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**By Subhojit Sir**

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## **CAREER FLITE**<sup>®</sup>

### 1. GUWAHATI METRO SERVICES

#### WHY IN NEWS?

**“Guwahati Not Feasible For Metro Rail Project, Yet There Are Plans...” Says CM**

**SOURCE:** PRATIDINTIME AUG.4 2023 {UPDATED REPORT AUG .31,2023}

#### POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. Earlier in the month of January 2016, Guwahati Metro Phase 1 project's Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared by **Rail India Technical and Economic Service Limited (RITES)**
2. Guwahati Metro is a 61.40 km urban **Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS)** with 4 lines and 54 stations proposed to be built in Guwahati, Assam.
3. **REMEMBER: METRO PROJECTS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CONCERNED STATE GOVERNMENTS AND THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT ON A COST-SHARING BASIS**
4. **INDIAN RAILWAYS DO NOT EXECUTE METRO RAIL PROJECTS.**

### TOPIC 2: POACHING OF RHINOS IN NEWS

# “3 arrested for rhino poaching in Manas National Park

”

## **SOURCE: THE SHILLONG TIMES {AUGUST 14,2023}**

The **Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV2020) program** has come to a close with the recent translocation of two rhinos to Manas National Park in Assam.

- It was the eighth round of rhino translocation under IRV2020.

### Key Points

- **About Indian Rhino Vision 2020:**
  - **Launched in 2005**, Indian Rhino Vision 2020 was an ambitious effort **to attain a wild population of at least 3,000 greater one-horned rhinos** spread over seven protected areas in the Indian state of Assam by the year 2020.
  - **Seven protected areas** are **Kaziranga, Pobitora, Orang National Park, Manas National Park, Laokhowa wildlife sanctuary, Burachapori wildlife sanctuary and Dibru Saikhowa wildlife sanctuary.**
  - **Wild-to-wild translocations** were an essential part of IRV2020 – moving rhinos from densely populated parks like Kaziranga NP, to ones in need of more rhinos, like Manas NP.
  - It is a **collaborative effort** between various organisations, including the International Rhino Foundation, Assam’s Forest Department, Bodoland Territorial Council, World Wide Fund - India, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **Performance of the Program:**
  - **Target of attaining a population of 3,000 rhinos almost achieved** but the **animal could be reintroduced in only one of the four protected areas planned.**
    - The plan to spread the Greater one-horned rhino across four protected areas beyond Kaziranga National Park, Orang National Park and Pobitora could not materialise.
  - The translocated rhinos helped **Manas National Park get back its World Heritage Site status in 2011.**
  - **2018 and 2019 saw significant decreases in poaching**, the results of forestry, local and national government officials coordinating efforts to combat wildlife crime across Assam.
- **About Greater One-Horned Rhino:**
  - There are **three species of rhino in Asia** — Greater one-horned (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Javan and Sumatran.
  - **Poaching for the horns and habitat loss** are the two greatest threats to the survival of Asia's rhinos.
  - The **five rhino range nations** (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia) have signed a declaration ‘The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019’ for the conservation and protection of the species.

- **Protection Status:**
  - **Javan and Sumatran Rhino** are **critically endangered** and the **Greater one-horned (or Indian) rhino** is **vulnerable** under the **IUCN Red List**.
  - All three listed under **Appendix I (CITES)**.
  - Greater one-horned rhino is listed under the **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- **Habitat of Greater One-Horned Rhino:**
  - **The species is restricted to small habitats in Indo-Nepal terai and northern West Bengal and Assam.**
  - In India, rhinos are mainly found in **Kaziranga NP**, **Pobitora WLS**, Orang NP, Manas NP in Assam, Jaldapara NP and Gorumara NP in West Bengal and **Dudhwa TR** in Uttar Pradesh.

### **TOPIC 3: BHOOMI SAMMAN AWARD**

1. **DARRANG IS THE ONLY DISTRICT OF ASSAM TO HAVE ACHIEVED BHOOMI SAMMAN AWARD 2023**
2. **WHAT IS BHOOMI SAMMAN AWARD?**
3. The “**Bhoomi Samman**” is a prestigious award scheme launched by the Union **Ministry of Rural Development** to recognize and incentivize the achievements of states and districts in the implementation of the **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)**.
4. The award is presented by the President of India to the **state secretaries and district collectors** along with their teams who have excelled in achieving saturation of the core components of **DILRMP**, such as:
  - a. Computerization of land records
  - b. Digitization of cadastral maps
  - c. Integration of textual and spatial data
  - d. Survey/re-survey using modern technology
  - e. Computerization of registration
  - f. Interoperability between registration and land records

**Note: Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme** (erstwhile National Land Record Modernization Programme) under the Ministry of Rural Development was revamped and converted as a **Central Sector Scheme with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016** with 100% funding by the Centre.

### **TOPIC 4: ASSAM HAS RANKED 21<sup>ST</sup> AMONG 36 STATES AND UTs IN THE NITI AAYOG’S EXPORT PREPAREDNESS INDEX [EPI],2022**

#### **SOURCE: PIB -17<sup>TH</sup> JULY,2023**

Recently, **NITI Aayog** has released the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of **Export Preparedness Index (EPI)** for States/UTs of India for the year 2022.

- The report discusses **India’s export performance amid the prevailing global trade** context in FY22, followed by an overview of the country’s sector-specific export performance.

## What is the Export Preparedness Index?

- **About:**
  - EPI is a comprehensive tool which **measures the export preparedness of the States and UTs in India.**
  - Exports are **vital for simulating economic growth** and development in a country, which necessitates understanding the factors which influence export performance.
  - The index undertakes **a comprehensive analysis of States and UTs across export-related parameters** in order to identify their strengths and weaknesses.
- **Pillars:**
  - **Policy:** A comprehensive trade policy providing a strategic direction for exports and imports.
  - **Business Ecosystem:** An efficient business ecosystem helping states attract investments and create an enabling infrastructure for individuals to initiate start-ups.
  - **Export Ecosystem:** Assess the business environment, which is specific to exports.
  - **Export Performance:** This is the only output-based parameter and examines the reach of export footprints of States and UTs.
- **Sub Pillars:**
  - The index also took into consideration **10 sub-pillars:** Export Promotion Policy; Institutional Framework; Business Environment; Infrastructure; Transport Connectivity; Export Infrastructure; Trade Support; R&D Infrastructure; Export Diversification; and Growth Orientation.
- **Features:** The EPI is a **data-driven effort to identify the core areas crucial for export promotion** at the sub-national level (states and union territories).
- It explores and highlights India's export potential by examining the different contributions made by each state and union territories.

## What are the Key Highlights of the EPI 2022?

- **Performance of States:**
- **Top Performers:**
  - **Tamil Nadu** has topped in EPI 2022, followed by **Maharashtra and Karnataka.**
  - **Gujarat**, which held the top position in **EPI 2021 (released in 2022)** has been **pushed to the fourth slot in EPI 2022.**
  - Tamil Nadu's performance in terms of export performance indicators, including the value of exports, export concentration, and global market footprint, **contributed to its top ranking.**
    - It has been a consistent **leader in sectors such as automotive, leather, textiles,** and electronic goods.
- **Hilly/Himalayan States:**
  - Uttarakhand secured the **top position among hilly/Himalayan states in the EPI 2022.** It is followed by **Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram.**
- **Landlocked Regions:**
  - Haryana topped the **chart among the landlocked regions,** indicating its preparedness for exports.
  - It was followed by **Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.**

- **Union Territories/Small States:**

- Among union territories and small states, Goa ranked first in the EPI 2022.
- Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Ladakh secured the second, third, fourth, and fifth positions, respectively.

### **Key Learnings of the Exports Preparedness Index (EPI)?**

- **Coastal states have fared the best** across all indicators with **six out of the top states** in the index coming from the coastal region of the country.
  - States like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat (all of them performing the best in at least one pillar).
- In terms of strengths, the policy ecosystem is **a positive story with multiple states adopting the necessary policy measures** to drive exports in their states.
  - At the district-level, 73 % of districts in the country have an export action plan and over 99 % are covered **under the 'One District One Product' scheme**.
- States have lagged in terms of transport connectivity. The absence of air connectivity hampers the **movement of goods across regions**, especially in states which are landlocked or geographically disadvantaged.
- The lower performance of the country in terms of **Research and Development (R&D)** indicates the **lack of attention given** to the role of innovation in exports.
- The state government has to both continue and extend its support to the **industries** which are struggling.
  - 26 states in the country have registered a **decrease in the gross value addition** of their manufacturing sector.
  - 10 states have registered a **decrease in the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**.
- The lack of capacity-building workshops for exporters hampers their ability to penetrate the global markets as 25 of 36 states have organized less than 10 workshops across a year.
  - For the effectiveness of existing government schemes to support states, timely approval of projects is a must.
  - NOTE: **COUNTRY'S AVERAGE 46.5**
  - **ASSAM'S SCORE : 43.91 [BELOW THE COUNTRY'S AVERAGE]**

### **TOPIC 5: DESH BHAKTI DIVAS**

- 1. EVERY YEAR ON 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY ASSAM CELEBRATES DESH BHAKTI DIVAS TO MARK THE DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF DESHBHAKTA TARUN RAM PHUKAN {THIS DECISION TO CELEBRATE 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY AS DESHBHAKTI DIVAS WAS TAKEN IN 2021}**

### **ABOUT TARUN RAM PHUKAN**

- Tarun Ram Phukan, son of Balaram Phukan, born in 1877, was a resident of Gauhati town in Kamrup district.
- He was a lecturer at Gauhati Law College, where he was forced to resign when he joined the non-cooperation movement.
- Phukan was an extremist agitator and a blind follower of Gandhi Ji.
- He was the leading organizer of the non-cooperation movement and the Khilafat movement. He was the president of the Gauhati Congress Committee.
- He boycotted the Viceroy's visit to Guwahati in October 1920 and the Governor's visit in April 1921.
- Phukan was arrested on November 30, 1921, along with Bardoli and others, under Section 12 of Act XIV of 1908 and sentenced to one year's simple imprisonment under Section 108 Cr.P.C.

- After his release, he was in close contact with C.R. Das established a branch of the Swaraj Party in Assam.
- Phukan and Bardolai apparently obtained Rs 50,000 at the end of 1921 from the Tilak Swaraj Fund.
- He was one of the leading organizers of the non-cooperation and Khilafat movements in the Assam valley.
- When the Prince of Wales landed in Bombay on November 17, 1921, Phukan organized an almost complete hartal at Gauhati.
- HE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN MAHATMA GANDHI'S VISIT TO ASSAM IN 1921.
- HE ALSO PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE DURING THE INC SESSION AT PANDU IN 1926.
- HE SPLIT AWAY FROM CONGRESS AND FORMED THE ASSAM JAN SANGHA IN 1936

## **TOPIC 6 : HIMALAYAN VULTURES BRED IN CAPTIVITY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN INDIA**

**SOURCE: THE HINDU [AUG 4,2023]**

Why in News?

Recently, the **Assam State Zoo in Guwahati** has achieved a groundbreaking feat by successfully **breeding the elusive Himalayan vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*)** in captivity for the first time in India.

- Additionally, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's decision to prohibit the **manufacture, sale, and distribution of ketoprofen and aceclofenac** has sparked optimism among vulture conservationists and experts.

What are the Key Highlights of the Himalayan Vulture ?

- **Conservation Status:**
  - **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List: Near Threatened.**
  - **CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora): Appendix II.**
- **Distinctive Characteristics:**
  - The Himalayan vulture is one of the **largest Old World vulture species**, boasting an **impressive wingspan and formidable presence**.
  - Its plumage is dominated by **shades of black and brown**, which aid in its **camouflage against the rugged mountain terrain**.
  - The vulture's powerful hooked beak and keen eyesight make it a **proficient scavenger**, playing a crucial role in the ecosystem by cleaning up carrion.
- **Habitat and Range:**
  - The Himalayan vulture is aptly named, as it primarily inhabits the towering **peaks and valleys of the Himalayan mountain range**.
    - It is a common winter migrant to the Indian plains.
  - Its range extends across several countries, **including India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China**, where it thrives in challenging high-altitude environments.
- **Ecological Significance:**
  - As a top predator and scavenger, the Himalayan vulture plays a vital role in maintaining the **health of its habitat by efficiently disposing of animal remains**.
  - Its scavenging behavior helps **prevent the spread of diseases that could arise from decaying carcasses**, thus contributing to the overall balance of the ecosystem.
- **Challenges and Conservation Efforts:**

- Breeding the Himalayan vulture in captivity posed challenges due to its **natural breeding habits in snow-clad mountains**.
- Successful breeding at the zoo was made possible through long-term captivity and acclimatization to the tropical environment.
- Factors such as **habitat loss, food scarcity, and accidental poisoning from veterinary drugs** have contributed to its vulnerable status.
- Conservation breeding centers, such as the **Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC)** at Rani, Assam, are instrumental in safeguarding vulture species.

### What are Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac, and How Do They Impact Vultures?

- Ketoprofen and aceclofenac are two types of **non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)** that are used to **treat pain and inflammation** in animals, especially cattle.
- Prescribed for arthritis, injuries, and post-surgery pain.
- However, these drugs have been found to be **harmful to vultures**, as they cause **kidney failure and death** when the **vultures feed on the carcasses of animals** treated with these drugs.

Vultures in India:

#### UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. Vultures which used to be very common in Indian countryside some years ago are rarely seen nowadays. This is attributed to (2012)**

- (a) the destruction of their nesting sites by new invasive species
- (b) a drug used by cattle owners for treating their diseased cattle
- (c) scarcity of food available to them
- (d) a widespread, persistent and fatal disease among them.

**NOTE: THE CAPTIVE BREEDING WAS A JOINT PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY [BNHS] AND THE ASSAM FOREST DEPARTMENT**

**BNHS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1833 AND IS INDIA'S OLDEST ENVIRONMENT NGO**

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## **TOPIC 7 : LAK KALYAN DIVAS**

### **SOURCE: TOI**

The Assam government has been observing **August 5**, the death anniversary of the first chief minister of independent Assam Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi, as Lok Kalyan Divas as a mark of tribute for the last couple of years.**[STARTED IN 2022]**

Attending the event, CM Sarma said the reason behind observing the day as Lok Kalyan Divas was to pay tributes to Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi for his contributions towards strengthening of the Assamese community. In his speech, Sarma referred Gopinath Bordoloi as an architect of modern Assam, a great freedom fighter and an insightful politician.

### **CAUTION: READ ABOUT GOPINATH BORDOLOI PROPERLY**

- **GOPINATH BORDOLOI WAS HONOURED BY THE TITLE LOKAPRIYA BY JAIRAM DAS DOULATRAM**
- **HE WAS CONFERRED BHARAT RATNA POSTHUMOUSLY IN 1999**

## **TOPIC 8 :CHOKUWA RICE GOT GI TAG**

### **About Chokuwa rice:**

It is also known as Magic rice cultivated in Assam.

It is a part of Assam's culinary heritage; this unique rice has been a staple of the troops of the mighty Ahom dynasty.

This unique and healthy rice is cultivated around the Brahmaputra River area.(In several parts of Assam like Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, etc.)

It is basically semi-glutinous winter rice, known as Sali rice.

The sticky and glutinous variety is categorised as Bora and Chokuwa based on their amylose concentration.

The low amylose Chokuwa rice variants are used to make soft rice, which is known as Komal Chaul or soft rice.

This whole grain can be consumed after soaking the rice in cold or lukewarm water. This rice variety is widely consumed for its convenience of preparation and nutritional value.

This unique rice variety is consumed with curd, sugar, jaggery, and bananas to name a few.

This rice is also used in making several Assamese delights like Pithe and other local dishes.

- **Ancient Legacy:** Chokuwa rice, also referred to as Magic rice, has been a dietary cornerstone for centuries. It was a staple for the troops of the revered Ahom dynasty, echoing its historical significance.
- **Geographical Origin:** The cultivation of Chokuwa rice is unique to the **Brahmaputra River region**, encompassing areas like Tinsukia, Dhemaji, and Dibrugarh in Assam.

### **What is a Geographical Indication (GI) tag Tag?**

- **About:**
  - A GI tag is a **name or sign used on certain products** that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
  - The GI tag ensures that only the **authorised users or those residing in the geographical territory** are allowed to use the popular product name.
    - It also protects the product from being copied or imitated by others.
  - A registered GI is valid for 10 years.
  - GI registration is overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
  - IF NO ONE OBJECTS THE GI APPLICATION IN 3 MONTHS THEN GI TAG IS GIVEN
- **Legal Framework and Obligations:**

- The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- It is governed and directed by the **WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**.
  - Furthermore, the significance of protecting industrial property and geographical indications **as integral components of intellectual property** is acknowledged and emphasised in Articles 1(2) and 10 of the Paris Convention.

### DARJEELING TEA WAS THE FIRST INDIAN PRODUCT TO GET A GI TAG

## Topic 9: Assam CM launches Rajor Xomadhan initiative 2023

Drive launch date:	01-08-2023
What is Rajor Xomadhan:	A core initiative to reach out to people in rural areas and understand the accessibility of various schemes and infrastructure facilities.
Primary objective:	To resolve public grievances by paying visits to rural areas of the state
Coverage:	25,501 villages of Assam is to be covered in this drive.
Timeframe of Rajor Xomadhan :	01 August 2023 to 15 October, 2023
Who will visit:	Chief Minister of Assam, Council of Ministers, Senior officials, District level authorities

## **Topic 10: Assam unveils Gajah Kotha campaign to reduce human-elephant conflict**

Assam launched the Gajah Kotha campaign to mitigate human-elephant conflict (HEC) in eastern Assam.

The initiative educates HEC-affected villages about elephants' behavior and ecology.

The campaign created awareness through exhibitions and awareness materials.

Over 1,200 HEC-affected people in eastern Assam have been reached through 24 Gajah Kotha campaigns so far.

## **TOPIC 11: Assam ties-up with Jio Cinema to stream short film on Lachit Barphukan**

The Assam Government has partnered with Jio Cinema to stream a short film on Veer Lachit Barphukan, one of the greatest military heroes of India.

The film was screened during the 400th Birthday Anniversary Celebration of Lachit Barphukan in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi.

## **TOPIC 12: Assam CM launches 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' initiative**

Assam Chief Minister launched the Amrit Brikshya Andolan web portal and mobile application.

The initiative aims to plant 1 crore saplings across the state on September 17.

The initiative aims to provide a major boost to the state's green economy.

Around 40 lakh members of women self-help groups from across the state would be planting two commercially-viable saplings each.

## **TOPIC 13 : Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurates state's longest flyover**

The Nilachal flyover in Guwahati was inaugurated by Assam CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on 30 August 2023.

The flyover is now the longest in the state, spanning 2.6 km from Maligaon to Kamakhya Gate.

It is a 4-lane steel girder flyover that was constructed at a cost of Rs 420.75 crore.

The foundation stone for the flyover was laid in October 2020.

## **TOPIC 14 : Assam cabinet approves SOP for National Food Security Act**

The Assam Cabinet approved the standard operating procedure (SOP) for distributing commodities under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).


This SOP is being introduced to streamline the Public Distribution System and ensure timely and transparent delivery of grains to NFSA beneficiaries.

The council of ministers also decided to observe the 'Anna Seva Saptah' from 10-16 each month.

#### **TOPIC 15:**

**PepsiCo India is investing Rs. 778 crore to set up a food manufacturing plant in Nalbari, Assam.**

### **TOPIC 16 : Assam Governor unveils 'Sarpanch Samvaad' mobile app**



Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria unveiled 'Sarpanch Samvaad', a mobile application app of the Quality Council of India (QCI)

The QCI launched the Sarpanch Samvaad as an initiative aimed at connecting approximately 2.5 lakh Sarpanchs across India, which serves as a holistic platform for networking, knowledge dissemination, and collaboration.

### **TOPIC 17: Assam cabinet approves Rs 3000 cr for new road project under asom mala**

The Assam government has approved a new 1000-km road project called "High Speed Economic Corridor" under the Asom Mala scheme.

The cabinet also approved a loan of up to 950 cr rupees from NABARD to upgrade 90 rural roads & 4 rural bridges. The cabinet approved a revised draft notification for the declaration of an Eco-Sensitive Zone of Bherian-Boraian-Padumoni Wildlife Sanctuary in Tinsukia.

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## ASSAM CURRENT AFFAIRS

CLASS - 2



**LAST MOMENT REVISION**

By Subhojit Sir



### Topic 18: ASSAM CIVILIAN AWARDS

**Assam Civilian Awards:** On December 2, 2021, the chief minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma officially declared the three Assam Civilian Awards – Assam Baibhav, Assam Saurav, and Assam Gaurav on the occasion of “Asom Divas”.

In the interest of public service and to recognize the exceptional service/ performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavor, the Government of [Assam](#) declared the Assam Civilian Awards as similar to the highest Civilian Awards of the Government of India.

- Assam Baibhav
- Assam Saurav
- Assam Gaurav

Generally, the number of Assam Civilian Awards to be given every year as per the decision of the Award Committee for the **Assam Baibhav, Assam Saurav and Assam Gaurav** are **1, 3, and 15** respectively.

### **Assam Baibhav: Honoring Excellence in Service and Contributions**

The Assam Baibhav, the state's top civilian award, was announced by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on **December 2, 2021**, during Assam Day for the first time

It includes a **₹5 lakh cash prize** and lifelong government-sponsored medical treatment.

The award features the **Jaapi image** and **“Assam Baibhav”** in Assamese on a Hollong tree leaf.

Serial No	Name	Year	Field
1	Ratan Tata	2021	Social Service
2	Dr. Tapan Saikia	2022	Healthcare & Public
3	Sri Ranjan Gogoi	2023	Law & Justice

**Assam Saurav** : The second-highest civilian award given by the state of Assam, India.

The Assam Saurav Award winner will be facilitated with a citation/ certificate/ medal , a **monetary sum of Rs. 4 lakh rupees & Medical expenses upto 2 lakh rupees.**

**Assam Saurav 2023 winners' names** with their respective contribution fields.



Name	Field
Dr. Kishan Chand Nauriyal	Art & Culture ( <i>Archaeology</i> )
Shri Elvis Ali Hazarika	Sports ( <i>Swimming</i> )
Smt. Hima Das	Sports ( <i>Athletics</i> )
Shri Nadiram Deuri	Art & Culture ( <i>Tiwa Dance Exponent</i> )

**The Assam Gaurav Award:** The third-highest civilian award given by the state of Assam, India.

The Assam Gaurav Award winner will be facilitated with a citation/ certificate/ medal , a monetary sum of **Rs. 3 lakh rupees & Medical expenses upto 2 lakh rupees**

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**TOPIC 19: Empowering Tomorrow's Innovators: IIT**

**Guwahati and Arohan Scheme of Assam**

**Government Implemented Effectively for Inspiring STEM Excellence**

Under Samagra Shiksha Assam's Arohan scheme, IIT Guwahati hosted 3311 students in 12 batches and inspired them to explore their interest in STEM education

***Arohan*** in brief is a Mentor-Mentee programme for meritorious student of Secondary classes of

**Government schools envisioned by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam.**

**AROHAN is the programme – about taking everyone along, about handholding & support, about giving back to society.**

**AROHAN – means Ascent.**

**A properly mentored and guided upcoming generation shall be the strength and asset of the society and the future of Assam and our Nation's pride.**

**Under the AROHAN the talented students in the age group of 13 to 18 years of the class-IX-XII will be provided support through mentoring/ counseling for career progression, exposure and incentive either cash or kinds.**

**STEM** represents Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths. The concept of STEM is to blend all four subjects and create a flexible learning method instead of teaching them separately, as they are interconnected.

## **TOPIC 20: SECTION 6A OF CITIZENSHIP ACT**

Why in News?

Recently, a **Constitution Bench** led by the **Chief Justice of India** is hearing a series of petitions challenging the constitutionality of **Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955**.

- The Constitution Bench clarifies its focus is limited to examining the validity of Section 6A and not the **Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC)**.

What is Section 6A of the Citizenship Act of 1955?

- **Background:**

- Section 6A was enacted as part of the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985**, following the **Assam Accord of 1985**.

- The Assam Accord was a **tripartite agreement** between the Central Government, the State Government of Assam, and the leaders of the Assam Movement, which sought to end the influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

- The **Assam Accord, signed in 1985**, introduced Section 6A into the Citizenship Act, of 1955, exclusively for Assam.

- This provision addresses the issue of large-scale migration preceding the **1971 Bangladesh Liberation War**. Notably, it mandates the **detection and deportation of foreigners** who entered Assam after March 25, 1971, marking the creation of Bangladesh.

- The introduction of Section 6A reflects the specific historical and demographic challenges faced by Assam during this critical period.

- **Provisions and implications:**

- Section 6A created a special provision for Assam by which persons of Indian origin who came from Bangladesh **before 1<sup>st</sup> January 1966, were deemed to be citizens of India as of that date**.

- Persons of Indian origin who came to Assam **between 1<sup>st</sup> January 1966, and 25<sup>th</sup> March 1971**, and who were detected to be foreigners, were required to register themselves and **were granted citizenship after 10 years of residence**, subject to certain conditions.
- Persons who entered Assam after 25th March, 1971, were to be detected and deported in accordance with the law.
- **Challenges:**
  - **Constitutional Validity:**
    - **Article 6:**
      - The petitioners argue that Section 6A is in violation of Article 6 of the Constitution.
      - **Article 6 of the Indian Constitution** deals with the citizenship of people who migrated from Pakistan to India during the partition.
      - The article states that **anyone who migrated to India before 19<sup>th</sup> July 1949, would automatically become an Indian citizen** if either of their parents or grandparents was born in India.
      - This raises concerns about the legal and constitutional validity of the provision.
    - **Article 14:**
      - Critics argue that Section 6A may **violate Article 14 of the Constitution**, which guarantees the **right to equality**.
      - The provision is perceived as discriminatory as it singles out Assam for specific citizenship criteria.

- The provision is applicable only to Assam, and this selective application raises concerns about equal treatment and fairness compared to other states facing similar issues of migration.
- **Demographic Impact:**
  - Section 6A's citizenship grant is criticized by some petitioners for **allegedly contributing to an influx of illegal migrants** from Bangladesh into Assam.
  - Concerns focus on the unintended consequence of encouraging illegal migration and the **resultant impact on the state's demographic composition.**
  - The petitioners argue that the conferring of citizenship on the migrant population in Assam, as facilitated by Section 6A, amounts to "**cementing an illegality.**"
  - They claim that the provision has had a multiplier effect by recognizing these individuals as citizens, leading to continued influx.
- **Cultural Impact:**
  - Petitioners argue that the benefits given to cross-border migrants between 1966 and 1971 led to a radical demographic change affecting the cultural identity of Assam.

## What is Citizenship?

### • **About:**

- **Citizenship is the legal status and relationship between an individual and a state** that entails specific rights and duties.

### • **Constitutional Provisions:**

- **Articles 5 to 11 in Part II of the Constitution of India** deal with the aspects of citizenship, such as

acquisition of citizenship by **birth, descent, naturalization, registration, and** relinquishment of Citizenship by **renunciation, and termination.**

- Citizenship is listed in the **Union List** under the Constitution and thus is under the **exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament.**

#### • **Citizenship Act:**

- The Parliament has enacted the Citizenship Act, 1955 to regulate the matters of citizenship in India.
- The Citizenship Act, 1955 has been **amended six times since its enactment.** The amendments were made in the years **1986, 1992, 2003, 2005, 2015, and 2019.**
- The latest **amendment was made in 2019**, which granted **citizenship to certain illegal migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan**, who entered India on or before 31st December 2014.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year's Question  
(PYQs)

#### **Prelims**

**Q. With reference to India, consider the following statements:**

1. There is only one citizenship and one domicile.
2. A citizen by birth only can become the Head of State.
3. A foreigner once granted citizenship cannot be deprived of it under any circumstances.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 2 and 3

## **TOPIC 21: Sahitya Akademi Award 2023**

### **Why in News?**

Recently, the Sahitya Akademi announced the **Sahitya Akademi Award 2023** in 24 languages.

- Nine books of poetry, six novels, five short story collections, three essays and one literary study have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards this year.
- The award, in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl, and RS 1,00,000, will be presented to the awardees.

### **What is the Sahitya Akademi Award?**

- **About:**
  - Sahitya Akademi award established in 1954, is a literary honour that is conferred annually by Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of letters.
  - Akademi gives 24 awards annually to literary works in the languages it has recognized and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India.
    - Besides the **22 languages enumerated in the Constitution of India**, the Sahitya Akademi has recognised **English** and **Rajasthani** as languages in which its programme may be implemented.
  - The Sahitya Akademi award is the second-highest literary honour by the Government of India, **after the Jnanpith award**.

• **Criteria for Choosing Awardee:**

- The author must be **of Indian Nationality.**
- Book/work eligible for the award must be an outstanding contribution to the language and literature to which it belongs.
- When equal merit for books **of two or more are found, certain criteria like total literary contribution** and standing of authors shall be taken into consideration for declaring the award.

• **Other Sahitya Akademi Awards:**

- Sahitya Akademi **Bal Sahitya Puraskar is given to an author** based on his/her total contribution to children literature and relates to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of Award.
- Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar **relates to books published by an author of the age of 35 and below.**®

◦ **WINNERS OF SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD 2023 [FROM ASSAM]**

- 1. Pranavjyoti Deka** has bagged the award in the **short stories** category for his book **titled 'Shreshtha Galpa.'**
- 2. Nandeswar Daimary** also bagged the honour for his **Bodo language** book titled **'Jui-Safarni Dakhwn.'**
- 3. Judhabir Rana** has won the award in the **essay category** in **Nepali language.**
- 4. Manipur's Sorokkhaibam Gambini** bagged the award in the **poetry category** for the book titled **'Yachangba Nang Hallo.'**

**TOPIC 22: Rahendra Nath Brahma receives Pratima Barua Award**

- 1. Pratima Barua Pandey** was awarded the **Padma Shri** and **Sangeet Natak Akademi** for her pioneering efforts in popularising **Goalpariya lokageet.**



2. **Pratima Barua Award** WAS INSTITUTED BY AASU [ALL ASSAM STUDENTS' UNION]

3. **THE AWARD** IS GIVEN ANNUALLY ON DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGENDARY SINGER.

4. **THE AWARD CARRIES**

- **A CITATION**
- **A SARAI**
- **GAMOSHA**
- **A JACKET MADE OF ERI**
- **CASH PRIZE OF Rs,25000**

**TOPIC 23: “Assam Governor GULAB CHAND KATARIA attends 107th Foundation Day of ASSAM Sahitya Sabha, lauds institution for nurturing Assamese language”**

**ASSAM SAHITYA SABHA 2023**

**MOTO: CHIRO CHENEHI MOR BHASHA JONONI  
[MY MOTHER TONGUE-MY ETERNAL LOVE]**

**PRESIDENT: Dr. SURYA KANTA HAZARIKA**

**ASSAM SAHITYA SABHA**

- **FOUNDED IN 1917**
- **FIRST PRESIDENT: PADMANATH GOHAIN BARUA**

**TOPIC 24: PRANAM ACT**

1. 'The Assam Employees' Parent Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring Act, 2017, in short as the "Assam Employees PRANAM Act" provides the accountability of employees of the State Government/ Government Undertakings/ State PSUs/ a Government Company as defined in the Company's Act, 1956 in the State of Assam in taking care of their parents and *divyang* siblings.

## 2. Why is there a need for the PRANAM Act?

This Act is needed to take care of the dependent parents by their children and *divyang* siblings

## 3. Who is the Appellate Authority under the PRANAM Act?

The Commissioner of the Division, within whose jurisdiction the Office of the Designated Authority is located, is appointed as the Appellate Authority for State Government employees. The second Appellate Authority is the PRANAM Commission.

## 4. Within how many days will the complaint be responded to or resolved by the concerned authority?

The Designated Authority shall decide on the eligibility of a claim and dispose off the application within ninety (90) days of the date of receipt of an application.

## COMPENSATION

- IF ANY PARENT OR DIVYANG SIBLING OF THE GOVT. EMPLOYEE IS FINANCIALLY NEGLECTED, COMPENSATION UPTO 10% AND 15% IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES CAN BE CLAIMED
- IF THE GOVT.EMPLOYEE DIES BEFORE RETIREMENT, THEN THE DEPENDENTS CAN CLAIM COMPENSATION UPTO **10% AND 15% IN EXCEPTINAL CASES** FROM THE PENSION RECEIVED BY THE SPOUSE.
- IF THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITY OR APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY HAS,WITHOUT ANY REASONABLE CAUSE,

REFUSED TO RECEIVE AN APPLICATION WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT, PRANAM COMMISSION WILL IMPOSE A PENALTY OF **Rs.100 PER DAY**

**TOPIC 25: Assam receives 9 Guinness World Records certificate in tree plantation As part of the Amrit Brikshya Andolan drive, a total of 1,11,17,781 seedlings of commercially valuable tree species were planted across the state on a single day on September 17.**

"Amrit Brikshya Andolan has been successful only because of Jan Bhagidari. The collective efforts of both citizens and government functionaries has transformed the impossible to possible," Sarma said while receiving the accolades.

**In the first** that is in the Longest Line of Potted Saplings, record was made at Veterinary College Field in Guwahati by Kamrup East Forest Division

**In the second category**, that is in the Largest Number of Saplings Distributed at one venue in 24 hours, record was made when saplings arranged in the spiral form at the Veterinary College Field were distributed.

**In the third category**, that is the Most Trees Planted by a Team in 24 hours, a record was made when 9,21,730 saplings were successfully planted in 100 hectares degraded forest land in Bhairabkunda Reserve Forests of Udalguri district.

**In the fourth category,** that is the Most Trees Planted by a Team in One Hour, a record was made when a total of 3,31,929 saplings were successfully planted in one hour by a team of 8,900 persons

**In the fifth category,** that is the Largest Potted Saplings Mosaic, the record was achieved in Tinsukia district by Digboi Forest Division when potted saplings mosaic in 8,563.01 sq metres was made depicting map of Assam and showing rhinoceros in the centre of the mosaic

**In the sixth category,** the record was made at Geleki in Sivasagar district when a total of 1,229 girl students planted 1,229 agar seedlings simultaneously in just 58 seconds.

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**In the seventh category,** the record was made when a lesson on Environmental Conservation and Sustainability was given online by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force of Assam on September 11 that was viewed by 70,490 70,490 persons and more than 10 lakh people later.

**In the eighth category,** a record was made when a total of 71,82,358 photographs of people planting trees were uploaded online on the Amrit Brikhya Andolan portal.

**In the ninth category, that is the Most Pledges Received for an Environmental Sustainability Campaign in one month (Online), a total of 47,28,898 online pledges have been taken to plant trees and protect them.**

**THE GOVT. OF ASSAM ,THROUGH ITS ASSAM GREEN MISSION,HAS EMBARKED ON A GROUND BREAKING MISSION TO INCREASE THE STATE'S GREEN COVER BY 2 %, FROM 36% TO 38% ,IN 5 YEARS**

**TOPIC 26: THE STATE FOREST DEPT. AND WTI (Wildlife Trust of India) HAVE NOW COLLABORATED AND PREPARED A CONSERVATION PLAN TO PROTECT THE WHITE- WINGED WOOD DUCK (*Asarcornis scutulata*) OR THE DEO-HANH [DECLARED AS ASSAM'S STATE BIRD IN 2003] FROM EXTINCTION**

**Topic 27: ASSAM'S POLICY ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

The Assam government has unveiled an **electric vehicle (EV) policy** for phasing out vehicles running on fossil fuels by 2030.

**Highlights of the Policy:**

- 1.The policy aims to introduce at least 200,000 electric vehicles (EVs) within the next five years through a set of incentives for buyers.**
- 2.It entails converting all government vehicles and fleet of public buses to electric and**

deploying 2 lakh EVs within the next five years.

3. In order to encourage people to buy EVs, the state government will give a subsidy of ₹20,000 on two-wheelers, ₹50,000 for three-wheelers and ₹1.5 lakh for four-wheelers.
4. There will be 100% exemption of registration fees, road tax and parking fees for EVs.
5. It also envisages charging stations for EVs across the state. Entrepreneurs setting up the stations will get a 90% discount on their electricity bills for the first five years.



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