



APSC AAO Essay 275: Need for a dedicated memorial for eminent personalities in Assam

Title: Preserving Assam's Legacy: The Case for a Memorial to Eminent Personalities

Introduction

Assam, with its rich cultural heritage and illustrious history, has been home to numerous legendary figures who have shaped its socio-political, cultural, and literary landscape. These stalwarts, whose contributions have transcended generations, deserve to be remembered and honored in a dignified manner. To this end, the establishment of a dedicated memorial (smritisoudha) for eminent personalities of Assam emerges as a pressing necessity.

The Rationale for a Memorial

Currently, Assam lacks a central space to solemnly commemorate the birth and death anniversaries of its iconic figures. The absence of such a venue often results in disorganized and costly events, involving unnecessary expenditures on temporary arrangements like tents and stages. A permanent memorial would not only provide a dedicated space for these observances but also ensure that these events are conducted with the reverence they deserve.

Moreover, a common cremation ground for eminent personalities would serve as a symbol of unity and collective remembrance. This practice would reinforce the message that the contributions of these individuals belong not just to their families or specific communities, but to the entire state and its people.

Fostering Cultural and Educational Tourism

A thoughtfully designed memorial can be more than just a space for solemn gatherings. It



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can be developed as a vibrant cultural and educational hub, drawing both locals and tourists. The inclusion of facilities such as libraries housing the works and biographies of these great personalities, auditoriums for lectures and cultural events, and serene parks for reflection can transform the memorial into a dynamic public space.

Tourism has the potential to play a pivotal role in sustaining the memorial. A nominal entry fee for visitors can contribute to its maintenance, ensuring that the site remains well-kept and welcoming. Additionally, people's donations can be sought for the construction and upkeep of the memorial, fostering a sense of community ownership and pride.

Preserving Legacy for Posterity

The most significant aspect of establishing such a memorial is the preservation of Assam's legacy for future generations. By immortalizing the lives and achievements of Assam's luminaries, the memorial would serve as an invaluable educational resource, inspiring the youth to learn about their roots and draw motivation from the struggles and triumphs of the past.

Furthermore, this initiative would strengthen cultural identity and pride, reinforcing the notion that the progress and prosperity of a society are deeply rooted in the recognition and remembrance of its historical and cultural icons.

Conclusion

The proposal for a dedicated memorial for eminent personalities in Assam is not merely about creating a physical structure; it is about building a bridge between the past, present, and future. It is a call to honor the torchbearers of Assamese heritage, to educate and inspire



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generations, and to bolster cultural tourism in the state. The Assam government, with the support of its people, must take proactive steps to realize this vision, ensuring that the legacy of its great personalities continues to illuminate the path forward.