



APSC MAIN Q 5381: Large-scale deforestation in Karbi Anglong reflects the conflict between development and environmental sustainability. Critically analyse the causes and suggest remedial measures. (250 words) GS 5

The alarming loss of forest cover in Karbi Anglong—nearly 1,000 sq km between 2001 and 2020—highlights a severe ecological crisis with far-reaching consequences.

The causes are multifaceted. Traditional shifting cultivation (jhum), once sustainable due to long fallow cycles, has become ecologically harmful as cycles have shortened drastically, preventing natural regeneration. Illegal logging, land encroachment, and large-scale diversion of forest land for settlements and infrastructure projects have further accelerated deforestation. Additionally, expansion of polluting industries such as cement and coal has intensified environmental degradation.

The impacts are profound. Loss of forest cover reduces carbon sequestration, contributing to climate change. It disrupts biodiversity, degrades soil fertility, and affects water resources, thereby threatening livelihoods dependent on agriculture and forest ecosystems. In ecologically sensitive hill regions, such degradation also increases risks of landslides and microclimatic changes.

To address this, a balanced and sustainable approach is essential. Regulating jhum cultivation through scientific methods, strengthening enforcement against illegal activities, and ensuring strict compliance with environmental laws are critical. Community participation, especially under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, should be strengthened to protect indigenous rights and ecosystems. Promoting afforestation, sustainable livelihoods, and eco-friendly development models is equally important.

Thus, reconciling development with ecological sustainability is crucial to preserve Karbi Anglong's fragile environment and cultural heritage.



APSC MAIN Q 5382: The Stilwell Road represents both strategic connectivity and civilisational exchange. Examine its historical significance and contemporary relevance for Northeast India. (250 words) GS 5

The Stilwell Road, originally constructed during World War II, was a strategic lifeline linking Ledo in Assam to Kunming in China after the Burma Road was blocked. Built under the leadership of Joseph Warren Stilwell, it symbolised Allied cooperation and immense human effort, including contributions from local communities of Northeast India.

Historically, the road facilitated military logistics, but it also reflected transnational collaboration across diverse geographies and cultures. It stands as a reminder of the region's geopolitical importance.

In the contemporary context, the Stilwell Road holds significant strategic and economic potential. Its reopening can enhance regional connectivity under India's Act East Policy, linking Northeast India with Southeast Asia. This can boost trade, tourism, and infrastructure development, transforming the region into a gateway for international commerce.

Beyond economics, the road offers scope for cultural and civilisational exchange. Shared Buddhist heritage among India, Myanmar, and China provides an opportunity for promoting soft diplomacy, dialogue, and mutual understanding. Events like the Pangsau Pass Winter Festival symbolise this potential for people-to-people engagement.

However, challenges such as security concerns, environmental sensitivity, and geopolitical complexities must be addressed through coordinated policy and local participation.

Thus, the Stilwell Road can evolve from a wartime relic into a corridor of connectivity, cooperation, and cultural exchange, balancing strategic interests with peace-oriented engagement.



APSC MAIN Q 5383: The rise of short-form digital content has transformed social behaviour but also raised ethical concerns.

Critically examine the impact of short-form videos on society and

suggest measures for responsible digital engagement. (250 words) GS

The digital revolution, driven by platforms like Instagram and YouTube Shorts, has fundamentally altered communication and social interaction. Short-form videos, or reels, have emerged as powerful tools influencing behaviour, culture, and public discourse. 4

On the positive side, such content democratises information, enhances creativity, and provides opportunities for self-expression and entrepreneurship. It enables rapid dissemination of knowledge, awareness campaigns, and skill-sharing.

However, the negative impacts are increasingly evident. Algorithm-driven engagement prioritises sensationalism over substance, promoting content that is provocative rather than meaningful. The normalisation of vulgarity, misinformation, and risky behaviour—especially among youth—raises concerns about cultural erosion and declining ethical standards. Repeated exposure to such content reshapes social norms, often lowering thresholds of acceptability.

Additionally, short attention spans and reduced critical thinking are emerging challenges, as users consume information rapidly without reflection. The pursuit of virality also encourages imitation of harmful trends.

Addressing these issues requires a multi-level approach. Platforms must strengthen content moderation and algorithm accountability. Digital literacy programmes should empower users, especially youth, to critically evaluate content. Families and educational institutions must promote ethical online behaviour and balanced media consumption.

Thus, while short-form videos hold transformative potential, responsible use and regulation are essential to ensure that digital engagement supports societal values rather than undermines them.



APSC MAIN Q 5384: Char-Chaporis in Assam represent fragile socio-ecological systems. Discuss the challenges associated with these riverine islands and evaluate the need for a sustainable management policy. (250 words) GS 5

The char-chaporis of Brahmaputra River in Assam are highly dynamic riverine islands shaped by erosion, deposition, floods, and seismic activity. These areas are characterised by high population density, insecure land tenure, and increasing anthropogenic pressures, making them ecologically fragile and socially vulnerable.

Key challenges include frequent displacement due to riverbank erosion, lack of formal land rights, and environmental degradation caused by deforestation, chemical agriculture, and unregulated sand mining. These factors not only threaten biodiversity but also increase disaster risks and livelihood insecurity.

The proposed policy framework emphasises sustainable and controlled development. It seeks to recognise existing occupancy rights without converting them into private ownership, thereby preventing land speculation and uncontrolled construction. Restrictions on settlement expansion, promotion of organic farming, and prohibition of sand mining aim to restore ecological balance. Maintaining a mix of cultivation and wilderness, along with rewilding of uncultivated areas, reflects a conservation-oriented approach.

However, successful implementation requires balancing environmental protection with socio-economic needs. Community participation, livelihood diversification, and access to basic services must be ensured to avoid marginalisation.

Thus, char-chapori management demands an integrated policy combining ecological conservation with human development, ensuring resilience and sustainability in these vulnerable landscapes.



APSC MAIN Q 5385: Changing lifestyles in urban India are redefining the concept of “home” beyond a physical space. Examine the socio-cultural significance of homes in contemporary urban settings with

reference to Assam. (250 words) GS 1

In contemporary urban India, particularly in Guwahati, the concept of “home” has evolved from a mere physical structure to an emotional and social anchor. Homes today serve as spaces of belonging, identity, and well-being amid increasing urban stress.

The study by Interio by Godrej highlights the cultural importance of hospitality, with a strong emphasis on welcoming guests, reflecting Assam’s tradition of social bonding. Living and dining areas function as collective spaces fostering interaction, while bedrooms act as zones of comfort and psychological rejuvenation.

Kitchens have also transformed into spaces of emotional connection, where cooking promotes mindfulness and family bonding. Similarly, balconies have emerged as urban retreats, offering moments of peace and connection with nature in dense city environments.

These changes indicate a shift towards homes as holistic environments supporting emotional health, personal expression, and social cohesion. At the workplace level, similar trends emphasise the importance of informal interactions and well-designed spaces in enhancing productivity and belonging.

Thus, the modern home in urban Assam reflects a blend of cultural continuity and changing lifestyles, reinforcing its role as a centre of emotional security and social integration.



APSC MAIN Q 5386: The limited devolution of powers to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) has constrained urban governance in Assam. Examine the challenges and suggest reforms for strengthening municipal autonomy. (250 words) GS 5

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act 1992 envisaged Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as institutions of self-government with 18 functions under the Twelfth Schedule. However, in Assam, the devolution of funds, functions, and functionaries (3Fs) remains inadequate, limiting their effectiveness.

Audit findings reveal that ULBs are fully responsible for only a few functions, while most responsibilities are either shared or controlled by state departments and parastatal agencies. For instance, in Guwahati Municipal Corporation, overlapping roles exist with bodies like the Public Health Engineering Department and Guwahati Jal Board in sanitation and water supply. This fragmented governance structure leads to duplication, inefficiency, and lack of accountability.

A key issue is the absence of true institutional autonomy. Municipal bodies are often treated as subordinate administrative units rather than an empowered third tier. The lack of financial independence and administrative capacity further constrains service delivery.

Reforms must focus on genuine devolution of the 3Fs. Legislative changes are needed to clearly define roles and eliminate overlaps. Introducing a directly elected mayor with a fixed tenure can strengthen accountability and leadership. Capacity building, improved revenue generation, and streamlined service delivery mechanisms are also essential.

Thus, empowering ULBs through structural and institutional reforms is crucial for effective urban governance and responsive city management in Assam.



APSC MAIN Q 5387: Why is slope stabilisation crucial for highway development in hilly regions of Northeast India? Examine the challenges and suggest measures for building disaster-resilient infrastructure. (250 words) GS 3

Slope stabilisation has become a critical prerequisite for highway construction in the fragile hill ecosystems of Northeast India, where frequent landslides disrupt connectivity and threaten lives. The recent policy emphasis by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways reflects a shift toward sustainable and resilient infrastructure planning.

The primary challenge arises from unscientific hill cutting and inadequate geotechnical investigations, which destabilise slopes and trigger landslides, especially during monsoons. Inconsistent application of mitigation measures—such as vegetation cover, drainage systems, and structural reinforcements—further aggravates risks. Climate change has intensified rainfall variability, increasing slope instability and infrastructure vulnerability.

Slope stabilisation ensures long-term durability by addressing root causes of landslides before road construction begins. Techniques such as rockfall barriers, surface treatments, catchwater drains, and scientific slope assessment reduce risks and maintenance costs. However, gaps remain in selecting appropriate investigation methods and standardising mitigation strategies.

To address these challenges, a multi-pronged approach is required. Strengthening institutional oversight, adopting standardised geotechnical protocols, and integrating real-time monitoring systems—such as those being developed with IIT Roorkee—are essential. Capacity building and timely implementation of mitigation measures must also be prioritised.

Thus, slope stabilisation is not merely an engineering requirement but a socio-economic necessity, ensuring year-round connectivity and resilience in the landslide-prone Northeast.



APSC MAIN Q 5388: “The crisis in Manipur is deeply linked with cross-border dynamics involving Myanmar.” Analyse the security challenges and suggest a balanced strategy for long-term stability. (250 words)

GS 3

The conflict in Manipur cannot be understood in isolation, as it is closely intertwined with instability in Myanmar. The 2021 military coup in Myanmar led to weakening state control in border regions like Sagaing, creating safe havens for insurgent groups and facilitating cross-border movement of arms, drugs, and militants.

A key challenge is the emergence of a “narco-insurgency” nexus, where illegal drug trade and arms smuggling finance militant activities. The porous border, historically maintained under the Free Movement Regime (FMR), has further enabled this flow, complicating internal security. Valley-based insurgent groups exploit these sanctuaries, making the border a strategic vulnerability.

The proposal of a proactive “backfire” approach—targeting insurgent infrastructure and disrupting logistical networks—highlights the need for a shift from passive defence to active deterrence. However, purely kinetic strategies carry risks of escalation and diplomatic complications.

A balanced strategy is essential. Strengthening border management through fencing and surveillance, improving intelligence coordination, and curbing narco-trafficking are critical. Simultaneously, diplomatic engagement with Myanmar, even amid instability, is necessary. Addressing internal ethnic grievances, promoting development, and ensuring inclusive governance in Manipur are equally important.

Thus, long-term stability requires integrating security measures with political reconciliation and regional cooperation, ensuring that cross-border dynamics do not perpetuate internal conflict.



APSC MAIN 5390: Global geopolitical conflicts have exposed vulnerabilities in India's energy security, particularly in LPG supply. Analyse the challenges and suggest measures to ensure resilience.

(250 words) GS 3

The recent LPG crisis triggered by tensions in West Asia highlights the fragility of India's energy security. Disruptions in key transit routes such as the Strait of Hormuz have directly impacted LPG supply chains, leading to price hikes and market instability.

The challenges are multi-dimensional. Heavy dependence on imports makes India vulnerable to geopolitical shocks. Supply chain disruptions lead to increased costs, affecting commercial sectors like restaurants and potentially household consumption. The crisis also exposes governance issues such as black marketing, weak monitoring of LPG distribution, and lack of transparency in allocation systems.

Additionally, price volatility has ripple effects on livelihoods and inflation, particularly in urban informal sectors dependent on LPG. Inefficient distribution and inadequate regulatory oversight further aggravate the situation at the local level.

To address these challenges, India must adopt a diversified and resilient energy strategy. This includes diversifying import sources, exploring alternative routes, and strengthening strategic reserves. Increasing domestic production and promoting alternative energy sources such as biogas and electric cooking can reduce dependence on imports.

At the governance level, strict monitoring of LPG distribution, prevention of black marketing, and transparent supply mechanisms are essential. Long-term focus on energy self-reliance and infrastructure development is crucial.

Thus, ensuring energy security requires a combination of geopolitical strategy, domestic capacity building, and efficient governance to withstand global uncertainties.



APSC MAIN Q 5391: Increasing frequency of heatwaves and extreme weather events reflects the growing impact of climate change in India. Analyse the causes and suggest adaptive strategies. (250

words) GS 1

The recent heatwave across North India, with temperatures exceeding 40°C, reflects a broader pattern of climate variability and extreme weather events in India.

The causes are both natural and anthropogenic. Weak western disturbances and deficient winter rainfall reduce soil moisture, contributing to early and prolonged heatwaves. More fundamentally, rising greenhouse gas emissions have intensified global warming, disrupting atmospheric patterns. Environmental degradation, including deforestation and wetland loss, has further reduced natural carbon sinks, aggravating climate instability.

The impacts are far-reaching. Heatwaves affect human health, increase water stress, and reduce agricultural productivity. Erratic rainfall and extreme weather events disrupt cropping cycles, threatening food security and rural livelihoods. Urban areas face additional challenges such as heat islands and infrastructure stress.

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-pronged adaptive strategy. Strengthening climate-resilient agriculture through drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation, and weather-based advisories is essential. Enhancing early warning systems and improving disaster preparedness can mitigate risks. Environmental conservation—especially protection of forests and wetlands—must be prioritised to restore ecological balance.

Additionally, sustainable urban planning and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions are critical for long-term resilience.

Thus, tackling extreme weather requires integrating scientific knowledge, environmental sustainability, and adaptive governance to safeguard livelihoods and ensure climate resilience.



APSC MAIN Q 5392: Artificial Intelligence is transforming national security bureaucracy by enhancing efficiency and decision-making. Critically examine its benefits and limitations. (250 words) GS 3

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly shaping national security systems by augmenting state capacity in analysis, decision-making, and policy formulation. In India and globally, AI integration involves the use of machine learning, predictive analytics, and large language models to assist policymakers in managing complex strategic environments.

AI enhances efficiency by reducing cognitive overload. It enables rapid drafting of diplomatic communications, real-time analysis of intelligence inputs, and simulation of geopolitical scenarios. For instance, AI-driven war-gaming is used by institutions like the Pentagon to predict conflict outcomes. Similarly, it converts vast institutional memory into accessible databases, improving continuity in foreign policy.

Another advantage is the democratisation of expertise. Smaller states can leverage AI tools to match the analytical capabilities of larger powers, reducing asymmetry in global diplomacy.

However, significant limitations persist. AI lacks human judgement, intuition, and cultural sensitivity—crucial elements in diplomacy and crisis management. Over-reliance on algorithms may lead to flawed decisions, as machines cannot fully interpret ambiguous situations. Ethical concerns, data bias, and cybersecurity risks further complicate its application.

The “empathy gap” is particularly critical in high-stakes scenarios, where human discretion can prevent escalation.

Thus, while AI is a powerful tool for enhancing national security bureaucracy, it must complement—not replace—human decision-making to ensure balanced, ethical, and context-sensitive governance.



APSC MAIN Q 5393: Agricultural engineering is crucial for transforming Indian agriculture into a resilient and efficient system.

Discuss its role with suitable examples. (250 words) GS 3

Agricultural engineering plays a transformative role in modernising India's agriculture by integrating scientific and technological innovations across the farming value chain. It enhances productivity, reduces resource wastage, and builds climate resilience.

One of its key contributions is in reducing post-harvest losses. Technologies such as cold storage, grading, and processing systems significantly minimise wastage, which currently ranges between 5% and 15%. Efficient storage infrastructure can reduce these losses drastically, improving farmer incomes and food availability.

Precision farming is another critical domain. Tools like Variable Rate Technology (VRT) and data-driven pest management optimise input use, increasing fertiliser efficiency by 12-15% and reducing pesticide usage by around 20%. This ensures both economic and environmental sustainability.

Water management through micro-irrigation systems has revolutionised resource use. Compared to traditional irrigation (30-50% efficiency), modern systems achieve up to 90% efficiency, conserving water and reducing energy consumption.

Mechanisation further strengthens agricultural productivity. With mechanisation levels nearing 47%, farm output increases by 12-15%, while labour costs decline significantly, addressing rural labour shortages.

However, challenges such as high initial costs, fragmented landholdings, and limited technical awareness hinder widespread adoption.

To overcome these, policy support, subsidies, skill development, and promotion of affordable technologies are essential.



APSC MAIN Q 5393: Agricultural engineering is crucial for transforming Indian agriculture into a resilient and efficient system. Discuss its role with suitable examples. (250 words) GS 3

Thus, agricultural engineering is vital for ensuring sustainable, efficient, and future-ready agriculture in India.



APSC MAIN Q 5394: What is ecocide? Discuss its significance in contemporary environmental governance and the challenges in recognising it as an international crime. (250 words) GS 3

Ecocide refers to severe, widespread, or long-term environmental destruction caused by human actions, undertaken with knowledge of its damaging consequences. The term was first coined by Arthur W. Galston in 1970 in the context of environmental devastation during the Vietnam War.

Ecocide has gained relevance in contemporary environmental governance due to escalating ecological crises such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change. Recognising ecocide as an international crime would strengthen accountability for large-scale environmental harm and act as a deterrent against reckless exploitation of natural resources.

Several countries, including France and Belgium, have incorporated provisions addressing ecocide or similar offences in domestic law. In 2021, an expert panel supported by Stop Ecocide International proposed a legal definition to facilitate its inclusion in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The significance lies in elevating environmental protection to the level of international criminal law, alongside genocide and crimes against humanity. It would also promote sustainable development and reinforce environmental justice.

However, challenges remain. There is no universally accepted definition, and states may resist due to concerns over sovereignty and economic implications. Proving intent and causation in environmental damage cases is also complex. Additionally, enforcement mechanisms at the global level remain weak.

Thus, while ecocide represents a progressive legal concept, its global acceptance requires consensus-building, legal clarity, and institutional strengthening.



APSC MAIN Q 5395: Gig workers have emerged as a critical component of the digital economy. Discuss the challenges faced by gig workers and examine the need for social protection mechanisms.

(250 words) GS 3

Gig workers have become an integral part of e-commerce industry and quick commerce systems, particularly in delivery, transport, and platform-based services. Their contribution has expanded rapidly with the growth of the digital economy in India.

Despite their importance, gig workers face multiple challenges. Employment remains largely informal, lacking job security, fixed wages, or long-term contractual protection. Algorithm-driven targets often create excessive work pressure, forcing workers to operate under stressful and unsafe conditions. During extreme weather events such as heatwaves, delivery personnel face heightened health risks. Limited access to healthcare, insurance, paid leave, and retirement benefits further increases vulnerability.

Another major issue is the absence of collective bargaining power. Since gig workers are classified as “partners” rather than employees, companies often evade labour obligations. Income instability and dependence on digital ratings also create economic uncertainty.

Recent initiatives by companies such as Amazon and Zomato to provide rest areas, drinking water, charging stations, and first-aid facilities reflect growing recognition of worker welfare. However, these measures remain limited and voluntary.

A comprehensive social protection framework is therefore essential. Policies should include health insurance, accident coverage, minimum wage safeguards, grievance redressal systems, and regulation of working hours. Formal recognition of gig workers under labour laws is equally necessary.

Thus, ensuring dignity, safety, and social security for gig workers is crucial for building an inclusive and sustainable digital economy.



APSC MAIN Q 5396: Wildlife translocation has emerged as an important conservation strategy in India. Discuss its significance with reference to the recent wild buffalo translocation from Assam to

Madhya Pradesh. (250 words) GS 5

Wildlife translocation refers to the planned movement of species from one habitat to another for conservation, ecological restoration, or species recovery. The recent transfer of wild buffaloes from Kaziranga National Park to Kanha National Park is a significant example of inter-state conservation cooperation.

The initiative aims to restore the wild buffalo population in Madhya Pradesh, where the species had become locally extinct due to habitat degradation, hunting, and anthropogenic pressures. Scientific studies by Wildlife Institute of India identified Kanha as a suitable habitat because of its grasslands, water availability, and low human disturbance.

Wildlife translocation plays an important ecological role. Wild buffaloes contribute to maintaining grassland ecosystems through grazing and vegetation regulation, thereby supporting biodiversity balance. The soft-release method adopted at Kanha allows gradual adaptation, reducing stress and improving survival chances.

The initiative also reflects the importance of cooperative federalism in conservation, involving coordination between state governments, forest departments, veterinarians, and wildlife experts. It may further strengthen future conservation collaborations, including possible translocation of species like rhinos.

However, translocation also carries challenges such as disease risks, habitat adaptation issues, and genetic concerns. Long-term monitoring and habitat protection are therefore essential.

Thus, wildlife translocation represents a scientific and collaborative approach to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration in India.



APSC MAIN Q 5397: Discuss the cultural significance of the traditional mask-making art of Majuli and examine its growing global recognition.

(250 words) GS 1

The traditional mask-making art of Majuli represents one of the finest expressions of Assamese Vaishnavite cultural heritage. Practised primarily at Samaguri Satra, the art form is deeply associated with the neo-Vaishnavite movement initiated by Srimanta Sankardeva.

These masks, locally known as “Mukha”, are traditionally used in Bhaona performances—religious theatrical presentations depicting stories from epics and Puranas. Crafted mainly from bamboo, clay, cloth, and natural colours, the masks combine spirituality, craftsmanship, and storytelling.

The cultural significance of the art lies in its role in preserving Assam’s intangible heritage and transmitting religious and moral narratives across generations. It also reflects community participation and indigenous ecological knowledge through the use of sustainable materials.

Artists such as Hem Chandra Goswami have played a major role in preserving and popularising this tradition. The growing international demand for Majuli masks—including their preservation in institutions like the British Museum and recent exports to the United States—demonstrates increasing global appreciation for Assamese folk art.

Such recognition creates opportunities for cultural diplomacy, artisan livelihoods, and heritage tourism. However, challenges such as declining traditional patronage and commercial imitation remain concerns.

Thus, the international recognition of Majuli’s mask-making tradition highlights the importance of safeguarding indigenous art forms while integrating them into global cultural networks.



APSC MAIN Q 5398: Work-life harmony has emerged as an important aspect of ethical and productive professional life. Discuss the challenges in achieving work-life balance and suggest practical measures to address them. (250 words) GS 4

Work-life harmony refers to maintaining a healthy balance between professional responsibilities and personal wellbeing. In modern society, rapid technological advancement and competitive work culture have made this increasingly challenging.

One major challenge is the culture of overwork, where long working hours are often equated with dedication and efficiency. The expansion of digital communication has blurred the boundary between workplace and home, creating a sense of constant availability. Stress, burnout, and mental fatigue have consequently become common across sectors.

In the corporate sector of India, firms such as Zerodha and Tech Mahindra have introduced flexible work policies, wellness programmes, and hybrid work models to improve employee wellbeing. However, challenges remain due to performance pressures and digital overload.

Government services also face work-life imbalance because of rigid structures, heavy workloads, transfers, and high public accountability. Frequent availability beyond office hours affects personal and family life.

Practical solutions require both institutional and individual efforts. Organisations should promote flexible work systems, mental health support, and outcome-based evaluation rather than excessive work hours. Measures such as the "Right to Disconnect," no-meeting days, and better delegation practices can improve balance.

At the individual level, effective time management, clear boundaries, prioritisation, and mindful use of technology are essential. Digital detox and sharing responsibilities at home can also reduce stress.

Thus, work-life harmony is not merely a personal concern but an ethical and organisational



APSC MAIN Q 5398: Work-life harmony has emerged as an important aspect of ethical and productive professional life. Discuss the challenges in achieving work-life balance and suggest practical measures to address them. (250 words) GS 4
necessity for sustainable productivity and wellbeing.



APSC MAIN Q 5399: Green buildings are essential for sustainable urbanisation in rapidly growing cities like Guwahati. Discuss their significance and the challenges in promoting green building practices

in Assam. (250 words) GS 5

Green buildings are environmentally sustainable structures designed to minimise energy consumption, conserve water, and reduce ecological impact. In rapidly urbanising cities like Guwahati, they have become crucial for achieving sustainable urban development.

One major significance of green buildings lies in energy efficiency. Features such as rooftop solar panels, energy-efficient lighting, and climate-responsive designs reduce electricity demand and carbon emissions. Water management is another critical benefit, as rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling help address urban flooding and seasonal water shortages.

Government initiatives have encouraged this transition. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency introduced the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), while schemes such as Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT promote sustainable urban infrastructure. In Assam, the Assam Unified Building Construction Byelaws, 2022 mandate rooftop solar installations and provide incentives like property tax rebates and additional FAR for certified green buildings.

Despite these measures, adoption remains limited. Lack of awareness, misconceptions regarding high initial costs, weak enforcement of regulations, and inadequate technical expertise discourage builders and homeowners. Compared to states like Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, Assam has relatively few green-certified buildings.

To accelerate adoption, stronger incentives, faster project approvals, public awareness campaigns, and professional training are essential. Locally available sustainable materials such as bamboo can further support eco-friendly construction.

Thus, green buildings are not merely architectural innovations but necessary tools for ensuring ecological balance, urban resilience, and sustainable growth in Assam.



APSC MAIN Q 5400: Stray livestock on roads has emerged as both a public safety and economic efficiency issue in Assam. Discuss the causes, impacts, and suggest measures to address the problem. (250 words) GS 5

The growing presence of stray livestock on roads in Assam has evolved from a routine inconvenience into a significant public safety and economic concern. Unregulated cattle movement disrupts transport systems, increases accident risks, and imposes hidden economic costs on society.

One major cause is the decline and fragmentation of traditional grazing commons, often described as the "Tragedy of Commons." Encroachment and weak management of grazing land have pushed livestock onto roads and highways. Inadequate cattle shelters and poor coordination among municipal, animal husbandry, and traffic authorities further aggravate the problem.

The impacts are substantial. Road accidents involving livestock endanger human lives, especially during night travel. Frequent braking and congestion increase fuel consumption and emissions. Studies indicate that idling and repeated acceleration significantly raise fuel usage in congested conditions, leading to economic inefficiencies. Delays in commuting and logistics also affect productivity and business operations.

Addressing the issue requires coordinated policy interventions. Designated grazing zones and supervised livestock corridors should be developed to reduce road exposure. Functional and adequately funded gaushalas, along with humane capture-and-shelter systems, are essential.

Further, livestock tagging and registration can improve accountability and monitoring. Road safety measures such as fencing, signage, and better lighting in vulnerable areas can reduce accidents. A compensation and penalty framework should also be introduced to internalise the costs of unmanaged livestock.

Thus, effective livestock management is crucial for ensuring safer roads, economic efficiency,



APSC MAIN Q 5400: Stray livestock on roads has emerged as both a public safety and economic efficiency issue in Assam. Discuss the causes, impacts, and suggest measures to address the problem. (250 words) GS 5

and sustainable urban governance in Assam.



APSC MAIN Q 5401: Red Cross Movement represents the global spirit of humanitarianism & voluntary service. Discuss its role in disaster management, healthcare & promotion of humanitarian values with

special reference to Assam. GS II

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is one of the world's largest humanitarian organisations, founded on the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality. Established in 1863 under the inspiration of Henry Dunant, the Movement aims to provide relief to vulnerable populations irrespective of nationality, religion or political affiliation.

The Movement has played a significant role in disaster management and emergency response across the world. During conflicts, natural disasters and pandemics, it provides food, shelter, medical assistance and psychosocial support. Its work during the Ukraine conflict and various global humanitarian crises demonstrates its commitment to alleviating human suffering. The Movement also promotes International Humanitarian Law and encourages peaceful humanitarian engagement during armed conflicts.

In India, the Indian Red Cross Society, established in 1920, has emerged as an important institution in healthcare, blood donation services, disaster relief and community welfare. It has actively participated in relief operations during floods, epidemics and other emergencies.

In Assam, the Assam State Branch of the Indian Red Cross has contributed significantly to flood relief, disaster preparedness, blood donation drives and health awareness programmes. Its support during refugee crises, wars and natural disasters highlights the importance of community-based humanitarian action in a disaster-prone region.

Thus, the Red Cross Movement continues to serve as a symbol of compassion, resilience and collective responsibility in an increasingly uncertain world.



APSC MAIN Q 5402: Operation Sindoor reflects India's evolving counterterrorism doctrine and growing military preparedness. Examine its significance for India's internal security and defence strategy. GS 3

Operation Sindoor marked a significant shift in India's counterterrorism approach by demonstrating its willingness to conduct precise and swift retaliatory strikes against terror infrastructure across the border. Launched in response to the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, the operation highlighted India's resolve to adopt a proactive and deterrence-based security doctrine.

The operation showcased the growing coordination between the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force through precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The destruction of infrastructure linked to groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba reinforced India's zero-tolerance approach towards cross-border terrorism. It also strengthened India's international position by exposing Pakistan's continued support for terror activities.

Another important aspect of Operation Sindoor was the display of technological and operational preparedness. Precision targeting, rapid execution and inter-service synergy reflected the modernisation of India's defence capabilities. The operation also underlined the importance of political leadership and strategic clarity in national security matters.

However, the operation exposed emerging security challenges, especially the increasing use of drones and aerial threats by hostile actors. This has compelled India to strengthen anti-drone systems, surveillance capabilities and specialised border defence mechanisms. The formation of dedicated drone squadrons by the Border Security Force indicates the changing nature of warfare in the 21st century.

Thus, Operation Sindoor not only symbolised military strength and national resolve but also highlighted the need for continuous modernisation and preparedness against evolving security threats.



APSC MAIN Q 5403: Cultural diplomacy has emerged as an important instrument of India's foreign policy in strengthening people-to-people relations. Discuss with special reference to India-Sri Lanka relations.

GS II

Cultural diplomacy plays a vital role in enhancing mutual trust, civilisational understanding and soft power in international relations. India has increasingly used cultural engagement as an important foreign policy tool, particularly in neighbouring countries such as Sri Lanka, where deep historical and cultural ties already exist.

India and Sri Lanka share centuries-old civilisational linkages through Buddhism, the Ramayana tradition, language, art and trade. Cultural diplomacy helps reinforce these shared connections beyond formal political engagement. Programmes related to yoga, Ayurveda, Indian cinema, literature and performing arts have contributed significantly to strengthening people-to-people relations between the two countries.

Institutions such as the Indian Council for Cultural Relations have actively promoted academic collaborations, cultural festivals and heritage-based exchanges in Sri Lanka. The identification of Ramayana-linked sites, translation of Assamese and Indian literary works into Sinhala and Tamil, and promotion of traditions such as Borgeet, Bihu and Satriya dance have expanded India's cultural outreach. Such initiatives project India as a diverse and plural civilisational entity rather than merely a political power.

Cultural diplomacy also helps counter misinformation and geopolitical mistrust by building emotional and social connections among ordinary citizens. It creates long-term goodwill that often survives political fluctuations.

However, cultural diplomacy must remain inclusive and sensitive to local identities and historical perceptions. Excessive cultural assertion may generate apprehensions among neighbouring countries.

Thus, India's engagement with Sri Lanka demonstrates that cultural diplomacy can serve as



APSC MAIN Q 5403: Cultural diplomacy has emerged as an important instrument of India's foreign policy in strengthening people-to-people relations. Discuss with special reference to India-Sri Lanka relations.

GS II

an effective bridge for regional cooperation, mutual respect and civilisational partnership in South Asia.



APSC MAIN Q 5404: Rising crimes against women reflect deeper social and institutional challenges in Indian society. Discuss the causes behind such crimes and suggest measures to ensure women's safety

and dignity. GS I

The increasing incidence of crimes against women, including rape, sexual harassment, trafficking and domestic violence, highlights serious structural and societal shortcomings in India. Despite legal safeguards, crimes against women continue to remain a major challenge due to weak enforcement mechanisms and deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes.

One of the primary causes is the persistence of gender inequality and social prejudice that treats women as inferior. In many sections of society, women continue to face discrimination in education, healthcare, employment and property rights. Such unequal social conditions often normalise violence and restrict women's autonomy. The growing materialistic culture and commodification of women in media and society have further contributed to declining respect for women's dignity.

Institutional weaknesses also aggravate the problem. Delayed investigations, poor conviction rates and insensitive handling of victims discourage reporting and weaken public confidence in the justice system. Lack of gender sensitisation among police personnel and public officials further compounds the suffering of victims.

Socio-economic factors such as female illiteracy, low workforce participation and poor access to healthcare make women more vulnerable to exploitation and violence. Adverse gender indicators, including skewed sex ratios and low female development indices, reflect the persistence of structural inequality.

To address these challenges, there is a need for effective law enforcement, fast-track courts and stricter accountability mechanisms. Gender sensitisation must be integrated into education, governance and policing. Simultaneously, policies promoting women's education, healthcare, economic empowerment and social awareness are essential for long-term change.



APSC MAIN Q 5404: Rising crimes against women reflect deeper social and institutional challenges in Indian society. Discuss the causes behind such crimes and suggest measures to ensure women's safety and dignity. GS I

Thus, ensuring women's safety requires not only stronger laws but also a transformation in societal attitudes and institutional culture.



APSC MAIN Q 5405: Rising suicide cases in Assam reflect deeper socio-economic and psychological challenges. Discuss the major causes behind suicides and suggest measures for prevention. GS 1.

150 Words

The rising incidence of suicides in Assam highlights growing social, economic and mental health concerns within society. The steady increase in suicide cases reflects not only personal distress but also structural vulnerabilities affecting different sections of the population.

Family problems, relationship issues, illness and marital conflicts have emerged as major causes of suicides. Emotional stress arising from unstable relationships, social isolation and domestic tensions often pushes individuals towards extreme steps. The large number of student suicides also points towards academic pressure, anxiety and lack of emotional support systems.

Economic insecurity is another important factor. A significant proportion of victims belong to lower-income groups, daily wage earners and unemployed sections. Poverty, indebtedness and uncertain livelihoods create feelings of hopelessness and social vulnerability. Similarly, low educational attainment among many victims reflects the linkage between limited opportunities and psychological distress.

Mental health awareness and access to counselling services remain inadequate, particularly in rural and economically weaker regions. Social stigma associated with mental illness often prevents individuals from seeking professional help. Substance abuse, alcoholism and declining community support structures further aggravate the crisis.

To address the issue, the government must strengthen mental healthcare infrastructure, establish counselling centres in schools and colleges, and improve suicide helplines and community outreach programmes. Awareness campaigns promoting emotional well-being and gender-sensitive family environments are equally important. Economic empowerment, employment generation and educational support can also reduce vulnerability among high-risk groups.



APSC MAIN Q 5405: Rising suicide cases in Assam reflect deeper socio-economic and psychological challenges. Discuss the major causes behind suicides and suggest measures for prevention. GS 1.

150 Words

Thus, suicide prevention requires a comprehensive approach combining mental healthcare, social support, economic security and greater societal sensitivity towards emotional distress.



APSC MAIN Q 5406: Improvement in school infrastructure alone is insufficient to ensure quality education and student retention. Discuss with reference to the educational scenario in Assam. GS II 150 Words

NITI Aayog data shows that Assam has made significant progress in improving school infrastructure over the past decade. Access to electricity, sanitation facilities, computers and internet connectivity in schools has increased substantially, reflecting greater public investment in foundational educational infrastructure.

Improved facilities such as functional toilets, electricity and digital connectivity contribute positively to the learning environment. Better sanitation particularly supports girls' education, while internet access and computers help promote digital learning and technological inclusion. These developments are important for achieving equitable and modern education systems.

However, despite infrastructural gains, Assam continues to face serious challenges in student retention and transition rates. High dropout levels indicate that infrastructure alone cannot address deeper socio-economic and educational issues. Poverty, child labour, early marriage, lack of parental awareness and limited employment opportunities often force students to discontinue education.

Quality of teaching and learning outcomes also remain critical concerns. Many schools continue to face shortages of trained teachers, weak learning support and poor academic engagement. In rural and remote areas, geographical barriers and inadequate transport facilities further affect continuity in education.

Moreover, first-generation learners and economically weaker families may not always perceive long-term educational benefits, leading to low motivation and irregular attendance. Psychological factors, language barriers and digital inequality also influence dropout rates despite improved infrastructure.



APSC MAIN Q 5406: Improvement in school infrastructure alone is insufficient to ensure quality education and student retention. Discuss with reference to the educational scenario in Assam. GS II 150 Words

Therefore, improving educational outcomes requires a holistic approach combining infrastructure development with teacher training, counselling support, community participation, scholarships and targeted interventions for vulnerable groups.

Thus, meaningful educational progress depends not only on physical facilities but also on inclusive, quality-driven and socially responsive educational policies.



APSC MAIN Q 5407: Recent sighting of gharials in Brahmaputra highlights the importance of river ecosystem conservation in India.

Discuss the significance of gharial conservation & the challenges associated with protecting aquatic biodiversity. GS 5 Word 250

The repeated sighting of the critically endangered Gharial in Kaziranga National Park has generated optimism regarding aquatic biodiversity conservation in Assam. Once believed to have disappeared from the Brahmaputra river system, the species' return indicates gradual ecological recovery and improved habitat protection.

The gharial is an important apex aquatic predator and serves as a key indicator of river health and ecological balance. Its survival depends on clean rivers, stable fish populations, sandy riverbanks and undisturbed breeding habitats. Therefore, the presence of gharials reflects the ecological integrity of riverine ecosystems and wetlands.

Conservation of gharials is significant not only for species protection but also for maintaining broader aquatic biodiversity. River ecosystems support fisheries, groundwater recharge, flood regulation and livelihoods of local communities. Protecting such ecosystems contributes to sustainable environmental management and climate resilience.

However, aquatic biodiversity in India faces several challenges. Habitat degradation due to river pollution, dam construction, sand mining and encroachment has severely affected species dependent on freshwater ecosystems. Changes in river flow and loss of breeding sites have contributed to the drastic decline of gharial populations across India. Human disturbances and illegal fishing practices further threaten aquatic fauna.

The recent surveys and conservation initiatives involving organisations such as the Wildlife Institute of India and WWF highlight the importance of scientific monitoring and inter-state cooperation in species recovery efforts.

Thus, gharial conservation underlines the urgent need for integrated river basin management, habitat restoration and long-term protection of India's fragile freshwater



APSC MAIN Q 5407: Recent sighting of gharials in Brahmaputra highlights the importance of river ecosystem conservation in India. Discuss the significance of gharial conservation & the challenges associated with protecting aquatic biodiversity. GS 5 Word 250

ecosystems.



APSC MAIN Q 5408: Rhino reintroduction programmes demonstrate the importance of scientific conservation and habitat restoration in wildlife management. Discuss with reference to Manas National Park.

GS III Word 250

The successful re-establishment of the Indian Rhinoceros population in Manas National Park represents a major achievement in wildlife conservation and ecological restoration. Once wiped out from Manas due to poaching and conflict, the rhino population was revived through translocation and rehabilitation initiatives under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 programme.

The reintroduction programme involved translocating rhinos from protected areas such as Kaziranga National Park and releasing rehabilitated rhinos into Manas. Scientific monitoring through radio telemetry, camera traps and field observation helped researchers track adaptation, breeding patterns and habitat use.

The study revealed encouraging signs of ecological recovery. Researchers recorded multiple births, including calves born to the first generation of rhinos raised in Manas. Breeding and successful calving indicate that the species has adapted well to the restored habitat. Seasonal breeding patterns and stable reproductive behaviour further reflect habitat suitability and availability of food and water resources.

The programme also demonstrated the importance of behavioural ecology in conservation. Translocated rhinos retained more natural movement patterns, while rehabilitated rhinos showed greater dependence on human-influenced spaces. Such findings are important for designing future conservation and rehabilitation strategies.

Rhino conservation contributes significantly to ecosystem stability, biodiversity protection and ecotourism-based livelihoods. As a flagship species, the rhino also helps strengthen broader habitat conservation efforts across grassland and riverine ecosystems.

However, challenges such as poaching, habitat fragmentation, floods and human-wildlife conflict continue to threaten long-term conservation success.



APSC MAIN Q 5408: Rhino reintroduction programmes demonstrate the importance of scientific conservation and habitat restoration in wildlife management. Discuss with reference to Manas National Park.

GS III Word 250

Thus, the Manas experience highlights how scientific management, habitat restoration and sustained protection measures can successfully revive endangered wildlife populations in India.



APSC MAIN Q 5409: Achieving self-sufficiency in fish production in Assam requires not only higher output but also institutional support and value-chain development. Discuss. GS Paper III – Agriculture &

Allied Sectors

The fishery sector in Assam has witnessed steady growth in recent years, significantly reducing the gap between fish demand and supply. However, the state still faces an annual shortfall in fish production, making self-sufficiency an important economic and public health objective.

Boosting local fish production is essential because fish forms a major component of the food habits of the population. Expanding the fish value chain through packaged, ready-to-cook and processed fish products can generate employment opportunities and strengthen rural entrepreneurship. Improved storage, cold-chain facilities and market infrastructure can also reduce post-harvest losses and enhance profitability for fish farmers.

Institutional support, particularly affordable credit access, remains crucial for sustaining growth. The Kisan Credit Card Scheme provides flexible working capital support for fishing households, including collateral-free loans and interest subvention benefits. However, poor awareness and weak outreach have limited its utilisation among fish farmers in Assam. Financial literacy and easier banking access are therefore essential for increasing credit penetration.

Another major concern is the import of fish from distant states using harmful chemicals such as formaldehyde for preservation. Lack of proper refrigeration during transport increases health risks for consumers. Strengthening food safety inspections, refrigeration infrastructure and laboratory testing systems is necessary to ensure safe fish supply.

At the same time, timely availability of quality fish seeds, feed and technical assistance is important for increasing productivity and supporting sustainable aquaculture practices.

Thus, Assam's fishery sector requires an integrated strategy combining production



APSC MAIN Q 5409: Achieving self-sufficiency in fish production in Assam requires not only higher output but also institutional support and value-chain development. Discuss. GS Paper III – Agriculture &

Allied Sectors
enhancement, financial inclusion, infrastructure development and food safety regulation to achieve long-term self-reliance and rural economic growth.



APSC MAIN Q 5410: Conservation of migratory birds requires integrated wetland management and community participation across the entire flyway ecosystem. Discuss with reference to Northeast

India. GS Paper III – Environment & Biodiversity

The seasonal arrival of migratory birds in Assam and other Northeastern states highlights the ecological importance of wetlands and riverine habitats in the Central Asian Flyway.

Migratory birds serve as important indicators of ecosystem health, and their conservation requires coordinated action across countries, regions and local communities.

Wetlands are critical habitats for more than 80% of migratory bird species visiting the Indian subcontinent. These ecosystems provide breeding, feeding and resting grounds essential for the survival of birds during migration. Destruction or fragmentation of wetlands due to urbanisation, industrialisation, agricultural expansion and infrastructure projects can disrupt entire migratory routes and threaten global bird populations.

Government initiatives such as the National Action Plan for Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitats and the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems emphasise integrated wetland management, biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration. Activities such as wastewater treatment, shoreline protection, desilting and catchment management are important for maintaining ecological balance.

Community participation is equally essential for sustainable conservation. Local communities, fishermen, students and Panchayati Raj Institutions can act as custodians of wetlands through awareness campaigns, biodiversity documentation and monitoring of migratory species. Instruments such as the People's Biodiversity Register can help track changes in bird populations and habitat conditions.

However, conservation efforts often suffer from weak coordination among departments dealing with forests, water resources, tourism and urban development. Many management plans remain poorly implemented at the ground level.



APSC MAIN Q 5410: Conservation of migratory birds requires integrated wetland management and community participation across the entire flyway ecosystem. Discuss with reference to Northeast

India. GS Paper III - Environment & Biodiversity

Thus, protecting migratory birds requires a long-term, ecosystem-based approach combining scientific management, inter-sectoral coordination and active community stewardship across the entire flyway network.



APSC MAIN Q 5411: Effective child protection requires not only strong laws but also robust institutional implementation mechanisms.

Discuss with reference to the child protection framework in Assam. GS

Paper II – Social Justice 250 Words

Child protection is a critical component of social justice and governance. Although Assam has witnessed significant policy attention towards child rights and protection in recent years, several structural and institutional gaps continue to affect the effective implementation of child protection laws and welfare mechanisms.

The strengthening of initiatives such as the Assam Police Sishu Mitra Programme and campaigns against child marriage reflects increasing political commitment towards child welfare. Improved coordination between police and child protection agencies has enhanced awareness and responsiveness in cases of trafficking, child abuse and exploitation.

However, serious challenges persist in the implementation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and the Juvenile Justice Act. Delays in providing interim compensation to child abuse survivors often leave vulnerable families without immediate support. Many districts continue to lack functional Special POCSO Courts, child-friendly waiting areas, video-conferencing facilities and vulnerable witness deposition systems. Such deficiencies frequently result in retraumatisation of survivors during legal proceedings.

Infrastructure gaps also affect Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards and emergency shelter facilities. Inadequate staffing, weak monitoring systems and poor budget allocation reduce the effectiveness of rehabilitation and protection services. Anti-Human Trafficking Units and child labour rehabilitation mechanisms often remain poorly operational despite legal provisions.

Furthermore, lack of coordination among departments dealing with women and child development, health, labour and finance weakens institutional efficiency. Child helplines and sponsorship support systems also suffer from inadequate resources.



APSC MAIN Q 5411: Effective child protection requires not only strong laws but also robust institutional implementation mechanisms.

Discuss with reference to the child protection framework in Assam. GS

Paper II – Social Justice 250 Words

Thus, ensuring effective child protection in Assam requires stronger institutional capacity, adequate funding, child-sensitive infrastructure and consistent implementation of legal safeguards across all districts.



APSC MAIN Q 5412: Beekeeping and honey production can emerge as important drivers of rural livelihoods, export growth and sustainable agriculture in Northeast India. Discuss with reference to Assam. GS 3

Word 250

Assam possesses significant potential for honey production due to its rich biodiversity, forest resources and traditional beekeeping practices among indigenous communities such as the Bodos, Karbis and Mishings. The recent export of honey from Baksa district to the United States under the One District One Product initiative highlights the growing importance of apiculture in rural economic transformation.

Beekeeping offers multiple socio-economic benefits. It provides an additional source of income for small and marginal farmers with relatively low investment requirements. Export-oriented honey production can significantly enhance farmers' earnings, especially through access to premium international markets. It also promotes rural entrepreneurship, women's participation and employment generation in tribal and economically weaker regions.

Apiculture contributes to sustainable agriculture by improving pollination, biodiversity conservation and crop productivity. The Northeast region, known for relatively low chemical-intensive farming, has favourable conditions for organic honey production, increasing its export competitiveness. Support from agencies such as Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has further strengthened market access and quality certification.

However, the sector still faces challenges such as inadequate scientific training, limited processing infrastructure, lack of awareness regarding international standards and weak market linkages. Access to finance, insurance and modern apiculture technologies also remains limited for many rural producers.

Therefore, stronger institutional support, value-chain development, branding, export facilitation and capacity-building initiatives are essential to unlock Assam's vast apiculture potential.



APSC MAIN Q 5412: Beekeeping and honey production can emerge as important drivers of rural livelihoods, export growth and sustainable agriculture in Northeast India. Discuss with reference to Assam. GS 3

Word 250

Thus, beekeeping can emerge as an important pillar of sustainable rural development, export diversification and livelihood security in Northeast India.



APSC MAIN Q 5413: The completion of 75 years of Dima Hasao Autonomous Council reflects the evolving role of autonomous councils in preserving tribal identity and promoting regional development in

NE India. Discuss. GS 5

The completion of 75 years of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council marks an important milestone in the history of tribal self-governance and decentralised administration in Northeast India. Established to safeguard the socio-cultural and political interests of tribal communities, the council has played a significant role in preserving indigenous identity while promoting regional development.

Over the decades, the council has contributed to the protection of tribal languages, customs and cultural traditions. Celebrations showcasing traditional dances, local literature and Dimasa-medium educational initiatives reflect continued efforts to strengthen cultural heritage and community identity in a diverse tribal region.

The council has also emerged as an important instrument for grassroots governance and development. Through initiatives related to education, rural livelihoods, tourism, agriculture and infrastructure, it has attempted to address the unique developmental needs of the hill district. Recognition of meritorious students, farmers, villages and homestays highlights the growing focus on human development and local economic participation.

The 75-year journey of the council also underlines the importance of democratic decentralisation in managing ethnic diversity and regional aspirations in the Northeast. Autonomous councils provide local communities greater representation and participation in governance, thereby strengthening political inclusion and social stability.

However, challenges such as financial dependence, limited administrative powers, infrastructural deficits and uneven development continue to affect the functioning of autonomous institutions.

Thus, the 75 years of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council symbolise both the achievements



APSC MAIN Q 5413: The completion of 75 years of Dima Hasao Autonomous Council reflects the evolving role of autonomous councils in preserving tribal identity and promoting regional development in NE India. Discuss. GS 5 and continuing challenges of tribal self-governance, cultural preservation and inclusive regional development in Northeast India.



APSC MAIN Q 5414: Folk traditions and ecological symbolism often shape regional literary and musical expressions in India. Discuss with reference to the use of plant metaphors in the songs of Zubeen Garg.

GS 5

The songs of Zubeen Garg reflect a deep engagement with Assam's ecological and cultural landscape. Through the use of plant metaphors such as trees, flowers and paddy fields, his lyrics transform nature into a medium for expressing human emotions, social critique and philosophical reflection.

Plant symbolism has long been part of Assamese literary and folk traditions. From the Borgeets of Srimanta Sankardev to the compositions of Bhupen Hazarika, nature has often been portrayed as a living participant in human life rather than a passive backdrop. Zubeen Garg continues this tradition in a modern idiom.

In songs such as *Sabda Jodi Prerona Hoy*, the eucalyptus tree symbolises aspiration, resilience and artistic struggle in a chaotic world. In *Bhoba Kotha Nahay Siddhi*, paddy becomes a metaphor for greed, corruption and unequal social relations, reflecting anxieties surrounding materialism and moral decline. Similarly, the parijat or sewali flower in *Jogot Puhor Kori* symbolises fragility, compassion and hope amidst violence and social unrest in Assam during the insurgency period.

These metaphors demonstrate how ecological imagery can convey collective memory, emotional sensitivity and social consciousness. The songs therefore become not only artistic expressions but also reflections on conflict, identity and human values.

Thus, Zubeen Garg's lyrical world illustrates the close relationship between folk traditions, environmental consciousness and contemporary cultural expression in regional Indian literature and music.



APSC MAIN Q 5415: Discuss the architectural significance of the Somnath Temple as an example of India's temple-building traditions.

GS Paper I – Art & Culture- Word 150

Somnath Temple is one of the most important sacred and historical temples of India, representing the continuity of Hindu temple architecture and civilisational resilience. The present structure reflects the Māru-Gurjara or Chaulukya style of architecture, which flourished in western India and is known for its artistic precision, ornamentation and structural grandeur.

One of the most striking features of the temple is its towering Shikhara, which rises to nearly 155 feet and is crowned by a massive Kalash weighing around 10 tonnes. The vertical elevation symbolises spiritual ascent and divine connection, a common characteristic of Nagara-style temple architecture.

The temple complex includes the Garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum), Sabha Mandap (assembly hall) and Nritya Mandap (dance hall), reflecting the traditional spatial organisation of Hindu temples. Intricate carvings and sculptural details on the walls and pillars showcase the excellence of Indian craftsmanship and religious symbolism.

An important architectural and geographical feature of the temple is the Baan Stambh or Arrow Pillar situated near the sea-facing boundary. The pillar is believed to indicate that there is no landmass between the Somnath coast and Antarctica along the straight line extending southward, symbolising India's ancient geographical awareness.

The temple's coastal location, monumental design and repeated reconstruction over centuries also underline its cultural and historical significance.

Thus, the Somnath Temple stands as a remarkable example of India's architectural heritage, spiritual traditions and enduring artistic excellence.



APSC MAIN Q 5416: Respect for the dignity and self-respect of civil servants is essential for effective governance and institutional integrity. Discuss. GS Paper IV – Ethics & Aptitude

Civil servants form the backbone of public administration and play a crucial role in implementing policies, maintaining institutional continuity and delivering public services. Protecting their dignity and self-respect is therefore essential not only for individual morale but also for preserving the credibility and effectiveness of democratic institutions.

Public humiliation or disrespect towards civil servants can negatively affect administrative efficiency, motivation and impartial decision-making. Fear of public criticism may discourage officers from taking independent and innovative decisions, thereby weakening governance. Respectful communication, constructive criticism and institutional discipline create an environment where officials can function with integrity, professionalism and accountability.

Ethically, every public servant deserves dignity and fair treatment irrespective of hierarchy. The principles of empathy, respect and emotional intelligence are important components of ethical leadership. Administrative accountability can be ensured without resorting to public shaming or intimidation.

A healthy relationship between political executives and civil servants is also essential for good governance. While elected representatives provide policy direction, civil servants contribute administrative expertise and continuity. Mutual trust and institutional respect strengthen coordination and improve public service delivery.

Furthermore, preserving the dignity of civil servants inspires capable individuals to join public service and strengthens public confidence in institutions. Professional environments based on dialogue and cooperation encourage dedication, transparency and efficiency.

However, respect for civil servants must coexist with accountability, transparency and responsiveness to citizens. Misconduct or corruption should be addressed through lawful and



APSC MAIN Q 5416: Respect for the dignity and self-respect of civil servants is essential for effective governance and institutional integrity. Discuss. GS Paper IV – Ethics & Aptitude

institutional mechanisms.

Thus, protecting the dignity of civil servants is not merely an administrative concern but an ethical necessity for ensuring effective governance, institutional integrity and democratic accountability.



APSC MAIN Q 5417: Fiscal prudence and sustainable public expenditure are essential components of good governance. Discuss with reference to recent austerity measures adopted by the Assam

government. GS II

Fiscal prudence refers to responsible management of public finances through rational expenditure, efficient resource utilisation and long-term sustainability. In a developing economy with rising welfare and infrastructure demands, governments increasingly need to balance developmental spending with financial discipline.

Recent austerity measures adopted by the Assam government reflect this approach. Decisions such as restricting the purchase of new government vehicles, reducing convoy sizes, cutting fuel consumption and limiting unnecessary official travel indicate efforts to minimise non-essential expenditure. Promotion of virtual meetings and preference for electric vehicles also demonstrate the integration of cost efficiency with environmental sustainability.

Such measures have multiple governance benefits. First, they reduce avoidable administrative expenditure and help preserve fiscal resources for priority sectors such as health, education and infrastructure. Second, visible austerity in public administration strengthens public trust and signals accountability in the use of taxpayers' money. Third, measures like reduced fuel consumption and adoption of electric vehicles support climate-sensitive governance and sustainable development goals.

The decision to avoid procurement of foreign products may also encourage local industries and align with the broader objective of economic self-reliance. Scrapping older vehicles can improve efficiency and reduce maintenance costs.

However, austerity measures should not adversely affect administrative efficiency or essential public services. Excessive expenditure cuts may weaken governance capacity if not implemented carefully. Therefore, fiscal discipline must be accompanied by strategic planning and outcome-based expenditure management.



APSC MAIN Q 5417: Fiscal prudence and sustainable public expenditure are essential components of good governance. Discuss with reference to recent austerity measures adopted by the Assam

government. GS II

Thus, the Assam government's measures highlight how fiscal prudence, administrative efficiency and environmental responsibility can together strengthen good governance and sustainable public administration.



APSC MAIN Q 5418: The historical regions of Anga, Vanga, Kalinga and Kamarupa reflect the civilisational unity and regional diversity of ancient India. Discuss their relevance in the emerging importance of

Eastern India. GS Paper I -Indian History & Culture (250 W)

The ancient regions of Anga, Vanga, Kalinga and Kamarupa formed important centres of political, economic and cultural development in ancient India. Though geographically diverse, these regions remained connected through trade, religion, language and civilisational exchange, contributing significantly to India's historical strength and cultural continuity.

These regions played important roles in maritime trade, temple architecture, Buddhism, Hinduism and regional literary traditions. Kalinga emerged as a major political power and maritime centre, while Kamarupa became an important centre of Tantric and Vaishnavite traditions. Vanga contributed to Bengal's rich cultural and commercial heritage, whereas Anga was associated with early urbanisation and trade networks.

In contemporary India, the eastern and northeastern regions are regaining strategic and economic importance. States such as Assam, Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal possess rich natural resources, demographic potential and strategic connectivity advantages.

Infrastructure expansion, inland waterways, industrial growth and the Act East Policy are increasingly positioning Eastern India as a major growth corridor.

The Northeast, in particular, is emerging as India's gateway to Southeast Asia through improved regional connectivity and trade integration. Cultural diversity, tourism potential and ecological resources further strengthen the region's developmental significance.

Thus, the historical legacy of Anga, Vanga, Kalinga and Kamarupa not only reflects India's civilisational unity but also highlights the growing strategic and economic importance of Eastern India in the country's future development trajectory.



APSC MAIN Q 5419: The fertiliser crisis caused by global supply disruptions highlights the need for sustainable and resilient agricultural practices in India. Discuss with special reference to the Northeast region. GS Paper III – Agriculture & Economy (150 W)

The recent rise in fertiliser prices and supply uncertainties due to geopolitical tensions in West Asia has exposed India's heavy dependence on imported agricultural inputs. Since India imports a substantial share of its urea, phosphate and potash requirements, volatility in crude oil and natural gas prices directly affects fertiliser availability, subsidy expenditure and agricultural sustainability.

In this context, the Northeastern region of India offers an important alternative model through its relatively low dependence on chemical fertilisers and traditional organic farming practices. States in the region, particularly Assam, continue to record fertiliser consumption levels far below the national average. This has helped preserve soil fertility, biodiversity and ecological balance.

Government initiatives such as the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region aim to strengthen organic agriculture through certification, processing, marketing and value-chain development. Organic farming improves soil carbon, water retention and long-term agricultural resilience while reducing dependence on imported chemical inputs.

However, several challenges remain. Organic farming in the region often suffers from lower productivity, weak certification infrastructure and limited market access. Lack of accredited certification bodies prevents farmers from fully benefiting from premium domestic and export markets. Inadequate processing, branding and logistics infrastructure also limit the commercial potential of organic produce.

At the same time, preserving indigenous agricultural knowledge and promoting climate-resilient farming practices can strengthen food security and ecological sustainability.



APSC MAIN Q 5419: The fertiliser crisis caused by global supply disruptions highlights the need for sustainable and resilient agricultural practices in India. Discuss with special reference to the Northeast region. GS Paper III – Agriculture & Economy (150 W)

Thus, the Northeast region is uniquely positioned to lead India's transition towards sustainable agriculture by combining traditional organic practices with modern institutional support, certification systems and market integration.



APSC MAIN Q 5420: The recurring NEET controversies reveal deeper structural weaknesses in India's high-stakes examination system.

Critically examine the reforms needed to restore transparency, credibility and meritocracy. GS Paper II – Governance & Education
The 2026 National Eligibility cum Entrance Test crisis has exposed major institutional (250 W) weaknesses in India's competitive examination framework. Repeated paper leaks, administrative lapses and allegations of rank inflation have undermined public trust and raised concerns regarding the credibility of the National Testing Agency.

The crisis reflects failures in examination security, digital governance and institutional accountability. Dependence on physical question papers increases vulnerability to organised leak networks and corruption. Repeated disruptions also impose severe psychological stress on millions of aspirants and weaken the meritocratic foundation of professional education.

The recommendations of the K. Radhakrishnan Committee provide an important roadmap for reform. Transitioning NEET from the traditional pen-and-paper mode to a Computer-Based Test (CBT) system can reduce risks associated with physical paper handling. Similarly, encrypted digital paper transmission and localised printing shortly before examinations can strengthen confidentiality and operational security.

The committee also emphasised expanding modern computer testing infrastructure across states to ensure accessibility and fairness. Conducting examinations in multiple stages or sessions may reduce pressure associated with single-day nationwide tests and minimise systemic disruption. Regular third-party forensic audits of software systems, storage mechanisms and personnel involved in the examination process are equally necessary to improve transparency and accountability.

However, technological reforms alone are insufficient. Strong institutional ethics, legal deterrence against organised cheating networks and better grievance redressal mechanisms are also essential.



APSC MAIN Q 5420: The recurring NEET controversies reveal deeper structural weaknesses in India's high-stakes examination system.

Critically examine the reforms needed to restore transparency,

credibility and meritocracy. GS Paper II - Governance & Education

Thus, restoring trust in India's examination system requires a combination of technological modernisation, administrative accountability and student-centric governance reforms. (250 W)



APSC MAIN Q 5421: Poor learning outcomes in government schools reflect deeper structural and governance challenges in India's education system. Critically examine with reference to Assam. GS

Paper II – Education & Governance (150 W)

The recent HSLC results in Assam have once again highlighted the persistent weaknesses in the government school system despite improvements in infrastructure and large-scale teacher recruitment. The gap between the performance of private and government schools reflects broader structural, administrative and societal challenges affecting public education.

One major issue is the diversion of teachers towards non-academic duties such as elections, surveys and census activities. Frequent engagement in administrative work reduces classroom time and weakens the continuity of the teaching-learning process. Although qualified teachers have been recruited through TET over the years, systemic inefficiencies continue to affect educational outcomes.

Weak institutional accountability further aggravates the problem. In many cases, inadequate leadership by headmasters, poor monitoring by school inspectors and absence of regular academic supervision reduce institutional effectiveness. Recruitment and promotion based primarily on seniority rather than competence may also affect school management quality.

Socio-economic conditions and low educational awareness in rural areas contribute to irregular attendance and high dropout rates. Political mobilisation often receives greater social attention than educational advancement, affecting long-term human capital development.

The situation also reveals the need for stronger stakeholder participation. Parents, teachers, administrators and policymakers must collectively contribute towards improving school culture, discipline and learning outcomes. Regular inspections, zonal monitoring systems, teacher accountability and community awareness campaigns are essential for reform.

At the same time, educational reform must move beyond curriculum changes under the



APSC MAIN Q 5421: Poor learning outcomes in government schools reflect deeper structural and governance challenges in India's education system. Critically examine with reference to Assam. GS

Paper II – Education & Governance (150 W)

National Education Policy 2020 and focus on governance quality, institutional responsibility and learning outcomes.

Thus, improving government schools in Assam requires systemic reform combining accountability, administrative efficiency, community participation and sustained political commitment towards quality public education.