from



Source: SuchitraACS analysis of APSC CCE Prelims GS Paper I, papers of 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (exam cycles).

What the data tells you

- **Polity is the No. 1 subject** (57 questions), but **Assam History alone (44)** gives more questions than Economy (43) or Environment (42).

- Every paper had **26 to 39 Assam questions**. No serious aspirant can treat the Assam section as an afterthought.
- The paper is getting tougher: **tough questions rose from 3 in 2020 to 30 in 2024** (20 in 2025). Surface-level notes no longer work.
- APSC **repeats chapters, not questions**. 42 chapters were asked 4+ times across 3+ papers. These are the chapters our material treats in the greatest depth.

The 10 chapters APSC keeps coming back to

Ranked by the number of questions in the last five papers. Chapters marked **IN THIS SAMPLE** are covered in full in the following pages.

#	Chapter	Subject	Questions	Papers	
1	Physics	Science & Tech	17	5 of 5	
2	**Ahom Kingdom**	Assam History	16	5 of 5	★ IN THIS SAMPLE
3	**Language & Literature**	Assam Culture	10	5 of 5	★ IN THIS SAMPLE
4	Awards & Honours	General Knowledge	10	4 of 5	
5	World Mapping	Mapping	9	4 of 5	
6	Government Schemes	Social Justice	9	4 of 5	
7	Freedom Struggle in Assam	Assam History	9	3 of 5	
8	Judiciary	Polity	8	5 of 5	
9	Current Events (Assam)	Assam GK	8	4 of 5	
10	**Fundamental Rights**	Polity	8	3 of 5	★ IN THIS SAMPLE

The other two sample chapters are also must-do chapters: **Protected Areas** (7 questions in 4 of 5 papers, plus related wildlife and wetland questions) and **Rivers & Tributaries of Assam** (asked in 3 of 5 papers, often as a sequence question).

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CHAPTER 01 · ASSAM HISTORY

Ahom Kingdom (1228–1826)

16	5 of 5	2020 · 2022 · 2023 · 2024 · 2025
questions asked in APSC Prelims, 2020–2025	papers in which this chapter appeared	years asked

WHY THIS CHAPTER MATTERS

With 16 questions in five cycles and at least one in every paper, the Ahom kingdom is APSC Prelims' most-asked Assam topic. CCE 2025 alone had three (Tai names, Rudra Singha's Bengal plan, Jean-Baptiste Chevalier), and the format is shifting from "who built what" to statement and assertion-reason questions.

IN THIS CHAPTER

- ✓ Sukaphaa's route, the founding and the four main capitals in order
- ✓ Tai and Hindu names of the kings APSC asks about, with reigns and key events
- ✓ Patra Mantris, Borbarua, Borphukan and the Paik-Khel system
- ✓ Mughal wars, Moamoria rebellion, Captain Welsh, Burmese invasions and Yandabo
- ✓ Monuments from Rang Ghar to the Charaideo Moidams (UNESCO 2024)

1. Foundation: Sukaphaa

- **Origin:** Sukaphaa was a Tai prince of **Mong Mao**, a Tai state near Ruili on today's Yunnan (China)–Myanmar border. He left in **1215** with about **9,000** followers.
- **Route:** Through upper Burma, across the **Patkai hills**, to **Namrup** in the Brahmaputra valley.
- **Founding: 1228** is taken as the founding year; the kingdom lasted nearly **600 years (1228–1826)**.
- **Charaideo:** After about 25 years of moving between places such as Tipam, Abhoypur, Habung and Simaluguri, he founded **Charaideo (1253)** in the Patkai foothills near Sivasagar. It remained the Ahoms' ritual and burial centre.
- **Asom Divas: 2 December** is observed as **Sukaphaa Divas / Asom Divas** (declared in 1996).
- **Policy:** He assimilated local **Morans and Barahis** and ordered events to be recorded, which began the **Buranji** tradition.
- **Successors asked: Suteuphaa (1268–1281)**, his eldest son, was the **second king** (CCE 2020). **Sudangphaa (1397–1407)**, called **Bamuni Konwar** because he grew up in a Brahmin home at Habung, brought Brahmanical influence into the court.

2. The Capitals in Sequence

- Ahom capitals

Capital	Shifted by	Year	Remark
Charaideo	Sukaphaa	1253	First capital; royal Moidams
Charaguwa	Sudangphaa	1403	Near the Dihing
Bakata (on the Dihing)	Suhungmung	early 16th c.	Hence "Dihingia Raja"
Garhgaon	Suklenmung	1540	Hence "Garhgayan Raja"; taken by Mir Jumla (1662)

Capital	Shifted by	Year	Remark
Rangpur	Rudra Singha	early 18th c. (1707 usually cited)	Brick capital near Sivasagar
Jorhat	Gaurinath Singha	1794	Moved during the Moamoria rebellion; last capital

MEMORY HOOK: THE FOUR BIG CAPITALS

Capitals **C-G-R-J** (Charaideo, Garhgaon, Rangpur, Jorhat) were set up by **S-S-R-G** (Sukaphaa, Suklenmung, Rudra Singha, Gaurinath).

"**C**an **G**ood **R**ulers **J**udge? **S**ome **S**trong **R**ulers **G**overned."

3. Important Ahom Kings

Every king had a **Tai name** (usually ending in *-phaa*, "heavenly lord"). Hindu titles began with Suhungmung, and from Pratap Singha most kings had a Hindu name ending in **Singha**. Tai–Hindu matching was asked in both CCE 2023 and CCE 2025.

- **Kings APSC asks about**

Hindu or popular name	Tai name	Reign	Key events
Sukaphaa	Sukaphaa	1228–1268	Founder; Charaideo (1253); created Burhagohain and Borgohain
Suteuphaa	Suteuphaa	1268–1281	Second king
Bamuni Konwar	Sudangphaa	1397–1407	Hindu influence begins; capital to Charaguwa
Swarganarayan, Dihingia Raja	Suhungmung	1497–1539	First Hindu title; Borpatrogohain (1527); annexed Chutia kingdom; defeated Turbak
Garhgayan Raja	Suklenmung	1539–1552	Capital to Garhgaon (1540)
Pratap Singha (Burha Raja)	Susenghphaa	1603–1641	Created Borbarua and Borphukan; Paik-Khel reform; Treaty of Asurar Ali (1639)
Jayadhwaj Singha	Sutamla	1648–1663	Mir Jumla's invasion; Treaty of Ghilajharighat (1663)
Chakradhwaj Singha	Supangmung	1663–1670	Made Lachit Borphukan; Guwahati recovered (1667)
Udayaditya Singha	Sunyatphaa	1670–1672	Battle of Saraighat (1671)
Gadadhar Singha	Supatphaa	1681–1696	Tungkhungia line; Itakhuli (1682); Umananda temple (1694)
Rudra Singha	Sukhrungphaa	1696–1714	Joysagar (1697); Rangpur; anti-Mughal Hindu confederacy plan
Siva Singha	Sutanphaa	1714–1744	Queens as Bar Raja (from 1722); Parbatiya Gosain
Pramatta Singha	Sunenphaa	1744–1751	Brick Rang Ghar (1746)
Rajeswar Singha	Suremphaa	1751–1769	Kareng Ghar, Garhgaon (c. 1752); Chevalier's visit (1755)
Lakshmi Singha	Sunyeophaa	1769–1780	Moamoria rebellion begins (1769)
Gaurinath Singha	Suhitpangphaa	1780–1795	Captain Welsh; 1793 treaty with EIC; capital to Jorhat
Kamaleswar Singha	Suklingphaa	1795–1811	Purnananda Burhagohain in control; Moamoria revolt ends (1805)
Chandrakanta Singha	Sudingphaa	1811–1818, 1819–1821	Burmese invasions
Purandar Singha	(none in use)	1818–1819, 1833–1838	British tributary Raja of Upper Assam (1833)

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025**

Match the following names in List-I with the Ahom rulers in List-II:

(List-I) – (List-II)

a. Supatpha – 1. Rudra Singha

b. Sukhrungpha – 2. Gadadhar Singha

c. Sutanpha – 3. Gaurinath Singha

d. Suhitpongpha – 4. Siva Singha

Select the correct match using the codes given below.

(A) a b c d – 2 1 4 3 **(B)** a b c d – 3 2 4 1

(C) a b c d – 1 4 3 2 **(D)** a b c d – 4 3 1 2

✓ **Answer: (A) a b c d - 2 1 4 3**

Why: Supatphaa (Gadadhar), his son Sukhrungphaa (Rudra) and grandson Sutanphaa (Siva) form one family chain; Suhitpangphaa is Gaurinath. CCE 2023 asked the same format with Susenghphaa (Pratap), Suremphaa (Rajeswar), Sutamla (Jayadhwaj) and Supangmung (Chakradhwaj).

Kings in focus

- **Suhungmung (1497–1539): First Ahom king with a Hindu title, Swarganarayan** (CCE 2020); ruled from Bakata; counted paiks (1510); annexed the Chutia kingdom (1523–24).
- **Mula Gabharu:** Daughter of king Supimphaa and wife of Phrasengmung Borgohain; died fighting the Bengal general **Turbak** in the Battle of Kachua (**1532**). Turbak was later defeated and killed; his captured soldiers settled as the **Garia** Muslims.
- **Joymoti Konwari:** Wife of Gadadhar Singha. Under **Sulikphaa (Lora Raja, 1679–81)**, who mutilated princes to bar them from the throne, she refused to reveal her husband's hiding place and died after torture at **Jerenga Pathar** (c. 1680).
- **Rudra Singha (1696–1714):** Brought architect **Ghanashyam** from Koch Bihar for brick buildings at Rangpur. He planned to push the frontier to the **Karatoya** with a **Hindu confederacy** (Cooch Behar, Tripura and others) but died at Guwahati (1714) on the eve of the march.

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025**

King Rudra Singha wanted to conquer Bengal and extend his territory because

1. he wanted to form a Hindu confederacy

2. he wanted to be the all-powerful supreme ruler in India

3. he wanted to include a part of the River Ganga in his kingdom

4. he wanted to take revenge upon the Mughals

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(A) 1 and 3 only **(B)** 3 only

(C) 1, 2 and 3 **(D)** 4

✓ **Answer: (A) 1 and 3 only**

Why: He sought an alliance of Hindu rulers against the Mughals and wanted his frontier to reach the Karatoya, bringing a stretch of the sacred Ganga within reach. He never aimed at all-India supremacy, and historians present the plan as a war of liberation, not personal revenge.

- **Siva Singha (1714–1744):** In **1722**, fearing a prophecy (*chatra-bhanga yoga*), he made chief queen **Phuleswari** the **Bar Raja**; she took the name **Pramatheswari** and coins were struck in their joint names. Her sister **Ambika**, and later **Sarbeswari**, held the same position.
- **Parbatiya Gosain: Krishnaram Bhattacharya**, a Shakta priest from **Nabadwip**, given charge of **Kamakhya**; named after his residence on the Nilachal hill (CCE 2020).

- Phuleswari forced Vaishnava **Moamoria** mahantas to worship Durga, an insult that fed the Moamoria rebellion decades later.

4. Administration

- **Swargadeo:** The king, who had to be a descendant of Sukaphaa without bodily blemish. Hence **Atan Burhagohain** refused the throne: a minister cannot become king (CCE 2022 assertion-reason).
- **Patra Mantris:** Five great officers. The three **Gohains (Dangarias)** had a voice in choosing the king.

- **Great officers of the Ahom state**

Office	Created by	Role
Burhagohain	Sukaphaa	Senior Gohain; later effectively prime minister
Borgohain	Sukaphaa	Second Gohain, with his own territory
Borpatrogohain	Suhungmung (1527)	Third Gohain, equal in rank to the other two
Borbarua	Pratap Singha	Ruled east of Kaliabor outside the Gohains' lands; first holder Momai Tamuli
Borphukan	Pratap Singha	Viceroy west of Kaliabor; HQ Kajali, Guwahati after 1682; first holder Langi Panisiya

✎ **MEMORY HOOK: 2 + 1 + 2 = 5**

2 Gohains from the founder Sukaphaa (Burha, Bor) + **1** from Suhungmung (Borpatro) + **2** "B" posts from Pratap Singha (**B**orbarua, **B**orphukan) = **5** Patra Mantris.

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2022**

Which statements regarding the office of the Barbarua and Barphukan are correct?

(i) The posts of Barbarua and Barphukan were created during 16th century to control the newly acquired territory of the Ahom kingdom.

(ii) The posts aided in decentralization of power.

(iii) They were as much agents of the central government as autonomous heads of the areas under their jurisdiction.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(A) Only (i) and (ii) **(B)** Only (ii) and (iii)
(C) Only (i) and (iii) **(D)** (i), (ii) and (iii)

✓ **Answer: (B) Only (ii) and (iii)**

Why: Pratap Singha (1603–41) created both posts, so they belong to the 17th century and (i) is wrong. Dividing the kingdom at Kaliabor decentralised power, and each officer was both the king's agent and a near-autonomous governor.

Paik-Khel system and Buranjis

- **Paik:** Every adult male (about 15 to 50) outside the nobility and priests owed labour or military service in return for rice land.
- **Got:** A unit of paiks serving by rotation; usually **three or four** paiks, one of whom served at a time while the others tilled his land.
- **Khel:** A department of paiks for a fixed duty. Pratap Singha and **Momai Tamuli Borbarua** reorganised the paiks on the khel basis (c. 1608–09).
- **Officer ladder: Bora** 20, **Saikia** 100, **Hazarika** 1,000, **Rajkhowa** 3,000, **Phukan** 6,000 paiks.
- **Buranjis:** Court chronicles, first in **Tai-Ahom** and later in **Assamese** prose. Key editors: **Golap Chandra Barua** (*Ahom Buranji*, 1930) and **S. K. Bhuyan** (*Deodhai Assam Buranji*, *Tungkhungia Buranji*).

5. Ahom–Mughal Conflicts

- **Phase 1 (1615–1639), Pratap Singha:** Caused by boundary disputes after the Mughals took Koch Hajo, Ahom support to Bali Narayan of Darrang, and trade friction. Ended by the **Treaty of Asurar Ali (1639)** between **Momai Tamuli Borbarua** and **Allah Yar Khan**: the **Barnadi** (north bank) and **Asurar Ali** (south bank) became the boundary. Mirza Nathan's **Baharistan-i-Ghaybi** describes the Mughal campaigns (CCE 2024).
- **Mir Jumla (1662):** Aurangzeb's governor of Bengal captured **Garhgaon on 17 Mar 1662** in **Jayadhwaj Singha's** reign.
- **Treaty of Ghilajharighat (Jan 1663):** The Ahoms accepted Mughal overlordship, paid a war indemnity in silver and elephants, sent princess **Ramani Gabharu** to the Mughal harem, and ceded land west of the **Bharali** (north bank) and **Kalang** (south bank). **Atan Burhagohain** negotiated.
- **Lachit Borphukan:** Son of Momai Tamuli, appointed by **Chakradhwaj Singha**; recovered **Guwahati (Nov 1667)**. After a defeat at **Alaboi (1669)**, he beat **Ram Singh I of Amber** in the naval **Battle of Saraighat (March 1671)**, under King **Udayaditya Singha**.
- **Battle of Itakhuli (1682):** After the Mughals regained Guwahati (1679) through Laluk Borphukan's treachery, **Gadadhar Singha** retook it and pushed them beyond the **Manas**. This was the **last Ahom–Mughal war**.

⚠ **EXAM TRAP: SARAIGHAT AND ITAKHULI**

- Saraighat (1671) was fought under **Udayaditya Singha**; Chakradhwaj appointed Lachit but died in 1670.
- Lachit took **Itakhuli fort in 1667**; the **Battle of Itakhuli (1682)** was Gadadhar Singha's victory.
- The Mughal commander at Saraighat was **Ram Singh**; **Mir Jumla** had died in 1663.

✦ **VALUE ADDITION: LACHIT BORPHUKAN**

- **Lachit Divas:** 24 November (birth anniversary; 400th celebrated in 2022).
- The **Lachit Borphukan Gold Medal** goes to the best passing-out cadet of the **NDA** (since 1999).
- The 125-ft **"Statue of Valour"** at the Lachit Borphukan Maidam, **Hollongapar (Jorhat)**, was unveiled by PM Modi on **9 Mar 2024**.

6. Architecture and Monuments

- **Ahom monuments**

Monument	Location	Built by	Key fact
Umananda temple	Peacock Island, Guwahati	Gadadhar Singha	Shiva temple, 1694; damaged in the 1897 earthquake
Joysagar tank	Near Sivasagar	Rudra Singha	1697, in memory of mother Joymoti; among India's largest man-made tanks
Talatal Ghar	Rangpur (Sivasagar)	Begun by Rudra Singha, main brick work by Rajeswar Singha	Four storeys above ground, three below
Rang Ghar	Near Sivasagar	Pramatta Singha (brick, 1746)	Royal pavilion for Bihu sports; boat-shaped roof
Kareng Ghar	Garhgaon	Rajeswar Singha (c. 1752)	Multi-storeyed brick royal palace
Sivasagar tank and Sivadol	Sivasagar	Bar Raja Ambika	Sivadol (1734), about 104 ft high
Navagraha and Basistha temples	Guwahati	Rajeswar Singha	Later Shakta patronage

Charaideo Moidams

- A **moidam** is an earthen mound over a vaulted burial chamber, crowned by a shrine (**chow chali**); about **90** lie in the inscribed area.
- Inscribed as **"Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty"** on **26 Jul 2024** at the **46th World Heritage Committee session, New Delhi**, under criteria (iii) and (iv).
- **India's 43rd** World Heritage Site, the **first cultural** WHS of North-East India and Assam's third (after Kaziranga and Manas, natural, 1985).

⚠ **EXAM TRAP: MOIDAMS AND THE "GHARS"**

- CCE 2023 called the Moidams tombs of the **Varman** dynasty (false: **Ahom**) and said **Gadadhar Singha** was the first king buried there (false: **Sukaphaa**). "UNESCO site" was false on the exam date but is **true since July 2024**.
- **Rang Ghar** = sports pavilion; **Kareng Ghar** = Garhgaon palace; **Talatal Ghar** = Rangpur palace with underground floors.
- **Umananda** is a **Shiva** temple by **Gadadhar Singha**, though CCE 2020 called him a Shakta patron. **Joysagar** = Rudra Singha; **Sivasagar tank** = Ambika.

7. Decline: Moamoria Rebellion to Yandabo

- **Moamoria rebellion (1769–1805):** Followers of the Vaishnava **Mayamara Satra**, angered by paik burdens and royal hostility. It broke out under **Lakshmi Singha** after **Ragha Moran** was flogged (1769). It ended in 1805 when **Sarbananda Singha** became **Barsenapati** of the autonomous **Matak Rajya (Bengmara)**.
- **Captain Welsh (1792–94): Lord Cornwallis** sent Captain Thomas Welsh to help **Gaurinath Singha**. He reached **Goalpara (8 Nov 1792)** and retook **Rangpur (18 Mar 1794)**: the first direct British military intervention in the kingdom.
- **Commercial treaty (28 Feb 1793):** Signed by Welsh for the East India Company; imports and exports, except **grain**, paid about **10 per cent** duty at the **Hadira** custom house (opposite Goalpara).
- **Recall: Sir John Shore** (Governor-General from Oct 1793) followed **non-interference**; Welsh left in 1794 and Gaurinath moved to **Jorhat**.
- **Purnananda Burhagohain:** The real power under Gaurinath, Kamaleswar and Chandrakanta; raised a **standing army** of trained sepoys on the Company model (CCE 2024).
- **Burmese invasions:** His rival **Badan Chandra Borphukan** brought in the Burmese: **1817** (Purnananda died that year), **1819** (Chandrakanta restored after Purandar Singha's brief rule) and **1821** (Chandrakanta fled; puppet **Jogeswar Singha**).
- **Treaty of Yandabo (24 Feb 1826):** Ended the **First Anglo-Burmese War (1824–26)**; Ava agreed not to interfere in Assam and recognised Gambhir Singh as Raja of Manipur. Ahom rule ended.
- **Purandar Singha** ruled Upper Assam as a British tributary (1833–1838) before full annexation.

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025**

The French traveller, Jean-Baptiste Chevalier visited ancient Assam during the reign of which Ahom ruler in mid-18th century? He visited the Ahom capital to establish trade.

(A) Rajeswar Singha **(B)** Rudra Singha
(C) Pratap Singha **(D)** Jayadhwaj Singha

✓ **Answer: (A) Rajeswar Singha**

Why: Chevalier, a Frenchman in Bengal, entered Assam near Goalpara on 24 Nov 1755 and went up the Brahmaputra to Garhgaon, seeking a trade deal with Rajeswar Singha (1751–69). The other three kings ruled long before the mid-18th century.

↻ **LATEST UPDATE (2025-26)**

- India's World Heritage count has grown since the Moidams (43rd): the **Maratha Military Landscapes** became the **44th** site in **July 2025**. The Moidams remain Assam's only cultural World Heritage Site (as of Oct 2026).

8. Master Timeline

- **Ahom kingdom at a glance**

1228	Sukaphaa crosses the Patkai; Ahom kingdom founded
1253	Charaideo becomes the capital
1497	Suhungmung (Swarganarayan) becomes king
1527	Borpatrogohain post created
1532	Mula Gabharu dies fighting Turbak
1540	Capital shifted to Garhgaon
1639	Treaty of Asurar Ali
1662	Mir Jumla captures Garhgaon
1663	Treaty of Ghilajharighat
1671	Battle of Saraighat
1682	Battle of Itakhuli; Manas becomes the frontier
1694	Umananda temple built
1697	Joysagar tank dug
1722	Phuleswari declared Bar Raja
1746	Brick Rang Ghar built
1755	Chevalier reaches Assam
1769	Moamoria rebellion begins
1792	Captain Welsh reaches Goalpara
1793	Commercial treaty with the East India Company
1794	Capital moved to Jorhat
1817	First Burmese invasion (others in 1819 and 1821)
1826	Treaty of Yandabo (24 Feb); Ahom rule ends
2024	Charaideo Moidams inscribed by UNESCO (26 Jul)

↻ **QUICK REVISION** · *the night-before-the-exam list*

01 **Sukaphaa:** Mong Mao → Patkai → 1228; Charaideo 1253; 2 Dec is Asom Divas; second king Suteuphaa.

02 **Capitals:** Charaideo (Sukaphaa) → Garhgaon (Suklenmung) → Rangpur (Rudra Singha) → Jorhat (Gaurinath).
03 **Suhungmung:** first Hindu title Swarganarayan; Dihingia Raja; Borpatrogohain 1527.
04 **Pratap Singha:** Borbarua (Momai Tamuli) and Borphukan (Langi Panisiya, at Kajali); Paik-Khel reform.
05 **Paik ladder:** Bora 20, Saikia 100, Hazarika 1,000, Rajkhowa 3,000, Phukan 6,000.
06 **Mughal wars:** Asurar Ali 1639, Mir Jumla 1662, Ghilajharighat 1663, Saraighat 1671, Itakhuli 1682.
07 **Tai pairs:** Supatphaa-Gadadhar, Sukhrungphaa-Rudra, Sutanphaa-Siva, Suremphaa-Rajeswar, Suhitpangphaa-Gaurinath, Sutamla-Jayadhwaj, Supangmung-Chakradhwaj, Susenghphaa-Pratap.
08 **Women:** Mula Gabharu vs Turbak; Joymoti (mother of Rudra Singha); Phuleswari = Pramatheswari (1722).
09 **Parbatiya Gosain** = Krishnaram Bhattacharya of Nabadwip, Kamakhya, under Siva Singha.
10 **Monuments:** Umananda 1694, Joysagar 1697, Sivadol 1734, Rang Ghar 1746, Kareng Ghar c. 1752.
11 **Moidams:** UNESCO 26 Jul 2024, New Delhi; India's 43rd; first cultural WHS of the North-East.
12 **Moamoria:** 1769–1805, Mayamara Satra; ended with the Matak Rajya.
13 **Welsh:** sent by Cornwallis, treaty 28 Feb 1793 (10% duty, grain exempt), recalled under John Shore.
14 **End:** Burmese invasions 1817, 1819, 1821; Yandabo 24 Feb 1826; Chevalier came in 1755 (Rajeswar Singha).

Practice MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements about Ahom officials:

1. The office of Borpatrogohain was created by Suhungmung.
2. The first Borbarua was Momai Tamuli.
3. The Borphukan had his headquarters at Guwahati from the time the post was created.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Q2. Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. Treaty of Ghilajharighat
2. Battle of Itakhuli
3. Treaty of Asurar Ali
4. Battle of Saraighat

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(A) 1, 3, 4, 2
(B) 3, 1, 2, 4
(C) 3, 4, 1, 2
(D) 3, 1, 4, 2

Q3. Match List I (Monument) with List II (Ahom ruler):

List I	List II
a. Rang Ghar (brick structure)	1. Rudra Singha
b. Joysagar tank	2. Gadadhar Singha
c. Kareng Ghar at Garhgaon (brick structure)	3. Pramatta Singha
d. Umananda temple	4. Rajeswar Singha

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(A) a-1, b-3, c-4, d-2
(B) a-3, b-1, c-2, d-4
(C) a-3, b-1, c-4, d-2
(D) a-4, b-2, c-3, d-1

Q4. With reference to the reign of Siva Singha, consider the following statements:

1. His chief queen Phuleswari was declared Bar Raja and took the name Pramatheswari.
2. Coins were struck in the joint names of the king and the Bar Raja.
3. The Sivadol at Sivasagar was built under the patronage of Bar Raja Ambika.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1, 2 and 3 **(B)** 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only **(D)** 1 only

Q5. Captain Welsh's expedition to Assam (1792–94) was withdrawn mainly because of the non-interference policy of which Governor-General?

(A) Lord Cornwallis **(B)** Sir John Shore
(C) Lord Wellesley **(D)** Warren Hastings

Q6. Consider the following statements:

1. Badan Chandra Borphukan sought Burmese help against his rival Purnananda Burhagohain.
2. The Treaty of Yandabo, signed on 24 February 1826, ended the First Anglo-Burmese War.
3. Jogeswar Singha was installed by the British as tributary Raja of Upper Assam in 1833.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Q7. Which Ahom king shifted the capital to Garhgaon and is therefore remembered as the Garhgayan Raja?

(A) Suklenmung **(B)** Suhungmung
(C) Pratap Singha **(D)** Rudra Singha

Q8. Consider the following statements about the Charaideo Moidams:

1. They were inscribed at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee held in New Delhi.
2. They are the first cultural World Heritage Site of North-East India.
3. Charaideo, where they are located, was the capital founded by Sukaphaa.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) 1 and 3 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Answers & Explanations

Q	Ans	Explanation
Q1	(B)	Suhungmung created the Borpatrogohain (1527) and Momai Tamuli was the first Borbarua. Statement 3 is wrong: the first Borphukan sat at Kajali, and the seat moved to Guwahati only after 1682.
Q2	(D)	Asurar Ali (1639), Ghilajharighat (1663), Saraighat (1671), Itakhuli (1682).
Q3	(C)	Pramatta Singha built the brick Rang Ghar (1746), Rudra Singha dug Joysagar (1697), Rajeswar Singha built the Garhgaon Kareng Ghar (c. 1752) and Gadadhar Singha had Umananda built (1694). Option A is the trap: Rudra Singha built only the earlier wooden Rang Ghar.
Q4	(A)	Phuleswari became Bar Raja (Pramatheswari) in 1722 and coins bore both names; her sister Ambika succeeded her as Bar Raja, and the Sivadol (1734) was built under her patronage.
Q5	(B)	Cornwallis sent Welsh in 1792; Sir John Shore, Governor-General from October 1793, recalled him in 1794. Wellesley came later (1798) and Warren Hastings much earlier.
Q6	(C)	Badan Chandra's appeal led to the 1817 invasion, and Yandabo ended the war. Statement 3 is wrong: Jogeswar Singha was the Burmese puppet of 1821–22; the British made Purandar Singha the tributary Raja in 1833.
Q7	(A)	Suklenmung (1539–52) made Garhgaon the capital in 1540. His father Suhungmung ruled from Bakata (Dihingia Raja), and Rudra Singha later built Rangpur.

Q	Ans	Explanation
Q8	(D)	The Moidams were inscribed on 26 July 2024 at the New Delhi session as India's 43rd site and the North-East's first cultural WHS (Kaziranga and Manas are natural). Sukaphaa founded Charaideo in 1253.

CHAPTER 02 · ASSAM ENVIRONMENT

Protected Areas & Wildlife of Assam

18	5 of 5	2020 · 2022 · 2023 · 2024 · 2025
questions asked in APSC Prelims, 2020–2025	papers in which this chapter appeared	years asked

WHY THIS CHAPTER MATTERS

18 APSC Prelims questions (2020–2025) came from protected areas, Assam flora-fauna and wetlands, and the topic appeared in every exam cycle, with 4 questions in CCE 2025 alone. APSC tests NP chronology, district matching, "first/only/largest" facts and IUCN status, which this chapter organises into tables you can revise in one sitting.

IN THIS CHAPTER

- ✓ The current PA network of Assam with dated counts
- ✓ All 8 National Parks with district, area, year and USP
- ✓ High-yield profiles of Kaziranga, Manas and other key parks and sanctuaries
- ✓ Tiger, Biosphere and Elephant Reserves, World Heritage and Ramsar sites
- ✓ Key species with IUCN status and WPA 2022 schedule

1. Assam's Protected Area Network at a Glance

- **Assam's conservation network (as of Nov 2026)**

Category	Count	Names
National Parks	8	Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang, Dibru-Saikhowa, Raimona, Dehing Patkai, Sikhna Jwhwlao
Wildlife Sanctuaries	17 notified on the Forest Dept list	Plus 2 listed as proposed: Bordoibam Bilmukh and North Karbi Anglong
Tiger Reserves	4	Manas, Nameri, Kaziranga, Orang
Biosphere Reserves	2	Manas (1989), Dibru-Saikhowa (1997)
Elephant Reserves	5	Sonitpur, Chirang-Ripu, Dihing-Patkai, Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong, Dhansiri-Lungding
UNESCO World Heritage	2 natural + 1 cultural	Kaziranga and Manas (1985); Moidams of Charaideo (2024, cultural)
Ramsar Sites	1	Deepor Beel (2002)

- **Why 17:** The Forest Dept list names 18 sanctuaries, but Dehing Patkai became an NP in 2021.
- **In the pipeline:** Preliminary steps were taken for **Behali** (Biswanath, 2022), **Barak Bhuban** (Cachar, 2022) and **Poba** (Dhemaji, 2024). **Garbhanga's** 2022 notification was cancelled in 2023 and is under challenge in the Gauhati High Court.

⚠ **EXAM TRAP: COUNTS CHANGE, SO READ THE YEAR IN THE QUESTION**

- Old notes say "5 NPs" (before 2021) or "7 NPs" (2021–2024). Since 2025 the correct figure is **8**.
- Sikhna Jwhwlao is the **8th** NP. Dehing Patkai (9 Jun 2021) is the **7th** and Raimona (5 Jun 2021) the **6th**.
- Assam has **two** Biosphere Reserves, not one.

2. National Parks of Assam

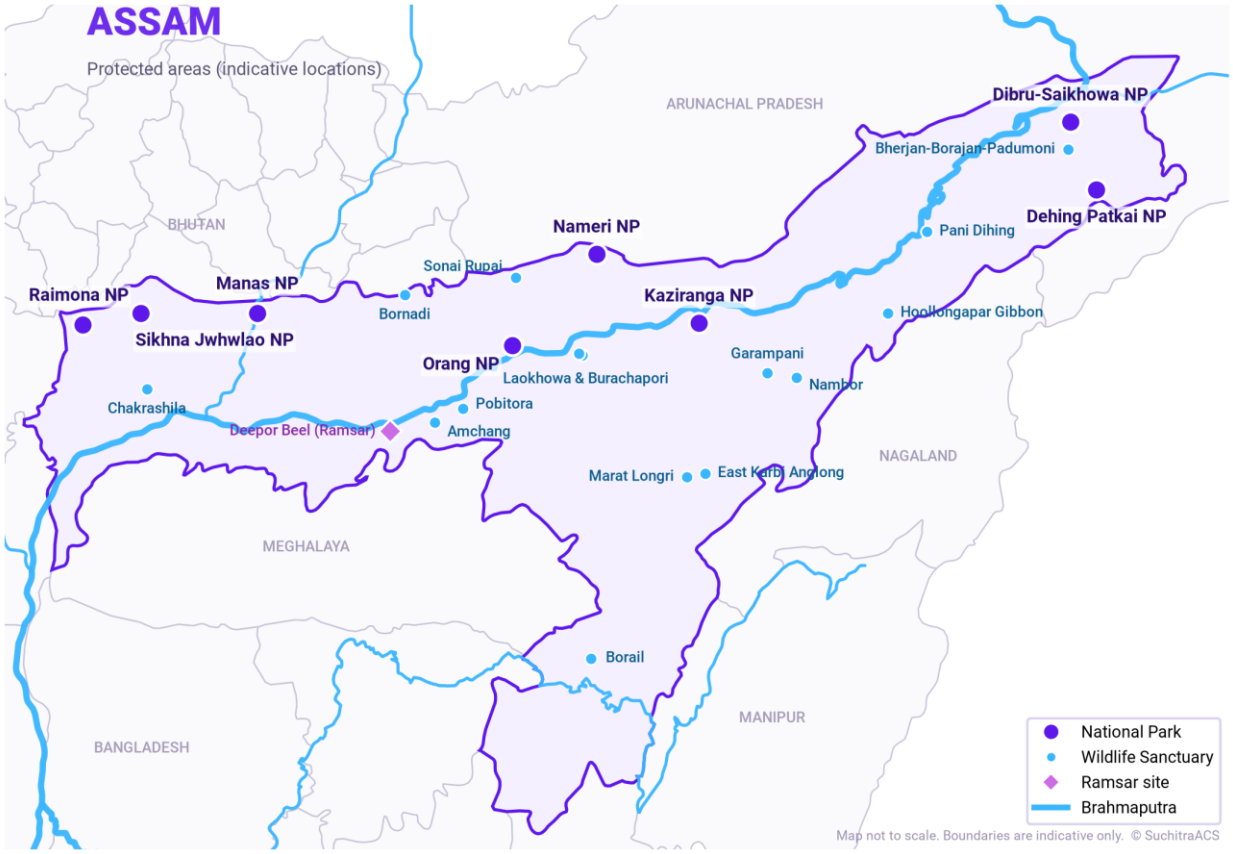


Fig.: National Parks, major Wildlife Sanctuaries and the Ramsar site of Assam (indicative locations).

- **The 8 National Parks of Assam (as of Nov 2026)**

National Park	District(s)	Area (km²)	Year as NP	USP
Kaziranga	Golaghat, Nagaon (additions also in Sonitpur, Biswanath)	430 at notification; over 1,000 after six additions	11 Feb 1974	World's largest one-horned rhino population; "Big Five"; WHS 1985
Manas	Chirang, Baksa (BTR)	500 at notification (enlarged 2008)	1990	WHS, Tiger Reserve and Biosphere Reserve; pygmy hog, golden langur; adjoins Royal Manas NP (Bhutan)
Nameri	Sonitpur	200	15 Nov 1998	Jia Bharali river; contiguous with Pakke TR (Arunachal); white-winged wood duck
Orang	Darrang, Sonitpur (north bank)	78.81	13 Apr 1999	Called "Mini Kaziranga"; smallest NP of Assam; pygmy hog reintroduction
Dibru-Saikhowa	Tinsukia, Dibrugarh	340	1999	Feral horses; core of Dibru-Saikhowa Biosphere Reserve
Raimona	Kokrajhar (BTR)	422	5 Jun 2021	Golden langur; carved from Ripu RF; Indo-Bhutan border
Dehing Patkai	Dibrugarh, Tinsukia	234.26	9 Jun 2021	Largest stretch of lowland tropical rainforest in Assam; hollong-dominated; seven wild cats
Sikhna Jwhwlao	Kokrajhar, Chirang (BTR)	316.29	Cabinet 16 Feb 2025; notified Mar 2025	Lies between Raimona and Manas; over 2,000 golden langurs counted

- **Chronology of National Park declaration**

1974	Kaziranga (11 Feb), Assam's first NP
1990	Manas
1998	Nameri (15 Nov)
1999	Orang (13 Apr) and Dibru-Saikhowa
2021	Raimona (5 Jun, World Environment Day) and Dehing Patkai (9 Jun)
2025	Sikhna Jwhwlao (Cabinet nod 16 Feb; final notification Mar 2025)

★ ASKED IN APSC CCE 2024

Consider the following National Parks of Assam and arrange them in ascending order with respect to the year of declaration as National Park:

(i) Raimona National Park
(ii) Manas National Park
(iii) Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
(iv) Nameri National Park

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(A) (i) – (ii) – (iii) – (iv) **(B)** (ii) – (iv) – (iii) – (i)
(C) (iii) – (i) – (iv) – (ii) **(D)** (ii) – (i) – (iv) – (iii)

✓ Answer: (B) (ii) – (iv) – (iii) – (i)

Why: Manas 1990, Nameri 1998, Dibru-Saikhowa 1999, Raimona 2021.

✎ MEMORY HOOK: THE THREE BODOLAND PARKS, WEST TO EAST

"R-S-M": **R**aimona (west, from Ripu RF), **S**ikhna Jwhwlao (middle), **M**anas (east). All three sit on the Bhutan border in golden langur country.

Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve

- **Location: South bank of the Brahmaputra**, with the **Karbi Anglong hills** to the south, where animals shelter during floods. **NH-715 (old NH-37)** runs along the southern edge.
- **Rhinos:** The **14th census** (25-28 Mar 2022) counted **2,613**, up from 2,413 in 2018. That is about two-thirds of the world's greater one-horned rhinos.
- **Big Five: rhino, tiger, Asian elephant, wild water buffalo, eastern swamp deer**. Kaziranga has the only population of the eastern swamp deer.
- **Expansion:** A **sixth addition** of about 474 km² of riverine tracts was notified in **Sept 2025**.

- **Kaziranga: from hunting ground to World Heritage Site**

1904	Lady Mary Curzon visits and fails to see a rhino; her husband, Viceroy Curzon, starts protection planning
1905	Proposed Reserve Forest notified (1 Jun) over about 232 km²
1908	Becomes a Reserve Forest
1916	Converted to a Game Sanctuary
1938	Hunting stopped and the sanctuary opened to visitors (A.J.W. Milroy)
1950	Renamed Wildlife Sanctuary (P.D. Stracey)
1974	Declared a National Park (11 Feb)
1985	Inscribed as a UNESCO natural World Heritage Site
2006	Declared a Tiger Reserve (NTCA list: 2008-09)
2025	Sixth addition notified (Sept)

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2024**

Which of the following statements about Kaziranga National Park is incorrect?

(A) It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
(B) It is home to the highest population of one-horned rhinoceroses in the world.
(C) It was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2003.
(D) It is situated on the banks of the Brahmaputra River and lies between the Brahmaputra River and the Karbi Hills.

✓ **Answer: (C) It was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2003.**

Why: Kaziranga became a Tiger Reserve in 2006 (NTCA lists 2008-09), so 2003 is wrong either way. The other three statements are correct.

Manas National Park

- **Five labels:** Sanctuary **1928**, Tiger Reserve **1973**, **WHS 1985**, **Biosphere Reserve 1989**, **NP 1990**.
- **"In Danger":** On UNESCO's danger list from **1992 to 2011** because of insurgency-era damage.
- **Landscape: Bhabar-terai** foothills along the **Manas river**, contiguous with **Royal Manas NP** (Bhutan). It forms the core of the **Chirang-Ripu ER**.
- **Species: Pygmy hog, hispid hare, golden langur, Bengal florican**. Rhinos were poached out and **reintroduced from 2007-08** under IRV 2020.

Other National Parks

- **Orang:** Sanctuary 1985, renamed Rajiv Gandhi WLS 1992, NP 1999. The Cabinet **restored the name "Orang NP" on 1 Sept 2021**. **Tiger Reserve since 2016**; **125 rhinos (2022)**.
- **Nameri:** Sanctuary 1985; Assam's **second Tiger Reserve** (1999-2000). Classic **white-winged wood duck** habitat on the Jia Bharali.
- **Dibru-Saikhowa:** Floodplain park between the **Brahmaputra-Lohit (north)** and the **Dibru (south)**. Its **feral horses** descend from WWII-era army horses.
- **Dehing Patkai:** The **"Jeypore rainforest"**. The 111.19 km² sanctuary (2004) gained 123.07 km² in 2021 after protests against coal mining.
- **Raimona:** Northern **Ripu RF**, between the **Sankosh (west)** and **Saralbhanga (east)**. It adjoins Bhutan's Phibsoo WLS.
- **Sikhna Jwhwlao: Chirang RF plus parts of Manas RF**. It is named after a revered Bodo leader of the 1860s whose capital lay inside the park.

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025**

Consider the following statements:

1. Marat Longri Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Dima Hasao district of Assam.
2. Dehing Patkai National Park is known as the Amazon of the East.
3. Sikhna Jwhwlao National Park is the 8th National Park of Assam.
4. Manas is the only biosphere reserve of Assam.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 4
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4

✓ **Answer: (C) 2 and 3 only**

Why: Marat Longri is in Karbi Anglong, not Dima Hasao. Assam has two Biosphere Reserves, Manas and Dibru-Saikhowa. Sikhna Jwhwlao is the 8th NP, and the official key accepts "Amazon of the East" for Dehing Patkai.

⚠ **EXAM TRAP: LOOK-ALIKE NAMES AND LABELS**

- **"Mini Kaziranga"** most commonly means **Orang**. Pobitora is known for the **highest rhino density**, not as Mini Kaziranga.
- **Poba** (Dhemaji, proposed 2024) is different from **Pabha / Pobha (Milroy)** in Lakhimpur, an old wild buffalo sanctuary of British times.
- Manas is in **Chirang-Baksa**. Raimona and Sikhna Jwhwlao are in **Kokrajhar** (Sikhna also extends into Chirang).

3. Wildlife Sanctuaries of Assam

- **Notified Wildlife Sanctuaries (Assam Forest Dept list, as of Nov 2026)**

Sanctuary	District	Key feature
Pobitora	Morigaon	World's highest density of one-horned rhino; 38.81 km²; sanctuary since 1987; 107 rhinos (2022)
Hoollongapar Gibbon	Jorhat	Named after India's only ape; 20.98 km²
Sonai Rupai	Sonitpur	220 km²; on the Assam-Arunachal border; elephants, white-winged wood duck
Bornadi	Baksa, Udalguri	26.22 km² on the Bhutan border; set up in 1980 for pygmy hog and hispid hare
Chakrashila	Kokrajhar, Dhubri	Golden langur ("second home" after Manas)
Laokhowa	Nagaon	South bank; rhino and wild buffalo habitat; Rowmari-Donduwa wetland
Burachapori	Sonitpur	South bank; part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori eco-system; Bengal florican
Pani Dihing	Sivasagar	Wetland bird sanctuary (33.93 km²); wintering geese and ducks
Garampani	Karbi Anglong	One of the oldest; hot springs and waterfalls
Nambor	Karbi Anglong	Contiguous with Garampani; 51 rare orchid species
Nambor-Doigrung	Golaghat	Three blocks; hot springs; gaur and hoolock gibbon
East Karbi Anglong	Karbi Anglong	About 222 km²; part of the Karbi Anglong-Kaziranga landscape
Marat Longri	Karbi Anglong	Largest on the list (451 km², 2003); part of Dhansiri-Lungding ER
Amchang	Kamrup Metro	Eastern fringe of Guwahati; elephants, slow loris
Deepor Beel	Kamrup Metro	Assam's only Ramsar site; sanctuary core 4.14 km²
Borail	Cachar	Only notified sanctuary of Barak Valley (326.24 km², 2004)
Bherjan-Borajan-Padumoni	Tinsukia	Three small blocks; primate habitat (hoolock, slow loris, macaques)

High-yield sanctuary profiles

- **Pobitora:** South bank, **Morigaon**, near Guwahati. It has more rhinos than its grassland can hold, so it became a **source of rhinos for Manas** under IRV 2020.
- **Hoollongapar Gibbon: Hollongapar RF from 1881**, notified as the **Gibbon WLS on 30 Jul 1997** and **renamed on 25 May 2004**. Its **seven primate species** include the **Bengal slow loris**, the only nocturnal primate of the North-East.
- **Sonai Rupai:** Game sanctuary **1934** (from Charduar RF), WLS **1998**, on the **Assam-Arunachal border** (asked CCE 2020).
- **Bornadi:** A small **bhabar** tract on the Bhutan border, created for the **pygmy hog and hispid hare**.

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025**

Match the following wildlife sanctuaries (in List-I) with their corresponding features (in List-II):

(List-I) - (List-II)

a. Pobitora - 1. Golden langur

b. Hollongapar - 2. High rhino density

c. Deepor Beel - 3. Ramsar Site

d. Chakrashila - 4. Gibbon habitat

Select the correct match using the codes given below.

(A) a b c d - 3 1 2 4 **(B)** a b c d - 2 1 3 4

(C) a b c d - 2 4 3 1 **(D)** a b c d - 1 2 3 4

✓ **Answer: (C) a b c d - 2 4 3 1**

Why: Pobitora has the highest rhino density, Hoollongapar protects the hoolock gibbon, Deepor Beel is the Ramsar site and Chakrashila has golden langurs. APSC asked sanctuary districts in 2023, so learn the district column too.

4. Tiger, Biosphere and Elephant Reserves

- **Tiger Reserves of Assam (year as per NTCA)**

Tiger Reserve	Year	Remember
Manas	1973-74	One of the first 9 Project Tiger reserves
Nameri	1999-2000	Second in Assam; contiguous with Pakke TR
Kaziranga	2006 (NTCA: 2008-09)	Core 625.58 km² plus buffer 548 km²
Orang	2016	Newest; smallest core (about 79 km²)

- **Biosphere Reserves: Manas (1989)** and **Dibru-Saikhowa (Jul 1997**, 765 km²). Neither is in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which includes 13 of India's 18 BRs (as of Sept 2025).
- **Elephant Reserves:** Five, all notified under Project Elephant in **2003**.

- **Elephant Reserves of Assam**

Elephant Reserve	Notified	Area (km²)
Sonitpur	6 Mar 2003	1,420
Chirang-Ripu	7 Mar 2003	2,600
Dihing-Patkai	17 Apr 2003	937
Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong	17 Apr 2003	3,270
Dhansiri-Lungding	19 Apr 2003	2,740

5. World Heritage and Ramsar Sites

- **World Heritage: Kaziranga and Manas** (natural, both **1985**) and the **Moidams of Charaideo** (cultural, **26 Jul 2024**) give Assam **three** WHS.
- **Ramsar: Deepor Beel**, a former Brahmaputra channel in Guwahati, was designated on **19 Aug 2002** (site no. 1207). It is still **Assam's only Ramsar site as of Nov 2026**.
- **Next candidate:** Groups are campaigning for Ramsar status for the **Rowmari-Donduwa wetland complex** in Laokhowa WLS.

✦ **VALUE ADDITION: RAMSAR SITES OF THE NORTH-EAST (ASKED 2022 AND 2025)**

- **Loktak** (Manipur, 1990; on the Montreux Record; Keibul Lamjao floating NP)
- **Deepor Beel** (Assam, 2002)
- **Rudrasagar** (Tripura, 2005; Neermahal palace)
- **Pala Wetland** (Mizoram, 2021)
- **Khecheopalri** (Sikkim, 2025)
- APSC's favourite trap is to place Rudrasagar in Assam or Pala in Meghalaya.

6. Key Species of Assam

- **Flagship species: IUCN status and WPA schedule (as of Nov 2026)**

Species	IUCN status	WPA 1972 (as amended 2022)	Assam stronghold
Greater one-horned rhino (state animal)	Vulnerable	Schedule I	Kaziranga, Orang, Pobitora, Manas
Pygmy hog	Endangered (2019)	Schedule I	Manas; reintroduced in Sonai Rupai, Orang, Bornadi
Hispid hare	Endangered	Schedule I	Manas, Bornadi grasslands
Golden langur	Endangered	Schedule I	Western Assam (Manas, Chakrashila, Raimona, Sikhna Jwhwlao) and Bhutan only
Western hoolock gibbon	Endangered	Schedule I	Hoollongapar, Dehing Patkai, south-bank forests
White-winged wood duck (state bird)	Critically Endangered (uplisted Oct 2024)	Schedule I	Dehing Patkai, Nameri, Dibru-Saikhowa
Bengal florican	Critically Endangered	Schedule I	Manas, Kaziranga, Burachapori, Bornadi
Gangetic river dolphin	Endangered	Schedule I	Brahmaputra; National Aquatic Animal; Guwahati's city animal (2016)

- **WPA 2022:** The Amendment Act cut the schedules from **six to four**, with Schedule I for the most protected animals. It came into force on **1 Apr 2023**.
- **Golden langur:** Found only between the **Sankosh, Manas and Brahmaputra** rivers and the Bhutan hills. The species name *geei* honours E.P. Gee.
- **Hoolock gibbon:** India's **only ape**. The western hoolock is Endangered; the eastern hoolock (Arunachal) is Vulnerable.
- **Greater adjutant ("Hargila"):** Purnima Devi Barman's **Hargila Army** helped numbers rise from about 450 to over 1,800 birds (asked CCE 2024).

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025**

Match the following species (in List-I) with their correct conservation status (in List-II):

(List-I (Species)) - (List-II (IUCN Conservation Status))

a. One-horned rhinoceros (Rhinoceros unicornis) - 1. Endangered

b. White-winged duck (Asarcornis scutulata) - 2. Least concern

c. Golden langur (Trachypithecus geei) - 3. Critically endangered

d. Rhesus macaque (Macaca mulatta) - 4. Vulnerable

Select the correct match using the codes given below.

(A) a b c d - 1 4 2 3 **(B)** a b c d - 2 1 3 4

(C) a b c d - 4 3 1 2 **(D)** a b c d - 3 1 4 2

✓ **Answer: (C) a b c d - 4 3 1 2**

Why: Rhino VU, white-winged duck CR (uplisted Oct 2024), golden langur EN, rhesus macaque LC. Pre-2024 notes still list the duck as EN, which is the trap.

⚠ **EXAM TRAP: IUCN STATUS VERSUS WPA SCHEDULE**

- These are two different lists. The rhino is only **Vulnerable** on the IUCN list but is in **Schedule I** under the WPA.
- The pygmy hog moved from **Critically Endangered to Endangered** in the IUCN's 2019 assessment. Older books still say CR.
- The **white-winged wood duck** went the other way: Endangered (2016) to **Critically Endangered (2024)**.

7. Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020)

- **Launch: 2005**, by the Assam Forest Dept with **WWF-India and the International Rhino Foundation**.
- **Target: 3,000 wild rhinos spread over 7 protected areas** by 2020, so that the species did not depend on Kaziranga alone.
- **Outcome: 22** rhinos were moved from Kaziranga and Pobitora, mostly to **Manas** (2008 to Apr 2021). This helped Manas leave the "In Danger" list in 2011. Laokhowa and Dibru-Saikhowa never received rhinos.
- **2022 counts:** About **2,885-2,895** rhinos in Assam: Kaziranga 2,613, Orang 125, Pobitora 107, Manas 40-50.

↻ **LATEST UPDATE (2025-26)**

- **Sikhna Jwhwlao** became Assam's 8th NP in 2025, and **Kaziranga's 6th addition** was notified in Sept 2025.
- **Rhinos:** Kaziranga's **2022 census (2,613)** is still the latest published count; check for a 2026 census result before the exam.
- **Pygmy hog:** The **Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme** (since 1996) keeps releasing captive-bred hogs into Assam's grasslands, including **Manas**.

↻ QUICK REVISION · *the night-before-the-exam list*

01 Assam has 8 NPs (as of Nov 2026): Kaziranga 1974, Manas 1990, Nameri 1998, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa 1999, Raimona and Dehing Patkai 2021, Sikhna Jwhwlao 2025.

02 Kaziranga: proposed RF 1905, Game Sanctuary 1916, WLS 1950, NP 11 Feb 1974, WHS 1985, TR 2006 (NTCA 2008-09).

03 14th Kaziranga rhino census (Mar 2022): 2,613 rhinos (2,413 in 2018).

04 Big Five: rhino, tiger, elephant, wild water buffalo, eastern swamp deer.

05 Manas: sanctuary 1928, TR 1973, WHS 1985, BR 1989, NP 1990; "In Danger" 1992-2011.

06 Tiger Reserves: Manas (1973-74), Nameri (1999-2000), Kaziranga (2006/2008-09), Orang (2016).

07 Biosphere Reserves: Manas 1989 and Dibru-Saikhowa 1997; neither is in UNESCO's network.

08 Five Elephant Reserves, all notified in 2003; Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong is the largest (3,270 km²).

09 Deepor Beel: Assam's only Ramsar site (19 Aug 2002).

10 Pobitora (Morigaon) has the highest rhino density; Orang is the "Mini Kaziranga".

11 Hoollongapar: Gibbon WLS 1997, renamed 2004, Jorhat; protects India's only ape.

12 Bornadi (1980) protects pygmy hog and hispid hare; Sonai Rupai is on the Arunachal border; Dibru-Saikhowa has feral horses.

13 White-winged wood duck (state bird) is Critically Endangered since Oct 2024; the golden langur lives only in western Assam and Bhutan.

14 IRV 2020 (2005): target of 3,000 rhinos in 7 PAs; 22 rhinos translocated, mainly to Manas.

Practice MCQs

Q1. With reference to Kaziranga National Park, consider the following statements:

1. It was notified as a National Park in 1974.
2. It was the first Tiger Reserve of Assam.
3. Its protection began with a notification of a proposed reserve forest in 1905.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 and 2 only **(B)** 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Q2. Consider the following statements about Biosphere Reserves in Assam:

1. Assam has two Biosphere Reserves, Manas and Dibru-Saikhowa.
2. Manas Biosphere Reserve is part of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
3. Dibru-Saikhowa Biosphere Reserve was notified in 1997.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 and 3 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) 1 and 2 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. The white-winged wood duck, the State bird of Assam, was uplisted to Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List in 2024.
2. The golden langur is found only within the territory of Assam.
3. The pygmy hog and the hispid hare are listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2022.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only **(D)** 1 and 3 only

Q4. Match List I (Protected Area) with List II (Feature):

List I	List II
a. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park	**1.** Feral horses
b. Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary	**2.** India's only ape
c. Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary	**3.** Highest density of one-horned rhinoceros
d. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary	**4.** Pygmy hog and hispid hare

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(A) a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3 **(B)** a-1, b-4, c-2, d-3
(C) a-4, b-1, c-2, d-3 **(D)** a-3, b-4, c-2, d-1

Q5. Arrange the following Tiger Reserves of Assam in chronological order of their creation:

1. Orang
2. Manas
3. Kaziranga
4. Nameri

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(A) 2-3-4-1 **(B)** 4-2-3-1
(C) 2-4-3-1 **(D)** 2-4-1-3

Q6. Raimona National Park, notified on World Environment Day 2021, was carved out of which reserve forest, and in which district does it lie?

(A) Ripu Reserve Forest, Kokrajhar **(B)** Chirang Reserve Forest, Chirang
(C) Kahitama Reserve Forest, Baksa **(D)** Ripu Reserve Forest, Dhubri

Q7. Deepor Beel, the only Ramsar site of Assam (as of November 2026), was designated a Wetland of International Importance in which year?

(A) 1990 **(B)** 2002
(C) 2005 **(D)** 2021

Q8. Under Indian Rhino Vision 2020, most of the rhinos translocated within Assam were released into which protected area?

(A) Orang National Park **(B)** Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
(C) Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary **(D)** Manas National Park

Answers & Explanations

Q	Ans	Explanation
Q1	(C)	Kaziranga became an NP on 11 Feb 1974, and the proposed RF was notified on 1 Jun 1905. Statement 2 is wrong because Manas (1973-74) was Assam's first Tiger Reserve, while Kaziranga's dates from 2006 (NTCA: 2008-09).
Q2	(A)	Manas BR dates from 1989 and Dibru-Saikhowa BR from 1997. Manas is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, but neither BR is in UNESCO's network of BRs, and mixing up these two labels is the trap.
Q3	(D)	The duck was uplisted from Endangered in the Oct 2024 update, and both the pygmy hog and the hispid hare are in Part A of Schedule I under the 2022 Act. The golden langur also lives in the adjoining hills of Bhutan, so statement 2 is wrong.
Q4	(B)	Dibru-Saikhowa has feral horses and Bornadi was created for the pygmy hog and hispid hare. Hoollongapar protects India's only ape, and Pobitora has the highest rhino density.
Q5	(C)	Manas came first (1973-74, Project Tiger), then Nameri (1999-2000), then Kaziranga (2006; NTCA lists 2008-09) and finally Orang (2016). Kaziranga falls between Nameri and Orang whichever of its dates you use.
Q6	(A)	Raimona (422 km²) covers the northern part of Ripu RF in Kokrajhar district (BTR), between the Sankosh and Saralbhanga rivers. Chirang RF went into Sikhna Jwhwlao NP (2025), and Kahitama RF was added to Manas NP in 1990.
Q7	(B)	Deepor Beel was designated on 19 Aug 2002. The other years belong to other North-East sites: Loktak in Manipur (1990), Rudrasagar in Tripura (2005) and Pala in Mizoram (2021).
Q8	(D)	IRV 2020 (launched 2005) moved 22 rhinos from Kaziranga and Pobitora, almost all of them to Manas, from 2008 to Apr 2021. Planned reintroductions to Laokhowa-Burachapori and Dibru-Saikhowa did not happen.

CHAPTER 03 · ASSAM GEOGRAPHY

Rivers, Beels & Wetlands of Assam

12	5 of 5	2020 · 2022 · 2023 · 2024 · 2025
questions asked in APSC Prelims, 2020–2025	papers in which this chapter appeared	years asked

WHY THIS CHAPTER MATTERS

Rivers, tributaries, beels and soils have come up in every APSC Prelims paper from 2020 to 2025 (12 questions), with 2 to 3 questions a year in recent papers. APSC keeps testing bank-wise classification, west-to-east sequences, and matching river to town and beel to district, so this area is highly predictable.

IN THIS CHAPTER

- ✓ The Brahmaputra from source to Bangladesh, with names, confluence, length and Majuli
- ✓ North-bank vs south-bank tributaries and their west-to-east sequence
- ✓ The Barak system, floods, erosion and the Brahmaputra Board
- ✓ Key beels and lakes by district, plus a compact table of Assam's soils

1. The Two Valleys

- **Brahmaputra Valley:** the long, narrow northern plain drained by the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. It covers most of Assam.
- **Barak Valley:** the southern plain of **Cachar, Hailakandi and Sribhumi (formerly Karimganj)**. It is drained by the Barak, which is part of the **Surma–Meghna** system and not of the Brahmaputra.
- The two valleys are separated by the **Karbi plateau and the Barail range (Dima Hasao)**.

2. The Brahmaputra

Origin

- **Standard answer (NCERT, Britannica):** the **Chemayungdung glacier** in the Kailash range, south-east of Lake Mansarovar, Tibet.
- **2011 claim:** a Chinese Academy of Sciences study placed the source on the nearby **Angsi glacier** and re-measured the river at about 3,848 km. If only Chemayungdung appears among the options, mark it.

One river, many names

Stretch	Name	Key point
Tibet	Yarlung Tsangpo	Flows east, then takes a U-turn around Namcha Barwa
Arunachal Pradesh	Siang / Dihang	Enters India in Upper Siang district through deep gorges
Assam	Brahmaputra	Named so after the Dibang and Lohit join near Kobo, west of Sadiya
Bangladesh	Jamuna	Joins the Ganga (Padma), then the Meghna, before the Bay of Bengal

- **Entry into Assam:** below Pasighat the Siang meets the **Dibang** and the **Lohit** near **Kobo, just west of Sadiya** (Tinsukia). The river then flows **east to west** and leaves Assam near **Dhubri–South Salmara**.
- **Length:** about **2,880 km** in total, the most widely cited figure (Britannica rounds it to about 2,900 km). It runs about **640 km in Assam** (Assam Water Resources Department).

- From **Kobo to Dhubri** it receives about **20 important north-bank and 13 south-bank tributaries** (Assam Water Resources Department).
- **Braided river:** its gradient falls sharply in the Assam plain while it still carries a **huge Himalayan sediment load**. It therefore splits into **wide, shallow, shifting channels** around sand bars called **chars** (low) and **chaporis** (higher). The **1950 earthquake** raised its bed further. This was tested in APSC 2023 (braided vs meandering rivers).

Majuli and Umananda

- **Majuli** is recognised by **Guinness World Records (2016)** as the **largest river island** in the world. It lies between the Brahmaputra (south) and the **Kherkutia Xuti channel, joined by the Subansiri** (north).
- It became **India's first river island district on 8 Sep 2016**, carved out of **Jorhat**.
- **Erosion (official figures): 733.79 sq km** on the 1940 Survey of India map, down to **about 502 sq km in 2004** (Union government reply in the Lok Sabha, 2017). The Brahmaputra Board recorded **524.29 sq km in 2016** after protection works.
- **Umananda** (Guwahati), also called **Peacock Island**, is popularly described as the **smallest inhabited river island**. Its Shiva temple was built in **1694** under Ahom king **Gadadhar Singha**.

Bridges in brief

Bridge	River and place	Fact
Saraighat	Brahmaputra, Guwahati	First rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra (1962)
Dhola–Sadiya (Bhupen Hazarika Setu)	Lohit, Tinsukia	9.15 km. Opened 26 May 2017. India's longest bridge when opened
Bogibeel	Brahmaputra, Dibrugarh to Dhemaji	4.94 km. Opened 25 Dec 2018. India's longest rail-cum-road bridge

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- The name **Brahmaputra** applies only **below the Dibang–Lohit confluence**. In Arunachal the river is the Siang/Dihang.
- **Dhola–Sadiya spans the Lohit**. Bogibeel spans the main Brahmaputra.
- **Majuli** is the largest river island and **Umananda** the smallest inhabited one. Both are in the Brahmaputra.
- Round figures such as "Majuli lost 60%" or "1,250 to 352 sq km" are not official survey data.

3. Tributaries of the Brahmaputra

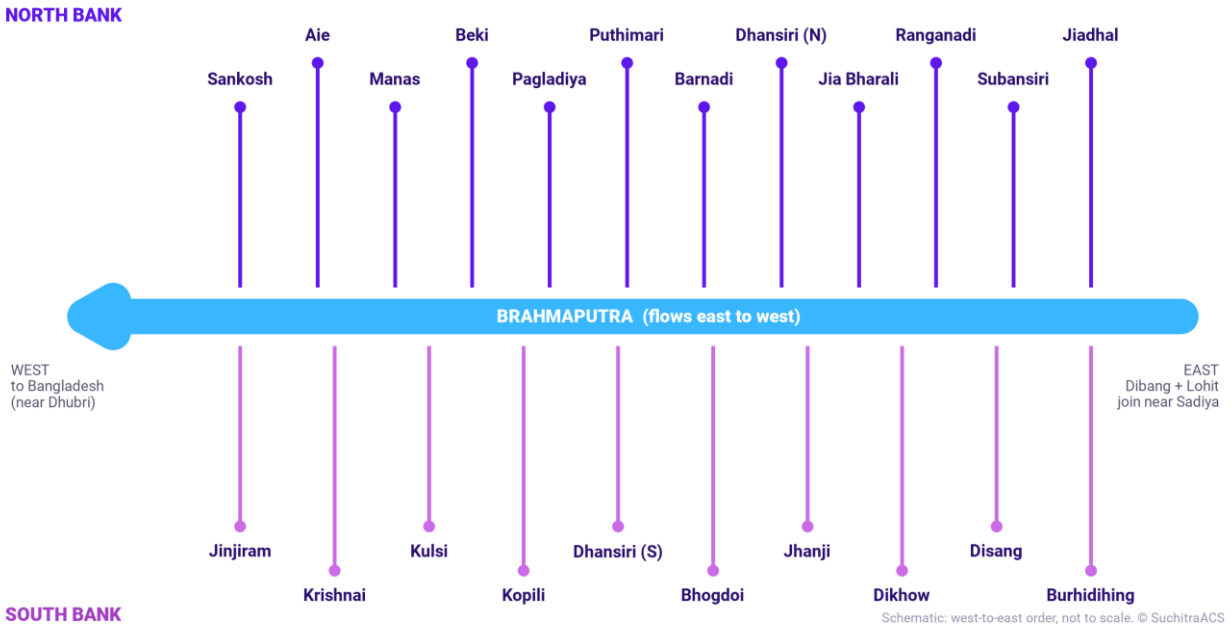


Fig.: Major tributaries of the Brahmaputra in Assam, west to east, by bank (where each meets the main river).

- **North bank vs south bank**

Feature	North-bank tributaries	South-bank tributaries
Source	Himalaya (Bhutan, Arunachal, some from Tibet)	Patkai and Naga hills, Karbi and Meghalaya plateaus
Gradient and channel	Steep. Shallow braided channels with boulder and sand beds	Gentler. Deeper meandering channels
Silt and floods	Very high silt, flash floods, frequent change of course	Lower silt, slower floods

West-to-east sequence (asked in 2024)

Ordered by where each river reaches the Brahmaputra plain. Reverse the list to get east-to-west.

- **North bank:** Sankosh, Aie, Manas, Beki, Pagladiya, Puthimari, Barnadi, Dhansiri (North), Jia Bharali, Ranganadi, Subansiri, Jiadhal
  - Aie and Beki belong to the Manas system. The Ranganadi drains into the Subansiri.
- **South bank:** Jinjiram, Krishnai, Kulsi, Kopili, Dhansiri (South), Bhogdoi, Jhanji, Dikhow, Disang, Burhidihing
  - Upstream confluences run **Dikhowmukh, then Disangmukh, then Dihingmukh**, with Dibrugarh just beyond.

MEMORY HOOK

North bank, west to east: **"Smart Aspirants Must Bring Pen, Pencil, Book, Diary; Just Revise Syllabus, Jaldi!"** (Sankosh, Aie, Manas, Beki, Pagladiya, Puthimari, Barnadi, Dhansiri-N, Jia Bharali, Ranganadi, Subansiri, Jiadhal)

South bank, west to east: **"Jolly Kids Kick Kites; Dad Brings Jam, Dosa, Dal, Biryani"** (Jinjiram, Krishnai, Kulsi, Kopili, Dhansiri-S, Bhogdoi, Jhanji, Dikhow, Disang, Burhidihing)

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2024**

Which of the following sequences or statements concerning tributaries of the Brahmaputra in Assam is/are not correct?

(i) The North bank tributaries (from West to East): Sankosh, Manas, Puthimari, Pagladiya
(ii) The South bank tributaries (from East to West): Buri Dihing, Bhogdoi, Dhansiri, Kopili
(iii) The North bank tributaries (from East to West): Jiadhal, Subansiri, Ranganadi, Jia Bharali
(iv) The River Barnadi forms a natural boundary between Darrang and Kamrup districts

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(A) (i) only **(B)** (i) and (ii) only
(C) (ii) and (iv) only **(D)** (i), (ii) and (iii) only

✓ **Answer: (A) (i) only**

Why: The Pagladiya (Baksa–Nalbari) lies west of the Puthimari (Rangia–Hajo), so the correct order is Sankosh, Manas, Pagladiya, Puthimari. Statements (ii), (iii) and (iv) are all correct.

▪ **Notable tributaries**

River	Bank	Origin	Must-know fact
Subansiri	North	Tibet, through Arunachal	**Largest tributary by discharge**. 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower project (NHPC) at Gerukamukh
Jia Bharali	North	Below Gori Chen, Tawang	Called **Kameng** in Arunachal. Nameri NP. Meets the Brahmaputra near **Tezpur**
Manas	North	Bhutan (upper course from Tibet)	Flows through Manas NP. Joins near **Jogighopa**
Sankosh	North	Bhutan	Westernmost. Runs along the **Assam–West Bengal** border
Dhansiri (South)	South	Laisang peak, **Nagaland**	About 352 km. Flows past Dimapur and **Golaghat**
Kopili	South	**Meghalaya plateau**	**Largest south-bank tributary in Assam**. Kopili HE project (NEEPCO, 275 MW)
Burhidihing	South	Patkai hills, Arunachal	About 380 km. Oil belt (Digboi, Duliajan). Joins at Dihingmukh
Dikhow	South	Zunheboto, **Nagaland**	Flows through **Sivasagar**. Joins at Dikhowmukh

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025**

Following are some of the tributaries of the Brahmaputra. Classify them into two groups-(i) which are on the North Bank and (ii) which are on the South Bank of the Brahmaputra.

1. Kolong
2. Bargang
3. Aie
4. Krishnai
5. Belsiri
6. Manah
7. Disang
8. Dikrong
9. Jhanji
10. Kakodonga

Select the correct clusters given below.

(On the North Bank) – (On the South Bank)

(A) 1, 3, 5, 8, 9 – 2, 4, 6, 7, 10 **(B)** 3, 5, 7, 9, 10 – 1, 2, 4, 6, 8
(C) 3, 4, 9, 1, 2 – 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 **(D)** 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 – 1, 4, 7, 9, 10

✓ **Answer: (D) 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 - 1, 4, 7, 9, 10**

Why: Bargang, Aie, Belsiri, Manah (Manas) and Dikrong come down from the Himalaya. Kolong (a Brahmaputra channel), Krishnai, Disang, Jhanji and Kakodonga lie on the south bank.

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025**

Which of the following rivers that flow into Assam and originate from Bhutan?

(A) Barak, Feni, Aie, Kulsi
(B) Beki, Raidak, Sankosh, Manas
(C) Kapili, Digaru, Jinjiram, Kulsi
(D) Dawki, Tuivai, Irang, Feni

✓ **Answer: (B) Beki, Raidak, Sankosh, Manas**

Why: All four rise in or drain Bhutan (Beki is the Kurichhu and Raidak the Wang Chhu). The Barak rises in Manipur, the Kulsi and Kopili in Meghalaya, and the Feni in Tripura.

⚠ **EXAM TRAP**

- **Two Dhansiris:** Dhansiri (South) comes from Nagaland and flows past Golaghat. Dhansiri (North) is a separate river in Udalguri–Darrang.
- **Dikhow is on the south bank.** APSC 2022 listed it among north-bank rivers as a trap.
- **Raidak** is a Brahmaputra tributary from Bhutan, not a Barak tributary.
- **Largest tributary** = Subansiri. **Largest south-bank tributary in Assam** = Kopili.

- **River towns**

Town	River (bank)
Guwahati	Brahmaputra (south). North Guwahati faces it on the north bank
Tezpur	Brahmaputra (north)
Dibrugarh	Brahmaputra (south)
Goalpara	Brahmaputra (south)
Dhubri	Brahmaputra (north)
Neamati, Jorhat	Brahmaputra (south). Ferry ghat to Kamalabari, Majuli
Jorhat / Golaghat / Sivasagar	Bhogdoi / Dhansiri / Dikhow
Nagaon	Kolong (a Brahmaputra anabranch)
Silchar / Sribhumi (Karimganj)	Barak / Kushiyara

4. The Barak System

- **Origin:** near Liyai Khullen, **Senapati district, Manipur**. It flows past **Lakhipur, Silchar and Badarpur** in Cachar.
- **Bifurcation:** at the **India–Bangladesh border** it splits into the **Surma** (north) and the **Kushiyara** (south). The two reunite as the **Meghna**. The whole course is about 900 km.
- **Confluences:** the **Tuivai** joins at **Tipaimukh**, and the **Jiri** at **Jirimukh** on the Assam–Manipur border.
- **Northern feeders:** Jiri, Jatinga, Madhura. **Southern feeders:** Sonai, Dhaleswari (lower course Katakhal), Singla, Longai.
- The Barak **meanders heavily** across a narrow, low plain that is dotted with seasonal wetlands such as **Son Beel**.

5. Floods and Erosion

- **Flood and erosion data (Assam Water Resources Department)**

Indicator	Figure
Flood-prone area (Rashtriya Barh Ayog)	**31.05 lakh ha** of the state's 78.523 lakh ha (about **39.58%**)
India as a whole (as quoted by Assam WRD)	**about 10.2%** of the country's area, so Assam is about four times the national level
Assam's share of India's flood-prone area	**about 9.40%**
Land eroded since 1950	**about 4.27 lakh ha** (7.40% of the state)
Average annual erosion	**about 8,000 ha**

- **Natural causes:** very heavy monsoon rain, a fragile and seismic Himalaya, heavy silt that raises river beds, and tributary peaks that coincide with the main river's.
- **Human causes:** deforestation in catchments, encroachment on beels, embankment breaches, and settlement on floodplains and chars.

✦ **VALUE ADDITION**

- **Brahmaputra Board:** set up under the **Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980**. It came into being on **31 Dec 1981**, has its HQ in **Guwahati** and works under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**. It covers the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys and has carried out Majuli protection works since 2004.
- The **Rashtriya Barh Ayog** (National Flood Commission, 1976) assessment is still the standard reference for flood-prone area.

6. Beels, Lakes and Tanks

A **beel** is a floodplain wetland. Many are **ox-bow lakes** or abandoned channels that store floodwater and breed fish.

- **Important beels, lakes and tanks**

Water body	District	One fact
Deepor Beel	Kamrup Metropolitan	**Assam's only Ramsar site** (19 Aug 2002, about 4,000 ha)
Son Beel	Sribhumi (Karimganj)	**Largest wetland of Assam**. Fed by the Singla. Farmed for rice in the dry season
Nandini-Sonai Beel	Morigaon	Among the three largest beels (with Son and Batha) as per an ARSAC survey
Chandubi Lake	Kamrup	Formed by the **earthquake of 12 Jun 1897**
Haflong Lake	Dima Hasao	In Haflong, Assam's only hill station
Joysagar	Sivasagar	Dug by **Rudra Singha** for his mother **Joymoti** (usually dated 1697). About 318 acres with banks
Borpukhuri (Sivasagar Tank)	Sivasagar	Dug in **1733** by **Ambika**, queen of Siva Singha. Sivadol is on its bank
Dighalipukhuri	Kamrup Metropolitan	Guwahati tank. Linked by legend to Bhagadatta. Used as an Ahom naval dockyard
Maguri-Motapung Beel	Tinsukia	Important Bird Area by Dibru-Saikhowa. Hit by the 2020 Baghjan blowout
Urpad Beel / Tamranga Beel	Goalpara / Bongaigaon	Lower Assam bird wetlands
Samaguri Beel	Nagaon	**Ox-bow lake** of the Kolong ("Pokhi Tirtha")

Water body	District	One fact
Silsako Beel	Kamrup Metropolitan	Urban Guwahati wetland, subject of anti-encroachment drives
Dora Beel	Kamrup	The **Kulsi** is both its inlet and outlet. Gangetic dolphins enter it

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2023**

Match the following wetlands (List-I) with the districts where these are located (List-II):

(List-I) (List-II)

a. Urpad Beel 1. Bongaigaon

b. Son Beel 2. Goalpara

c. Tamranga Beel 3. Morigaon

d. Nandini-Sonai Beel 4. Karimganj

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(A) a b c d - 2 4 1 3 **(B)** a b c d - 4 1 3 2

(C) a b c d - 1 2 4 3 **(D)** a b c d - 3 1 2 4

✓ **Answer: (A) a b c d - 2 4 1 3**

Why: Urpad is in Goalpara (Agia), Son Beel in Karimganj (now Sribhumi), Tamranga in Bongaigaon and Nandini-Sonai in Morigaon.

⚠ **EXAM TRAP**

- **Joysagar** was dug by Rudra Singha for Joymoti. **Borpukhuri** was dug by Ambika, queen of Siva Singha. Do not swap them.
- "Joysagar is the largest man-made tank in India/Asia" is a popular claim, not an official ranking.
- **Chandubi** is in **Kamrup**. **Deepor Beel** is in **Kamrup Metropolitan**.
- **Chapanala** (Nagaon) is a **waterfall**, not a beel.

↻ **LATEST UPDATE (2025-26)**

- **As of Nov 2026, Deepor Beel is still Assam's only Ramsar site.** The **Rowmari–Donduwa wetland complex** (Laokhowa WLS, Nagaon) was proposed in Nov 2025 and has not been designated yet.
- **Subansiri Lower HEP:** Unit 5 began commercial operation on **23 Oct 2026**, bringing **1,250 MW of 2,000 MW** online. All units are targeted by Dec 2026.
- **China's Medog mega-dam** on the Yarlung Tsangpo had its groundbreaking on **19 Jul 2025**. It raises downstream concerns for Assam.
- **Karimganj was renamed Sribhumi** by a notification of **21 Nov 2024**. Older PYQs use "Karimganj".

7. Soils of Assam

- **Soil groups**

Soil	Where	Features
New alluvium	Riverbanks, chars, chaporis	Renewed by every flood. Sandy to silty, low humus
Old alluvium	Higher plains between the foothills and the new alluvium	Deep, loamy, slightly to moderately acidic. Main rice and tea soil
Piedmont soils	Foothills along the Bhutan and Arunachal borders	Sandy to silty loams. Grasslands and swamps
Red loamy / red sandy	Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, southern foothills	Acidic. Poor in nitrogen, phosphate, humus and lime

Soil	Where	Features
Laterite	Around Haflong, southern Karbi plateau, Meghalaya fringe	Heavily leached. Iron-rich, poor in lime and nitrogen

- Most soils of Assam are **acidic**, which suits **tea**. Alluvium is the most extensive group.

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025**

Consider the following pairs:

1. Alluvial Soil : Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys
2. Red Soil : Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills
3. Laterite Soil : Meghalaya Plateau fringe areas
4. Sandy Soil : River Islands (Chars) and riverbeds

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(A) 1, 3 and 4 only **(B)** 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4 only **(D)** 1, 2, 3 and 4

✓ **Answer: (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4**

Why: Alluvium covers both valley plains, red soils cover the Karbi and North Cachar hills, laterite lies on the leached Meghalaya fringe, and the chars get fresh sand with every flood. All four pairs are correct.

↻ QUICK REVISION · *the night-before-the-exam list*

01 Names: Yarlung Tsangpo (Tibet), Siang/Dihang (Arunachal), Brahmaputra (Assam), Jamuna (Bangladesh).
02 Source: Chemayungdung glacier (standard answer). A 2011 study proposed the Angsi glacier.
03 The Dibang and Lohit join near Kobo, west of Sadiya. About 2,880 km in total and about 640 km in Assam.
04 Majuli: largest river island (Guinness 2016) and first river island district (8 Sep 2016, carved from Jorhat).
05 Umananda (Peacock Island) is the smallest inhabited river island. Its temple dates to 1694 (Gadadhar Singha).
06 North bank, west to east: Sankosh, Aie, Manas, Beki, Pagladiya, Puthimari, Barnadi, Dhansiri-N, Jia Bharali, Ranganadi, Subansiri, Jiadhal.
07 South bank, west to east: Jinjiram, Krishnai, Kulsi, Kopili, Dhansiri-S, Bhogdoi, Jhanji, Dikhow, Disang, Burhidihing.
08 Largest tributary is the Subansiri. Largest south-bank tributary is the Kopili. The Jia Bharali is the Kameng.
09 Barak: rises in Senapati (Manipur) and splits at the border into the Surma and Kushiyara, which form the Meghna.
10 Flood-prone area is 31.05 lakh ha (39.58%) vs about 10.2% for India. About 4.27 lakh ha eroded since 1950, about 8,000 ha a year.
11 Brahmaputra Board: Act of 1980, formed 31 Dec 1981, HQ Guwahati, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
12 Deepor Beel is the only Ramsar site (2002). Son Beel is the largest wetland. Chandubi was formed in 1897.
13 Joysagar: Rudra Singha for Joymoti. Borpukhuri (1733): Ambika.

Practice MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Brahmaputra:

1. In Arunachal Pradesh it is known as the Siang or Dihang.
2. It is called the Brahmaputra only after the Dibang and the Lohit join it near Sadiya.
3. In Bangladesh its main channel is called the Surma.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Q2. With reference to Majuli, consider the following statements:

1. It became India's first river island district in 2016.
2. It was carved out of Lakhimpur district.
3. On its north it is bounded by the Kherkutia Xuti channel, which is joined by the Subansiri.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Q3. Match List I (Wetland) with List II (District):

List I	List II
a. Deepor Beel	1. Nagaon
b. Maguri-Motapung Beel	2. Kamrup
c. Samaguri Beel	3. Kamrup Metropolitan
d. Chandubi Lake	4. Tinsukia

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(A) a-2, b-4, c-1, d-3
(B) a-3, b-1, c-4, d-2
(C) a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1
(D) a-3, b-4, c-1, d-2

Q4. Arrange the following south-bank tributaries of the Brahmaputra from west to east according to where they join the main river:

1. Dikhow
2. Kulsi
3. Dhansiri
4. Burhidihing

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(A) 2-3-1-4
(B) 3-2-1-4
(C) 2-1-3-4
(D) 2-3-4-1

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding floods and erosion in Assam:

1. As assessed by the Rashtriya Barh Ayog, about 39.58% of Assam's land area is flood prone.
2. Assam accounts for about one-fourth of India's total flood-prone area.
3. Since 1950, rivers have eroded about 4.27 lakh hectares of land in Assam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Q6. Which north-bank tributary of the Brahmaputra is called the Kameng in Arunachal Pradesh and meets the Brahmaputra near Tezpur?

(A) Subansiri
(B) Ranganadi
(C) Jia Bharali
(D) Puthimari

Q7. On reaching the India-Bangladesh border, the Barak divides into:

(A) Surma and Kushiyara
(B) Jamuna and Padma
(C) Longai and Singla
(D) Meghna and Feni

Q8. Consider the following statements about the soils of Assam:

1. New alluvium is found along riverbanks and on chars, and is renewed by floods.
2. Laterite soils are found mainly in the Barak Valley plain.
3. Most soils of Assam are acidic in reaction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1 and 3 only

Answers & Explanations

Q	Ans	Explanation
Q1	(B)	In Bangladesh the main channel is the Jamuna. The Surma is a branch of the Barak, so statement 3 is wrong.
Q2	(C)	Majuli district (8 Sep 2016) was carved out of Jorhat, not Lakhimpur, so statement 2 is wrong.
Q3	(D)	Deepor is in Kamrup Metropolitan, Maguri-Motapung in Tinsukia, Samaguri in Nagaon and Chandubi in Kamrup. Option (A) swaps Deepor and Chandubi, a common slip.
Q4	(A)	The Kulsi joins west of Guwahati, the Dhansiri at Dhansirimukh (Golaghat), the Dikhow at Dikhowmukh (Sivasagar) and the Burhidihing furthest upstream at Dihingmukh.
Q5	(B)	Assam's share of India's flood-prone area is about 9.40%, not one-fourth, so statement 2 is wrong. Statements 1 and 3 match the Assam Water Resources Department data.
Q6	(C)	The Kameng rises below Gori Chen (Tawang) and takes the name Jia Bharali in Assam. Nameri National Park lies along it.
Q7	(A)	The Surma (north) and Kushiyara (south) reunite in Bangladesh as the Meghna. Longai and Singla are tributaries of the Barak system, not its branches.
Q8	(D)	Laterite occurs in leached hilly areas such as Dima Hasao and the southern Karbi plateau, not in the alluvial Barak plain, so statement 2 is wrong.

CHAPTER 04 · ASSAM CULTURE

Assamese Language & Literature

15	5 of 5	2020 · 2022 · 2023 · 2024 · 2025
questions asked in APSC Prelims, 2020–2025	papers in which this chapter appeared	years asked

WHY THIS CHAPTER MATTERS

APSC has asked 15 questions on Assamese language, literature and books/authors in the last five Prelims papers (2020–2025), with at least two every year and four in CCE 2023. Most are match-the-following on author–work pairs, pen names, sobriquets and "firsts", which reward exact recall of the kind this chapter is built for.

IN THIS CHAPTER

- ✓ The periods of Assamese literature from the Charyapadas to the Jonaki age
- ✓ Author–work pairs, sobriquets, pen names and "firsts" APSC loves to match
- ✓ Classical language status, Asom Sahitya Sabha and Jnanpith laureates from Assam
- ✓ The complete verified list of Assamese Sahitya Akademi Award winners (1955–2025)

1. Assamese at a Glance

- **Family:** Assamese is an **Eastern Indo-Aryan** language. It has been in the **Eighth Schedule** since the Constitution came into force (one of the original 14 languages).
- **Official language:** The **Assam Official Language Act, 1960** made Assamese the official language of the State. Bengali is used in the Barak Valley and Bodo in the BTR areas.
- **Classical language:** The Union Cabinet approved classical status on **3 Oct 2024** (see Section 11).

2. Periods of Assamese Literature

- One widely used scheme of periodisation

Period	Approx. time	Landmarks
Early (Charya)	c. 8th–12th century	Charyapadas (Buddhist mystic songs)
Pre-Vaishnavite (Pre-Sankari)	c. 13th–15th century	Hema Saraswati, Madhav Kandali, Harivara Vipra
Vaishnavite (Sankari)	c. 1490–1700	Sankardeva, Madhavdeva, Bhattadeva
Post-Sankari and Buranji prose	c. 1700–1826	Ahom court chronicles (Buranjis)
Missionary (Orunodoi)	1826–1870	Orunodoi (1846), Brown, Bronson
Hemchandra-Gunabhiram era	1870–1890	Hemchandra Barua, Gunabhiram Barua
Jonaki (Romantic) era	1889–1940	Chandra Kumar Agarwala, Bezbaroa, Hemchandra Goswami
Modern (post-1940)	1940 onwards	Ramdhenu writers, Jnanpith laureates

3. Early and Pre-Vaishnavite Literature

- **Charyapadas:** Buddhist mystic songs, roughly 8th–12th century. **Haraprasad Shastri** found the manuscript in the Nepal Royal Library (1907) and published it in 1916. Assamese, Bengali, Odia and Maithili all claim them as their earliest literature.
- **Hema Saraswati: Prahlad Charit**, the **earliest known Assamese poetic work**, written at the Kamata court of **Durlabhnarayan** (late 13th century). He also wrote **Hara-Gauri Samvad**.
- **Harivara Vipra: Babhruvahanar Yuddha** (also at Durlabhnarayan's court).
- **Madhav Kandali: Saptakanda Ramayana** (14th century), under the **Barahi king Mahamanikya**. It is called the first rendering of the Ramayana into a modern Indo-Aryan language.
- **Rudra Kandali: Satyaki Pravesa**. **Kaviratna Saraswati: Jayadratha Vadha**.
- **Bakul Kayastha: Kitabat Manjari** (1434), a book on arithmetic, land survey and accounts based on Bhaskara II's *Lilavati*.

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025**

Match the authors of List-I with their works in List-II:

(List-I) – (List-II)

a. Hema Saraswati – 1. Kali Bharat Buranji

b. Bakul Kayastha – 2. Prahlada Charita

c. Kaviraj Chakraborty – 3. Kitabat Manjari

d. Dutiram Hazarika – 4. Sankhachuda Vadha

Select the correct match using the codes given below.

(A) a b c d – 2 3 4 1 **(B)** a b c d – 1 2 3 4

(C) a b c d – 3 1 2 4 **(D)** a b c d – 4 3 1 2

✓ **Answer: (A) a b c d - 2 3 4 1**

Why: Hema Saraswati wrote Prahlada Charita, the earliest known Assamese poem. Bakul Kayastha's Kitabat Manjari (1434) is a mathematics manual. Dutiram Hazarika's Kali Bharat Buranji is a 19th-century chronicle. Kaviraj Chakravarti is matched with Sankhachuda Vadha as per the official key.

4. The Vaishnavite Age

- **The three pillars of Neo-Vaishnavite literature**

Saint	Key works	Remember as
Srimanta Sankardeva (1449–1568)	Kirtan Ghosha, Borgeet, Ankiya Naat (Patni Prasad, Ram Vijay etc.), Chihna Yatra	Founder of Ekasarana Dharma, Bhaona and Ankiya Naat
Madhavdeva	Naam Ghosha (Hajari Ghosha, 1,000 verses), Bhakti Ratnavali, Borgeets	Chief disciple of Sankardeva
Bhattadeva (1558–1638)	Katha Bhagavat, Katha Gita	Father of Assamese prose

- **Chihna Yatra:** Sankardeva's earliest dramatic performance, staged with painted scenes of the **Sapta Vaikuntha**.
- **Bhaona:** The stage performance of an **Ankiya Naat**. **Borgeets** are devotional songs set to ragas.
- **Ram Saraswati:** rendered parts of the **Mahabharata** under Koch king **Naranarayan**.

⚠ **EXAM TRAP**

- **Naam Ghosha** is Madhavdeva's; **Kirtan Ghosha** is Sankardeva's. APSC swaps them in match questions.
- **Father of Assamese prose = Bhattadeva**, not Sankardeva. Sankardeva's Ankiya Naats mix Brajavali with Assamese.
- **Saptakanda Ramayana** is pre-Vaishnavite (Mahamanikya). Its first and last books were lost; **Madhavdeva** later supplied the **Adi Kanda** and **Sankardeva** the **Uttara Kanda**.

5. Buranji Prose

- **Buranjis**, the Ahom court chronicles, were written first in **Tai-Ahom** and later in **Assamese prose**. They are a rare secular historical prose tradition.
- **Kali Bharat Buranji** by **Dutiram Hazarika** covers 1679–1858. **S. K. Bhuyan** edited many Buranjis for the DHAS (Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies), Assam.

6. The Missionary Era and the Language Struggle

- **How Assamese lost and regained its official place**

1813	Assamese New Testament printed at Serampore with Atmaram Sarma's help: the first printed Assamese book
1836	Bengali made the language of courts and schools in Assam
1839	William Robinson, A Grammar of the Assamese Language: the first Assamese grammar
Jan 1846	Orunodoi, the first Assamese periodical, starts at the Baptist Mission Press, Sivasagar (editor Nathan Brown)
1848	Nathan Brown, Grammatical Notices of the Asamese Language
1853	Anandaram Dhekial Phukan's memorial to A. J. Moffat Mills against Bengali
1855	Dhekial Phukan, A Few Remarks on the Assamese Language
1859	Hemchandra Barua, Asamiya Byakaran (grammar)
1867	Miles Bronson, A Dictionary in Assamese and English: the first Assamese-English dictionary
1873	Assamese restored in courts and schools of the Brahmaputra Valley (order of Lt. Governor Sir George Campbell, 9 Apr 1873)
1900	Hemkosh (Hemchandra Barua's dictionary) published after his death, edited by Capt. P. R. Gurdon and Hemchandra Goswami

- **American Baptist missionaries: Nathan Brown** and **Oliver Cutter** set up the mission press at **Sadiya**; it later moved to **Sivasagar**, where Orunodoi was printed.
- **Hemchandra Barua (1835-1896):** He compiled **Hemkosh**, still the standard reference for Assamese spelling, and wrote **Asamiya Byakaran** and the satire **Kaniyar Kirtan** (1861).
- **Gunabhiram Barua: Ram Navami** (written 1857), the first Assamese social drama, which supports widow remarriage.
- **Anandaram Dhekial Phukan: Asamiya Lorar Mitra** (1849). **Harakanta Barua: Sadaraminar Atmajivani**.

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2024**

Arrange the following works chronologically according to their year of publication:

(i) Grammatical Notices of the Assamese Language

(ii) A Grammar of the Assamese Language

(iii) A Dictionary in Assamese and English

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(A) (i) – (ii) – (iii) **(B)** (i) – (iii) – (ii)

(C) (iii) – (ii) – (i) **(D)** (ii) – (i) – (iii)

✓ **Answer: (D) (ii) – (i) – (iii)**

Why: Robinson's Grammar came in 1839, Nathan Brown's Grammatical Notices in 1848 and Miles Bronson's Dictionary in 1867.

⚠ **EXAM TRAP**

- **First Assamese grammar = William Robinson (1839)**. Some sites call Nathan Brown's 1848 work the "first", which is wrong.
- **First Assamese dictionary = Bronson (1867)**. **Hemkosh (1900)** is the second, published 33 years later.
- **Two Hemchandras: Hemchandra Barua** wrote Hemkosh. **Hemchandra Goswami** (Jonaki trio) helped edit it for publication. **Hem Barua "Tyagbir"** was a freedom fighter.

7. The Jonaki Era and Romanticism

- **Jonaki (1889):** A monthly from **Calcutta**, the organ of the **Asamiya Bhasa Unnati Sadhini Sabha** (1888), founded by Assamese students in Calcutta. Its first editor was **Chandra Kumar Agarwala**.
- It brought **romanticism**, the **short story** and the **sonnet** into Assamese, so 1889–1940 is called the **Jonaki (Romantic) era**.
- **The Jonaki trio: Chandra Kumar Agarwala** wrote **Bonkunwari**, the first Assamese romantic poem (first issue). **Lakshminath Bezbaroa** wrote **Seuti (Xeuti)**, regarded as the first Assamese short story. **Hemchandra Goswami** wrote **Priyatamar Chithi**, the first Assamese sonnet.
- **Bezbaroa:** wrote satire as **Kripabar Barbarua**. His song **O Mor Aponar Desh** (1909) appeared in **Banhi (Bahi)**, a monthly started in Nov 1909. He was given the title **Rasaraj** at the Sahitya Sabha's **Sivasagar session (1931)**.
- **Novel:** Padmanath Gohain Baruah's **Bhanumati** (serialised 1890–91 in *Bijuli*) is generally taken as the first original Assamese novel. **Rajanikanta Bordoloi** (**Miri Jiyori**, 1894) is the "**Upanyas Samrat**".
- **Ramdhenu era: Ramdhenu**, edited by **Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya**, launched modern writers such as Navakanta Barua, Bhabendra Nath Saikia and Saurabh Kumar Chaliha.

✎ **MEMORY HOOK**

Jonaki = "C-L-H lights the firefly": **C**handra Kumar edits and writes the first romantic poem; **L**akshminath writes the first short story; **H**emchandra Goswami writes the first sonnet. The firefly (jonaki) lit up three new forms.

8. Sobriquets and Pen Names

- **Sobriquets (titles of honour)**

Sobriquet	Personality	Hook / key work
Mahapurush	Srimanta Sankardeva	Kirtan Ghosha, Ankiya Naat

Sobriquet	Personality	Hook / key work
Rasaraj and Sahityarathi	Lakshminath Bezbaroa	King of humour; Kripabari satire
Rupkonwar	Jyoti Prasad Agarwala	Joymoti (1935), first Assamese film
Kalaguru	Bishnu Prasad Rabha	Artist-revolutionary
Sudhakantha	Bhupen Hazarika	Bharat Ratna 2019 (posthumous)
Asom Kesari	Ambikagiri Raichoudhury	Bedanar Ulka (Sahitya Akademi 1966)
Upanyas Samrat	Rajanikanta Bordoloi	Miri Jiyori (1894)
Bihagi Kobi	Raghunath Choudhury	Poet of birds
Agnikobi	Kamalakanta Bhattacharyya	Poet of fire, nationalist verse
Pratimar Khonikar	Chandra Kumar Agarwala	Jonaki editor
Geetikavi	Parbati Prasad Baruah	Lyricist and poet
Bonkonwar	Anandiram Das	Bongeets
Bagmibor	Nilmoni Phukan (Senior)	Orator; first Assamese Sahitya Akademi Fellow
Natasurya	Phani Sarma	Actor

- **Pen names (real name behind the pen name)**

Pen name	Real name
Kanchan Baruah	Bhubanmohan Baruah
Kripabar Barbarua	Lakshminath Bezbaroa
Mamoni Raisom Goswami	Indira Goswami
Sheelabhadra	Rebati Mohan Dutta Choudhury
Bholai Sarma	Rajanikanta Bordoloi
Astabakra	Kamalakanta Bhattacharyya
Chakreshwar Bhattacharyya	Chandra Kumar Agarwala

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2020**

Aximat Jar Heral Xeema is a landmark in Assamese novel written by Kanchan Baruah and was first published in 1945. But Kanchan Baruah is the pen name. What is the author's real name?

(A) Brajamohan Sarma **(B)** Bhubanmohan Baruah
(C) Medini Choudhury **(D)** None of them

✓ **Answer: (B) Bhubanmohan Baruah**

Why: Kanchan Baruah was the pen name of Bhubanmohan Baruah, novelist, painter and theatre director. Medini Choudhury is a separate novelist (Biponna Samay, Sahitya Akademi 1999).

9. Assamese "Firsts"

- **Firsts APSC likes to ask**

First	Work / person	Year
Earliest known Assamese poem	Prahlad Charit, Hema Saraswati	late 13th century
Printed Assamese book	New Testament (Serampore)	1813
Grammar of Assamese	William Robinson	1839
Periodical	Orunodoi (Sivasagar)	Jan 1846
Assamese-English dictionary	Miles Bronson	1867

First	Work / person	Year
Social drama	Ram Navami, Gunabhiram Barua	written 1857
Original novel	Bhanumati, Padmanath Gohain Baruah	1890-91
Romantic poem	Bonkunwari, Chandra Kumar Agarwala	1889
Assamese film	Joymoti, Jyoti Prasad Agarwala	10 Mar 1935
Sahitya Sabha president	Padmanath Gohain Baruah	1917
Woman Sahitya Sabha president	Nalini Bala Devi (Jorhat)	1955
Sahitya Akademi Award (Assamese)	Bana Phul, Jatindranath Duwara	1955
Jnanpith from Assam	Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya	1979
Sahitya Akademi Fellow from Assam	Nilmoni Phukan (Sr)	1973

10. Asom Sahitya Sabha

- **Founded: December 1917** at **Sivasagar**. The **Asamiya Bhasa Unnati Sadhini Sabha** is regarded as its predecessor.
- **First president: Padmanath Gohain Baruah**. **Sarat Chandra Goswami** was the first secretary.
- **Headquarters: Jorhat** (Sahitya Sabha Bhawan).
- **Notable presidents: Nalini Bala Devi** (1955, first woman). **Sitanath Brahma Choudhury** presided at **Tinsukia (1981)** and **Diphu (1982)** (asked in CCE 2023).
- **Current (as of Nov 2026):** Dr **Basanta Kumar Goswami**, president for the **2025-27** term.

11. Assamese as a Classical Language

- **Approval:** The **Union Cabinet** approved it on **3 Oct 2024**, along with **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit and Bengali**. This took the total to **11** classical languages.
- **Earlier six:** Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Telugu and Kannada (2008), Malayalam (2013), Odia (2014).
- **Who recommends:** the **Linguistic Experts Committee** under the **Sahitya Akademi**. It revised the criteria in 2024 (high antiquity of 1,500–2,000 years, ancient heritage literature, and so on).
- **Benefits:** national awards, **Centres of Excellence**, and professional chairs in Central Universities. There is no separate university and no direct grant to the Sahitya Sabha.

★ ASKED IN APSC CCE 2025

Assamese language is recognized as a classical language in 2024. In this respect, consider the following statements:

1. The recognition came from Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru.
2. The recognition enables to establish a Central University for Assamese Language.
3. The recognition facilitates the establishment of an Advanced Centre for Classical Assamese Language.
4. As a result of the recognition, Assam Sahitya Sabha will be receiving financial grant from the Government of India directly.

Select the correct statement(s) from above using the codes given below.

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 and 3
(C) 3 only **(D)** 1 and 4

✓ Answer: (C) 3 only

Why: The status was conferred by the Union Cabinet on the advice of the Sahitya Akademi's expert committee, not by CIIL. A Centre of Excellence is a standard benefit. A Central University and direct grants to the Sabha are not.

↻ LATEST UPDATE (2025-26)

- **3 Oct 2026:** The Ministry of Education approved a **Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Assamese at Tezpur University**. It is one of five such centres; the others are for Bengali (Visva-Bharati), Marathi (Deccan College, Pune), Pali (Central University of Odisha) and Prakrit (Central University of Gujarat).
- **16 Mar 2026:** The **Sahitya Akademi Award 2025** (Assamese) was announced for **Devabrat Das**'s novel **Karhi Khelar Sadhu**. The **2024** award went to **Sameer Tanti** for the poetry collection **Pharingbore Bator Katha Jane** (announced 18 Dec 2024).

12. Jnanpith Award: The Three Laureates from Assam

- **Assamese Jnanpith laureates**

Laureate	Jnanpith	Basis	Other honours
Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya	15th, 1979	Novel Mrityunjay (1942 Quit India backdrop)	Sahitya Akademi 1961 (Iyaruingam)
Indira (Mamoni Raisom) Goswami	36th, for 2000	Overall contribution	Sahitya Akademi 1982
Nilmani Phookan (Jr)	56th, announced 7 Dec 2021	Overall contribution	Sahitya Akademi 1981 (Kavita); Padma Shri 1990; Fellow 2002

- **Indira Goswami** is the **only woman** among the three. **Nilmani Phookan** (born Dergaon, 1933; died 19 Jan 2023) was the leading voice of **symbolism** in Assamese poetry. His first collection was *Surya Henu Nami Ahe Ei Nadiyedi*.
- **Bhupen Hazarika** is not a Jnanpith laureate. He received the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** and the **Bharat Ratna (2019)**, the second from Assam after **Gopinath Bordoloi**.

★ ASKED IN APSC CCE 2022

Consider the following statements about the famous Assamese poet Nilmoni Phookan who passed away on 19th January, 2023:

(i) He was honoured with the Jnanpith Award in 2021.

(ii) His first anthology is Surya Henu Nami Ahe Ei Nodiyedi.

(iii) He was awarded Sahitya Akademi Award for his anthology Kavita.

(iv) He was the President of Assam Sahitya Sabha in 2015.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below.

(A) Only (i) and (ii) **(B)** Only (ii) and (iii)

(C) Only (i), (ii) and (iii) **(D)** (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

✓ Answer: (C) Only (i), (ii) and (iii)

Why: His Jnanpith was announced in Dec 2021, his debut collection was Surya Henu Nami Ahe Ei Nadiyedi and Kavita won the 1981 Sahitya Akademi Award. The 2015 Sabha president was Dhrubajyoti Bora. The poet never headed the Sabha.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- **Two Nilmani Phukans: Nilmoni Phukan (Sr), "Bagmibor"** (1880–1978), was a Sahitya Akademi Fellow (1973) and presided over the Sabha. **Nilmani Phookan (Jr)** (1933–2023) is the Jnanpith poet.
- **Year labels differ:** Lists show Phookan's 56th Jnanpith as 2020 or 2021 (announced 7 Dec 2021). Goswami's is for 2000, though some sources write 2001. Quote the year the way APSC does (Phookan 2021, Goswami 2000).

13. Sahitya Akademi Awards and Fellowship (Assamese)

- **Award:** given since **1955** by the Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters) for the best book in each of **24 languages**. It carries a plaque, a shawl and **Rs 1 lakh**.
- **No Assamese award in: 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1971 and 1973** (nine years).
- **Fellowship** (the Akademi's highest honour) **from Assam: Nilmoni Phukan (Sr), 1973**; **Syed Abdul Malik, 1999**; **Nilmani Phookan (Jr), 2002**; **Nagen Saikia, 2019**. **Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya was not elected a Fellow.**
- **Posthumous winners** (marked * in the Akademi list): B. K. Barua (1964), Devendra Nath Acharya (1984), K. K. Handiqui (1985), Sneha Devi (1990), Kabin Phukan (2011).

Sahitya Akademi Award winners in Assamese, 1955-2025 (titles as in the Akademi's list; common spellings in brackets)

Year	Book	Author	Genre
1955	Bana Phul	Jatindranath Duwara (Dowerah)	Poetry
1960	Kangrechar Kachiyali Ra'dat	Benudhar Sarma	Reminiscences
1961	Iyaruingam	Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya	Novel
1964	Asamar Lok-Sanskriti	Birinchi Kumar Barua	Folk culture study
1966	Bedanar Ulka	Ambikagiri Raichoudhury	Poetry
1967	Adhunik Galpa Sahitya	Trailokyanath Goswami	Literary criticism
1968	Alakananda	Nalinibala Devi	Poetry
1969	Manchalekha	Atul Chandra Hazarika	Study of Assamese theatre
1970	Mahatmar Pora Rupkonarloi	Lakshminath Phookan	Reminiscences
1972	Aghari Atmar Kahini	Syed Abdul Malik	Novel
1974	Golam	Saurabh Kumar Chaliha	Short stories
1975	Kaka Deutar Har	Navakanta Barua	Novel
1976	Srinkhal	Bhabendra Nath Saikia	Short stories
1977	Bakul Banar Kavita	Anand Chandra Barua	Poetry
1978	Pita Putra	Homen Borgohain	Novel
1979	Sonali Jahaj	Bhaben Barua	Poetry
1980	Prithibir Asukh	Jogesh Das	Short stories
1981	Kavita	Nilmani Phookan (Jr)	Poetry
1982	Mamare Dhara Tarowal Aru Dukhan Upanyasa	Indira Goswami (Mamoni Raisom Goswami)	Novel
1983	Sudirgha Din Aru Ritu	Nirmalprabha Bordoloi	Poetry
1984	Jangam	Devendra Nath Acharya	Novel
1985	Krishna Kanta Handiqui Rachna-Sambhar	Krishna Kanta Handiqui	Literary criticism
1986	Benudhar Sarma	Tirthanath Sarma	Biography
1987	Aan Ejan	Harekrishna Deka	Poetry
1988	Patal Bhairavi	Lakshmi Nandan Bora	Novel
1989	Asamiya Jatiya Jivanata Mahapurushiya Parampara	Hiren Gohain	Literary criticism
1990	Snehadevir Ekuki Galpa	Sneha Devi	Short stories
1991	Brahmaputra Ityadi Padya	Ajit Barua	Poetry
1992	Shaichar Pathar Manuh	Hiren Bhattacharyya	Poetry

Year	Book	Author	Genre
1993	Mor Je Kiman Hepah	Keshav Mahanta	Poetry
1994	Madhupur Bahudur	Sheelabhadra (Rebati Mohan Dutta Choudhury)	Short stories
1995	Maharathi	Chandra Prasad Saikia	Novel
1996	Abhijatri	Nirupama Borgohain	Novel
1997	Andharat Nijar Mukh	Nagen Saikia	Short stories
1998	Asirbadar Rang	Arun Sarma	Novel
1999	Biponna Samay	Medini Choudhury	Novel
2000	Baghe Tapur Rati	Apurba Sarma	Short stories
2001	Edhani Mahir Hanhi	Mahim Bora	Novel
2002	Mahat Oitiyya	Nalinidhar Bhattacharyya	Criticism
2003	Anek Manuh Anek Thai Aru Nirjanata	Bireswar Barua	Poetry
2004	Manuh Anukule	Hirendra Nath Dutta	Poetry
2005	Mouna Ounth Mukhar Hriday	Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi	Novel
2006	Cheneh Jorir Ganthi	Atulananda Goswami	Short stories
2007	Santanukulanandan	Purabi Bormudoi	Novel
2008	Deou Langkhui	Rita Chowdhury	Novel
2009	Katha Ratnakara	Dhrubajyoti Bora	Novel
2010	Asomiya Ramayani Sahitya: Kathabostur Atiguri	Keshada Mahanta	Criticism
2011	Ei Anuragi Ei Udasi	Kabin Phukan	Poetry
2012	Patkair Ipare Mor Desh	Chandana Goswami	Novel
2013	Dhuliyori Bharir Sans	Rabindra Sarkar	Poetry (declared Jan 2014)
2014	Mariam Astin Athaba Hira Barua	Arupa Patangia Kalita	Short stories
2015	Akashar Chhabi Aru Anyanya Galpa	Kula Saikia	Short stories
2016	Meghmalar Bhraman	Jnan Pujari	Poetry
2017	Moriahola	Jayanta Madhab Bora	Novel
2018	Kailoir Dinto Amar Hobo	Sananta Tanti	Poetry
2019	Chanakya	Joysree Goswami Mahanta	Novel
2020	Bengsata	Apurba Kumar Saikia	Short stories
2021	Iyat Ekhan Aaronya Asil	Anuradha Sarma Pujari	Novel
2022	Bhool Satya	Manoj Kumar Goswami	Short stories
2023	Dr. Pranavjyoti Dekar Srestha Galpa	Pranavjyoti Deka	Short stories
2024	Pharingbore Bator Katha Jane	Sameer Tanti	Poetry
2025	Karhi Khelar Sadhu	Devabrat Das	Novel

⚠ **EXAM TRAP**

- **2013 is not a "no award" year for Assamese.** The 2013 Assamese award was held back in Dec 2013. It was declared in Jan 2014 for **Rabindra Sarkar** (*Dhuliyori Bharir Sans*) and presented on 11 Mar 2014. Many lists still print 2013 as a no-award year.
- **Novel-to-person pairs: Abhijatri** (Nirupama Borgohain) is based on **Chandraprabha Saikiani** (asked in CCE 2020). **Aghari Atmar Kahini** ("Tale of a Nomadic Soul") is by **Syed Abdul Malik** (asked in CCE 2020).
- **Sananta Tanti (2018) and Sameer Tanti (2024)** are two different poets; do not merge them.

✦ VALUE ADDITION

- **Books on Assam, asked often:** *A Comprehensive History of Assam* (S. L. Baruah); *The Comprehensive History of Assam* (H. K. Barpujari, ed.); *The Quest for Modern Assam* (Arupjyoti Saikia); *Justice for the Judge* (Ranjan Gogoi).
- **Brahmaputra books:** *The Brahmaputra* (Arup Kumar Dutta), *The Unquiet River* (Arupjyoti Saikia), *The Braided River* (Samrat Choudhury).
- **Northeast politics:** *India Against Itself* (Sanjib Baruah), *Burden of History* (Udayon Misra), *Writing on the Wall* (Sanjoy Hazarika), *Confronting the State* (Nani Gopal Mahanta).

✎ MEMORY HOOK

Jnanpith from Assam = "B-I-N" (79-00-21): Birendra (1979), **I**ndira (2000), **N**ilmani (announced 2021). Each one won the Sahitya Akademi first: 1961, 1982 and 1981.

↻ QUICK REVISION · *the night-before-the-exam list*

01 Earliest known Assamese poem: **Prahlad Charit** by **Hema Saraswati** (Kamata king Durlabhnarayan).

02 **Saptakanda Ramayana**: **Madhav Kandali**, under the **Barahi king Mahamanikya** (14th century).

03 **Kirtan Ghosha** is Sankardeva's; **Naam Ghosha** is Madhavdeva's; **Bhattadeva** is the father of Assamese prose (Katha Bhagavat, Katha Gita).

04 First grammar: **Robinson 1839**; Brown's Grammatical Notices **1848**; Bronson's dictionary **1867**; Hemkosh **1900**.

05 **Orunodoi**: Jan 1846, Sivasagar, Baptist Mission, editor Nathan Brown.

06 Bengali imposed **1836**; Assamese restored **1873**.

07 **Jonaki 1889**, Calcutta, first editor **Chandra Kumar Agarwala**; Bezbaroa's Seuti was the first short story and Hemchandra Goswami's Priyatamar Chithi the first sonnet.

08 **Kanchan Baruah = Bhubanmohan Baruah**; **Kripabar Barbarua = Bezbaroa**; **Sheelabhadra = Rebati Mohan Dutta Choudhury**.

09 Rasaraj/Sahityarathi = Bezbaroa; Rupkonwar = Jyoti Prasad; Kalaguru = Bishnu Rabha; Sudhakantha = Bhupen Hazarika.

10 **Asom Sahitya Sabha**: Dec 1917, Sivasagar, first president Padmanath Gohain Baruah, HQ Jorhat; first woman president Nalini Bala Devi (1955).

11 Classical status: Cabinet, **3 Oct 2024** (5 languages, total 11); Centre of Excellence at **Tezpur University** (Oct 2026).

12 Jnanpith: **Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya 1979 (Mrityunjay)**, **Indira Goswami 2000**, **Nilmani Phookan (56th, announced Dec 2021)**.

13 First Assamese Sahitya Akademi Award: **Jatindranath Duwara, Bana Phul (1955)**. Latest: **2024 Sameer Tanti**, **2025 Devabrat Das (Karhi Khelar Sadhu)**.

14 Sahitya Akademi Fellows from Assam: **Nilmoni Phukan Sr (1973), Syed Abdul Malik (1999), Nilmani Phookan Jr (2002), Nagen Saikia (2019)**.

15 No Assamese award in 1956-59, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1971, 1973; **2013 was awarded** (Rabindra Sarkar).

Practice MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Orunodoi, the first Assamese periodical, was published from Sivasagar by American Baptist missionaries in 1846.
2. Miles Bronson's Assamese-English dictionary was published before Nathan Brown's Grammatical Notices of the Asamese Language.
3. Assamese was restored as the language of courts and schools in the Brahmaputra Valley in 1873.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 and 2 only **(B)** 1 and 3 only

(C) 2 and 3 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Q2. Match List I (sobriquet) with List II (personality):

List I	List II
a. Rasaraj	**1.** Bishnu Prasad Rabha
b. Kalaguru	**2.** Lakshminath Bezbaroa
c. Rupkonwar	**3.** Bhupen Hazarika
d. Sudhakantha	**4.** Jyoti Prasad Agarwala

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(A) a-2, b-4, c-1, d-3 **(B)** a-4, b-1, c-2, d-3
(C) a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4 **(D)** a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3

Q3. Arrange the following in chronological order of publication:

1. Hemkosh
2. Orunodoi (first issue)
3. A Dictionary in Assamese and English (Bronson)
4. Asamiya Byakaran (Hemchandra Barua)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(A) 2-4-3-1 **(B)** 4-2-3-1
(C) 2-3-4-1 **(D)** 2-4-1-3

Q4. With reference to the Jnanpith Award winners from Assam, consider the following statements:

1. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya, the first Assamese laureate, was honoured for his novel Mrityunjay.
2. Indira Goswami received the Jnanpith Award before she received the Sahitya Akademi Award.
3. Nilmani Phookan, the third Assamese laureate, had earlier been elected a Fellow of the Sahitya Akademi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding classical language status:

1. Assamese was one of five languages approved for classical status by the Union Cabinet on 3 October 2024.
2. Before 2024, Odia was the last language to be given classical status.
3. The Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Assamese approved in 2026 is located at Gauhati University.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 and 2 only **(B)** 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Q6. Who among the following is regarded as the "father of Assamese prose"?

(A) Madhavdeva **(B)** Bhattadeva
(C) Madhav Kandali **(D)** Ram Saraswati

Q7. Which Assamese writer received the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025, announced in March 2026?

(A) Sameer Tanti for Pharingbore Bator Katha Jane
(B) Pranavjyoti Deka for a short-story collection
(C) Manoj Kumar Goswami for Bhool Satya
(D) Devabrat Das for Karhi Khelar Sadhu

Q8. Consider the following statements:

1. Jonaki was published from Calcutta in 1889 and its first editor was Chandra Kumar Agarwala.
2. The first session of the Asom Sahitya Sabha, held at Sivasagar in 1917, was presided over by Lakshminath Bezbaroa.
3. Nalini Bala Devi was the first woman president of the Asom Sahitya Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Answers & Explanations

Q	Ans	Explanation
Q1	(B)	Orunodoi began in Jan 1846 at Sivasagar, and Assamese was restored in 1873. Statement 2 reverses the order: Brown's Grammatical Notices came in 1848 and Bronson's dictionary in 1867.
Q2	(D)	Bezbaroa is Rasaraj (king of humour), Bishnu Prasad Rabha is Kalaguru, Jyoti Prasad Agarwala is Rupkonwar and Bhupen Hazarika is Sudhakantha. Option A swaps Rabha and Jyoti Prasad, and option C swaps Jyoti Prasad and Bhupen Hazarika.
Q3	(A)	Orunodoi came in 1846, Asamiya Byakaran in 1859, Bronson's dictionary in 1867 and Hemkosh in 1900, after Hemchandra Barua's death in 1896.
Q4	(C)	Bhattacharya's 1979 Jnanpith was for Mrityunjay, and Phookan became a Sahitya Akademi Fellow in 2002, long before his 2021 Jnanpith. Statement 2 is wrong: Indira Goswami won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1982 and the Jnanpith for 2000.
Q5	(A)	Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali were approved on 3 Oct 2024, and Odia had received the status in 2014. The Centre of Excellence approved in Oct 2026 is at Tezpur University, not Gauhati University.
Q6	(B)	Bhattadeva (1558–1638) wrote Katha Bhagavat and Katha Gita in Assamese prose. Madhavdeva wrote Naam Ghosha in verse. Madhav Kandali and Ram Saraswati were poets who rendered the epics.
Q7	(D)	Devabrat Das won the 2025 award for the novel Karhi Khelar Sadhu, announced on 16 Mar 2026. Sameer Tanti won in 2024, Pranavjyoti Deka in 2023 and Manoj Kumar Goswami in 2022.
Q8	(C)	Jonaki began in Calcutta in 1889 under Chandra Kumar Agarwala, and Nalini Bala Devi presided over the 1955 Jorhat session as the first woman president. Padmanath Gohain Baruah, not Bezbaroa, presided over the first session in 1917.

CHAPTER 05 · INDIAN POLITY (GENERAL STUDIES)

Fundamental Rights (Part III)

8	3 of 5	2020 · 2022 · 2024
questions asked in APSC Prelims, 2020–2025	papers in which this chapter appeared	years asked

WHY THIS CHAPTER MATTERS

Polity is the No. 1 subject in APSC Prelims (57 of 500 questions, 2020–2025), and Fundamental Rights alone gave 8 of them. APSC repeats here: "rights only for citizens" came in 2020 and again in 2022, and two writ questions came in the same 2022 paper.

IN THIS CHAPTER

- ✓ All Articles of Part III in one table, with the amendments APSC loves
- ✓ Which rights are for citizens only and which are for every person
- ✓ Article 21 and the cases that expanded it
- ✓ The five writs, and Article 32 vs 226
- ✓ Emergency (Arts 358–359) and the story of the right to property

1. Fundamental Rights at a Glance

Part III (Articles 12–35) is called the **Magna Carta of India**. The idea of a written, court-enforceable list of rights comes mainly from the **US Bill of Rights**.

- **Justiciable:** a violation can be taken straight to the **Supreme Court (Art 32)** or a **High Court (Art 226)**.
- **Not absolute:** most rights carry **reasonable restrictions**; Parliament can amend them but not the **basic structure** (Kesavananda Bharati, 1973).
- **7 categories became 6:** the **44th Amendment (1978)** removed the **right to property**.

The six categories

Category	Articles
Right to Equality	14–18
Right to Freedom	19–22
Right against Exploitation	23–24
Right to Freedom of Religion	25–28
Cultural and Educational Rights	29–30
Right to Constitutional Remedies	32 ("heart and soul" of the Constitution: Dr B.R. Ambedkar)

Part III, article by article

Article	Subject	Key point for Prelims
12	Definition of "State"	Union and State governments and legislatures, local and other authorities
13	Laws inconsistent with FRs are void	Basis of judicial review; 13(4) by 24th Amdt (1971)
14	Equality before law, equal protection	Any person
15	No discrimination: religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth	Citizens only; 15(3), 15(4), 15(5), 15(6)
16	Equality in public employment	Citizens only; 16(4) reservation; 16(6) EWS

Article	Subject	Key point for Prelims
17	Untouchability abolished	Its practice is an offence
18	Titles abolished	Military and academic distinctions allowed
19	Six freedoms	Citizens only; 19(1)(f) deleted
20	Protection in conviction	Ex post facto, double jeopardy, self-incrimination
21	Life and personal liberty	"Procedure established by law"
21A	Education, age 6-14	86th Amdt (2002)
22	Arrest and detention	24-hour rule; preventive detention
23	Trafficking, begar, forced labour	Compulsory public service allowed
24	Child labour	Below 14 in factory, mine, hazardous work
25	Conscience; profess, practise, propagate religion	All persons
26	Manage religious affairs	Religious denominations
27	No tax to promote a religion	Tax, not fee
28	Religious instruction	Barred in wholly State-funded institutions
29	Language, script, culture	Any section of citizens
30	Minority educational institutions	Religious and linguistic minorities
31	Compulsory acquisition of property	Omitted by 44th Amdt
31A, 31B, 31C	Saving of certain laws	Land reform, Ninth Schedule, DPSP laws
32	Writs by the Supreme Court	Itself a Fundamental Right
33	Armed forces etc.	Parliament may restrict their FRs
34	Martial law	Parliament may indemnify acts
35	Laws to give effect to Part III	Parliament only

2. Articles 12 and 13

- **Art 12, "State":** the **Government and Parliament of India**, the **Government and Legislature of each State**, and **all local or other authorities** in India or under Government of India control. Courts read "other authorities" to include government-controlled bodies such as **LIC and ONGC**.
- **Art 13(1)-(2):** laws that take away or abridge FRs are **void to the extent of inconsistency**: the textual base of **judicial review**.
- **Art 13(3)(a), "law":** includes an **Ordinance, order, bye-law, rule, regulation, notification, custom or usage**.
- **Art 13(4):** a **constitutional amendment under Art 368 is not "law"** for Art 13. Added by the **24th Amendment (1971)** to undo **Golaknath (1967)**.

3. Citizens Only vs Every Person

- **Who gets which right (a repeat PYQ)**

Only citizens	All persons (citizens and foreigners)
Art 15: no discrimination	Art 14: equality before law
Art 16: public employment	Art 20: protection in conviction
Art 19: six freedoms	Arts 21 and 21A: life, liberty, education
Art 29: language, script, culture	Art 22: arrest (not enemy aliens)

Only citizens	All persons (citizens and foreigners)
Art 30: minority institutions	Arts 23-28: exploitation, religion

MEMORY HOOK

Citizens only = **15, 16, 19, 29, 30**: two pairs with a bridge, **15-16** ... **19** ... **29-30**. Everything else in Part III is for every person.

★ ASKED IN APSC CCE 2022

Which of the following Fundamental Rights are available only to the citizens of India?

(i) Right to equal opportunity in the matter of public employment
(ii) Equality before law
(iii) Right to freedom of religion
(iv) Right to freedom under Article 19

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(A) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) **(B)** Only (i) and (iv)
(C) Only (i), (ii) and (iii) **(D)** Only (ii) and (iv)

✓ Answer: (B) Only (i) and (iv)

Why: Art 16 and Art 19 are for citizens only. Art 14 says "any person" and Art 25 says "all persons". The same question came in APSC CCE 2020.

4. Right to Equality (Articles 14-18)

Articles 14 and 15

- **Art 14: equality before law** (British idea) and **equal protection of the laws** (American idea). Permits **reasonable classification**, not class legislation.
- **15(1):** no discrimination against citizens only on **religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth**. ("Descent" and "residence" appear only in **16(2)**.)
- **15(2):** no bar on access to **shops, restaurants, hotels, wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads**; binds **private persons** too.
- **15(3):** special provisions for **women and children**.
- **15(4):** for **socially and educationally backward classes, SCs, STs**: **1st Amendment (1951)**, after *Champakam Dorairajan* (1951).
- **15(5):** reservation in **admission, including private aided and unaided institutions**, but **not minority institutions**: **93rd Amendment (2005)**.
- **15(6): EWS** provisions, up to **10% seats** in education: **103rd Amendment (2019)**.

Article 16

- **16(1)-(2):** equal opportunity in **public employment**; no discrimination on **religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence**.
- **16(3): only Parliament** may make **residence** a job condition.
- **16(4): reservation of posts for backward classes** not adequately represented.
- **16(4A): promotion quota for SCs and STs** (**77th Amdt, 1995**); "consequential seniority" by the **85th Amdt (2001)**.
- **16(4B): carry forward** of unfilled reserved vacancies outside that year's **50% ceiling** (**81st Amdt, 2000**).
- **16(5):** posts in religious institutions may be kept for that religion.

- **16(6):** up to **10% EWS reservation in posts** (**103rd Amdt, 2019**).

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2022**

Which of the following Articles of the Indian Constitution enables the State to make provision for reservation in public employment in favour of backward classes?

(A) 16 (1) **(B)** 16 (2)
(C) 16 (3) **(D)** 16 (4)

✓ **Answer: (D) 16 (4)**

Why: Art 16(4) allows reservation of posts for backward classes not adequately represented in State services. 16(1) is general equality, 16(2) bars discrimination, 16(3) covers residence. APSC CCE 2020 asked the parent article (Art 16).

⚠ **EXAM TRAP: EWS AND THE 50% CEILING**

- **Indra Sawhney (1992)** struck down a **10% economic quota** created by an executive order of 1991.
- The idea returned through the **103rd Amendment (2019)**. In **Janhit Abhiyan (7 Nov 2022)** a 5-judge bench upheld it **3:2**: the 50% ceiling is not inflexible and governs backward-class quotas. CJI U.U. Lalit and Justice S. Ravindra Bhat dissented.

Articles 17 and 18

- **Art 17:** "untouchability" abolished; its practice **in any form** is an **offence**. The term is not defined. Law: **Protection of Civil Rights Act** (the 1955 Untouchability (Offences) Act, renamed 1976).
- **Art 18(1):** no State titles **except military or academic distinctions**. **18(2):** no **citizen** may accept a foreign title. **18(3)-(4):** a **non-citizen in an office of profit or trust** needs the **President's consent** for a foreign title; any such office-holder needs it for foreign presents or office.
- **Balaji Raghavan (1995): Bharat Ratna and Padma awards are not "titles"**, but cannot be used as prefixes or suffixes.

5. Right to Freedom (Articles 19-22)

Article 19 (citizens only)

- **Art 19(1) freedoms and grounds of restriction**

Freedom	Restriction grounds
(a) Speech and expression	19(2): sovereignty and integrity, security of State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, incitement to an offence
(b) Assemble peaceably, without arms	19(3): sovereignty and integrity, public order
(c) Associations, unions, co-operative societies	19(4): sovereignty and integrity, public order, morality
(d) Move freely, (e) reside and settle	19(5): general public, protection of Scheduled Tribes
(g) Profession, trade, business	19(6): general public; qualifications; State monopoly

- **19(1)(f) property** was **deleted by the 44th Amendment (1978)**, so the list jumps from (e) to (g).
- **"Co-operative societies": 97th Amendment (2011)**. **"Sovereignty and integrity": 16th Amendment (1963)**.
- Read into 19(1)(a): **press freedom** and **right to information**. *Shreya Singhal* (2015) struck down **Section 66A of the IT Act**.

- The **protection of Scheduled Tribes** ground in 19(5) lets the State restrict outsiders' movement and settlement in tribal areas, a point that matters in the **North-East**.

Article 20

- **20(1) No ex post facto criminal law:** no conviction for an act not an offence when done; no **greater** penalty than the law then allowed. Only for **criminal** law, not civil or tax law.
- **20(2) No double jeopardy:** no one **prosecuted and punished** twice for the same offence; applies to courts, not departmental proceedings.
- **20(3) No self-incrimination:** an accused cannot be **compelled to be a witness against himself**. *Selvi* (2010): **narco-analysis, polygraph, brain-mapping without consent** violate it.

Article 21: the expanding right

- **A.K. Gopalan (1950):** "procedure established by law" read narrowly.
- **Maneka Gandhi (1978):** procedure must be **"just, fair and reasonable"**; Arts **14, 19, 21** read together (due process in effect).
- Read into Art 21: **livelihood** (*Olga Tellis*, 1985), **speedy trial** (*Hussainara Khatoon*, 1979), **education** (*Unni Krishnan*, 1993), **privacy** (*Puttaswamy*, 2017), **dignified death / living will** (*Common Cause*, 2018), **clean environment**, **digital access** (30 Apr 2025).

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2024**

The Supreme Court of India has placed the Right to Privacy under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India?

(A) Article 15 **(B)** Article 16
(C) Article 19 **(D)** Article 21

✓ **Answer: (D) Article 21**

Why: In *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (24 Aug 2017) a unanimous 9-judge bench held privacy a Fundamental Right, mainly under life and personal liberty (Art 21), overruling M.P. Sharma (1954) and Kharak Singh (1962) on this point.

Articles 21A and 22

- **Art 21A: free and compulsory education, age 6-14**: **86th Amendment (2002)**, in force with the **RTE Act, 2009** from **1 Apr 2010**. The same amendment rewrote **Art 45** and added Fundamental Duty **51A(k)**.
- **22(1)-(2):** grounds of arrest, **lawyer of choice**, production before the **nearest magistrate within 24 hours** (journey time excluded).
- **22(3):** these do **not apply** to an **enemy alien** or a **preventive detainee**.
- **22(4)-(7):** preventive detention beyond **3 months** needs an **Advisory Board** report; grounds must be communicated, but facts against public interest may be withheld.

⚠ **EXAM TRAP: 3 MONTHS OR 2 MONTHS?**

The **44th Amendment (1978)** cut the Advisory Board limit to **2 months**, but that section **has never been brought into force**. The official text still says **three months**.

6. Right against Exploitation (Articles 23-24)

- **Art 23:** bans **human trafficking, begar** (unpaid forced labour) and similar **forced labour**; the State may impose **compulsory public service** without discrimination on religion, race, caste or class.
- **Art 24:** no child **below 14** in a **factory, mine or hazardous employment**.

7. Freedom of Religion (Articles 25-28)

- **Art 25: all persons** may **profess, practise and propagate** religion, subject to **public order, morality and health**. **Explanation I:** carrying a **kirpan** is part of Sikh religion. **Explanation II:** "Hindus" includes **Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists**.
- **Art 26: religious denominations** may run institutions, manage religious affairs, and own property.
- **Art 27:** no compulsory **tax** to promote a religion (a **fee** is allowed).
- **Art 28:** religious instruction **banned** in **wholly State-funded** institutions; **allowed** in State-administered ones set up under such a trust; **voluntary** in State-recognised or aided ones.

8. Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29-30)

- **Art 29(1): any section of citizens** with a distinct **language, script or culture** may conserve it. **29(2):** no denial of admission to State or aided institutions on **religion, race, caste, language**.
- **Art 30(1): religious and linguistic minorities** may establish and administer educational institutions. **30(1A)** (44th Amdt): fair amount on acquisition of their property. **30(2):** no discrimination in aid.

9. Right to Property: Fundamental to Legal Right

1950	Property a Fundamental Right: Art 19(1)(f) and Art 31
1951	1st Amendment: Art 31A, 31B and the Ninth Schedule
1971	25th Amendment: Art 31C protects laws for Art 39(b)-(c)
1978	44th Amendment deletes Art 19(1)(f) and 31; inserts Art 300A (in force 20 Jun 1979)
2007	I.R. Coelho: Ninth Schedule laws added after 24 Apr 1973 open to basic-structure review

- **Art 300A** (Part XII): no one deprived of property **"save by authority of law"**. A **constitutional (legal) right**, not a Fundamental Right, so **Art 32 is not available**; the remedy is the **High Court (Art 226)** or a suit.

10. Article 32 and the Writs

- **Art 32** guarantees the right to move the **Supreme Court**; it is part of the **basic structure**. **32(2)** names five writs; **32(3)** lets Parliament give writ power to other courts; **32(4)** no suspension **except as the Constitution provides**.

- **The five writs**

Writ (meaning)	Purpose	Against whom / when
Habeas corpus ("to have the body of")	Test legality of a detention	Public authorities AND private persons; not if detention is lawful or by a court
Mandamus ("we command")	Compel a public duty	Officials, public bodies, tribunals, lower courts; NOT President, Governors, private persons
Prohibition ("to forbid")	Stop a lower court exceeding jurisdiction	Judicial and quasi-judicial bodies only; preventive
Certiorari ("to be certified")	Transfer a pending case or quash an order	Judicial, quasi-judicial, and administrative bodies affecting rights; preventive and curative
Quo warranto ("by what authority")	Test a claim to a public office	Substantive public office created by statute or Constitution; any interested person may apply

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2022**

A writ issued by a court to some inferior authority to transfer the matter to it for its proper consideration is called

(A) mandamus
(B) quo warranto
(C) certiorari
(D) prohibition

✓ **Answer: (C) certiorari**

Why: Certiorari lets a higher court call up a case from a lower body or quash its order. Prohibition only stops the lower body; it never transfers the case.

★ **ASKED IN APSC CCE 2022**

Which of the following is a necessary condition for the issue of a writ of quo warranto?

(A) To secure the release of a person who has been imprisoned by a court of law on a criminal charge
(B) To direct a public officer or the government not to enforce a law which is unconstitutional
(C) Both (A) and (B)
(D) The office must be public and it must be created by a statute or by the Constitution itself

✓ **Answer: (D) The office must be public and it must be created by a statute or by the Constitution itself**

Why: Quo warranto tests a person's right to a substantive public office created by law. (A) describes habeas corpus, which does not lie against lawful detention by a court; (B) is closer to prohibition or mandamus.

✎ **MEMORY HOOK**

Prohibition = **P**revent (before the order). **C**ertiorari = **C**ure (quash an order, or call up a pending case). **Q**uo warranto **Q**uestions the title to office.

- **Article 32 vs Article 226**

Point	Art 32 (Supreme Court)	Art 226 (High Court)
Purpose	Only Fundamental Rights	FRs "and for any other purpose", so wider
Nature	Itself a Fundamental Right	Not a Fundamental Right; discretionary
Territory	Whole of India	Own territory; beyond it if the cause of action arises within (226(2))

11. Articles 33-35

- **Art 33: Parliament alone** may restrict FRs of **armed forces, police forces, intelligence staff** and their telecom staff (**50th Amdt, 1984**).
- **Art 34:** Parliament may **indemnify** acts done under **martial law** (a term not defined in the Constitution).
- **Art 35:** laws under 16(3), 32(3), 33, 34 and punishments for Part III offences: **Parliament only**.

12. Fundamental Rights during National Emergency

- **Article 358 vs Article 359**

Point	Art 358	Art 359
Effect	Art 19 itself suspended	Right to move courts for named FRs suspended
How	Automatic	Presidential order
Ground	Only war or external aggression	Any National Emergency
Limit	Only Art 19	Never Arts 20 and 21

- Both limits came from the **44th Amendment (1978)**, a lesson of the 1975–77 Emergency and *ADM Jabalpur* (1976), which *Puttaswamy* (2017) overruled.

⚠ **EXAM TRAP: RIGHTS THAT BIND PRIVATE PERSONS**

Most FRs restrain only the State, but **Arts 15(2), 17, 23 and 24** apply against private individuals too, and **habeas corpus** lies against private persons.

13. Landmark Cases

Case (year)	One-line holding
Golaknath (1967)	11 judges, 6:5: Parliament cannot amend FRs
Kesavananda Bharati (1973)	13 judges, 7:6: FRs amendable, basic structure not; Golaknath overruled
Maneka Gandhi (1978)	Art 21 procedure must be just, fair and reasonable
Indra Sawhney (1992)	9 judges: 27% OBC quota upheld; creamy layer out; 50% ceiling; no promotion quota
Puttaswamy (2017)	9 judges, unanimous: privacy is a Fundamental Right
Navtej Singh Johar (2018)	5 judges: Section 377 IPC read down; consensual adult same-sex acts decriminalised
Janhit Abhiyan (2022)	5 judges, 3:2: 10% EWS quota (103rd Amdt) upheld

✦ **VALUE ADDITION**

- **Human rights chronology** (APSC CCE 2022): Magna Carta 1215, French Revolution 1789, UDHR 1948, ICCPR 1966.
- APSC CCE 2023 asked on **Art 226** ("any other purpose", 226(2)); CCE 2020 asked why FRs cannot be repealed (**basic structure**).

↻ **LATEST UPDATE (2024-26)**

- **1 Aug 2024:** 7-judge bench (6:1) in *State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh* allowed **sub-classification of SCs and STs**, overruling E.V. Chinnaiah (2004).
- **8 Nov 2024:** 7-judge bench (4:3) in the **AMU case** overruled *Azeez Basha* (1967) on **minority status under Art 30**.
- **30 Apr 2025:** SC held **digital access** part of **Art 21**.
- **Nov 2025: DPDP Rules, 2025** notified under the DPDP Act, 2023.

↻ QUICK REVISION · *the night-before-the-exam list*

01 Part III = Arts 12–35; inspired by the **US Bill of Rights**; **6 categories** now.
02 Art 13 = judicial review; 13(4) by **24th Amdt (1971)**.
03 Citizens only: **15, 16, 19, 29, 30**.
04 15(4) **1st Amdt**; 15(5) **93rd**; 15(6) and 16(6) EWS **103rd (2019)**, upheld 3:2 in **Janhit Abhiyan (2022)**.
05 16(4A) promotion **77th (1995)**; 16(4B) carry forward **81st (2000)**.
06 "Descent" and "residence" are in 16(2), not 15(1).
07 Art 18 allows **military and academic** distinctions only.
08 Art 19: **six** freedoms; (f) deleted by **44th**; co-operatives by **97th**.
09 Arts **20 and 21** cannot be suspended in an emergency.
10 Art 21: **Maneka Gandhi 1978**, **Puttaswamy 2017** (privacy).
11 Art 21A: **6-14 years**, **86th Amdt 2002**, in force 1 Apr 2010.
12 Art 22: magistrate in **24 hours**; Advisory Board after **3 months**.
13 Certiorari transfers or quashes; prohibition only prevents.
14 Art 358: only war or external aggression; Art 359: Presidential order.

Practice MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements about Article 15(5) of the Constitution of India:

1. It was inserted by the Constitution (Ninety-third Amendment) Act, 2005.
2. It enables special provisions for admission of backward classes, SCs and STs in all private educational institutions, including minority institutions referred to in Article 30(1).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only **(B)** 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2 **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. With reference to Article 22 of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. The safeguards of Article 22(1) and 22(2) are not available to an enemy alien.
2. Under the text now in force, preventive detention beyond three months needs a report of an Advisory Board.
3. An arrested person must be produced before the nearest magistrate within 24 hours, with the journey time counted within these 24 hours.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A) 1 and 3 only **(B)** 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only **(D)** 1, 2 and 3

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Fundamental Rights during a National Emergency:

1. Article 19 is automatically suspended under Article 358 only when the Emergency is proclaimed on the ground of war or external aggression.
2. Under Article 359, the President may suspend the right to move courts for the enforcement of Article 21.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) Both 1 and 2 **(B)** 2 only
(C) 1 only **(D)** Neither 1 nor 2

Q4. Match List I (Writ) with List II (Literal meaning):

List I	List II
A. Habeas corpus	**1.** We command
B. Mandamus	**2.** To have the body of
C. Quo warranto	**3.** To be certified or informed
D. Certiorari	**4.** By what authority or warrant

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(A) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4 **(B)** A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4
(C) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3 **(D)** A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3

Q5. Arrange the following Supreme Court judgments in chronological order:

1. Indra Sawhney v. Union of India
2. I.C. Golaknath v. State of Punjab
3. Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India
4. Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(A) 2, 1, 4, 3 **(B)** 2, 4, 1, 3
(C) 4, 2, 1, 3 **(D)** 2, 4, 3, 1

Q6. The Right to Education under Article 21A was inserted in the Constitution of India by which Amendment?

(A) 73rd Amendment **(B)** 93rd Amendment
(C) 86th Amendment **(D)** 97th Amendment

Q7. Which one of the following Fundamental Rights is available to a foreign national living in India?

(A) Freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practise and propagate religion
(B) Freedom to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India
(C) Protection against discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth
(D) Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions

Q8. With reference to Article 18 of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. The State is barred from conferring military and academic distinctions.
2. A citizen of India shall not accept any title from a foreign State.
3. A person who is not a citizen of India, while holding an office of profit under the State, cannot accept a title from a foreign State without the consent of the President.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 2 and 3 only

Answers & Explanations

Q	Ans	Explanation
Q1	(A)	Article 15(5) came through the 93rd Amendment. It covers private aided and unaided institutions but expressly excludes minority institutions under Article 30(1).
Q2	(B)	Article 22(3) excludes enemy aliens. The 44th Amendment's two-month rule is not in force, so three months applies. Journey time is excluded from the 24 hours, so statement 3 is wrong.
Q3	(C)	Since the 44th Amendment, Article 358 does not apply to an Emergency on the ground of armed rebellion. The same amendment bars suspension of the enforcement of Articles 20 and 21.
Q4	(D)	Habeas corpus = "to have the body of"; mandamus = "we command"; quo warranto = "by what authority"; certiorari = "to be certified". Option (B) swaps the last two, a common trap.
Q5	(B)	Golaknath (1967), Maneka Gandhi (1978), Indra Sawhney (1992), Puttaswamy (2017).
Q6	(C)	The 86th Amendment (2002) inserted Article 21A, rewrote Article 45 and added Fundamental Duty 51A(k). The 93rd inserted Article 15(5); the 97th concerns co-operative societies.
Q7	(A)	Article 25 is for "all persons". Articles 19, 15 and 30 (options B, C, D) are for citizens only.
Q8	(D)	Article 18(1) expressly exempts military and academic distinctions, so statement 1 is wrong. Statements 2 and 3 restate Articles 18(2) and 18(3).

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