

Questions & Answers bearing 2 marks each

Unit: I

A. Tourism – Concept, Meaning and Significance

Q1. What is meant by *tourism*?

Ans. Tourism refers to the temporary movement of people to destinations outside their usual environment for leisure, business, or other purposes, and their activities during the stay.

Q2. Mention two major elements of tourism.

Ans. The two major elements are: (i) Travel to a destination, and (ii) Stay at the destination for non-permanent purposes.

Q3. What is the significance of tourism for a country like India?

Ans. Tourism generates employment, promotes cultural exchange, earns foreign exchange, and contributes to regional development.

Q4. Why is North East India considered an emerging tourist destination?

Ans. Because of its rich biodiversity, ethnic diversity, scenic landscapes, and unique cultural heritage.

B. Different Types of Tourism

Q1. What is *eco-tourism*?

Ans. Eco-tourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well-being of local people.

Q2. Define *cultural tourism*.

Ans. Cultural tourism involves visiting destinations to experience and learn about local culture, heritage, festivals, art, and traditions.

Q3. What is *adventure tourism*?

Ans. Adventure tourism includes activities like trekking, rafting, rock climbing, or paragliding that involve exploration and physical challenge.

Q4. Mention two examples of *religious tourism* in North East India.

Ans. Kamakhya Temple (Assam) and Tawang Monastery (Arunachal Pradesh).

Q4. What is *wildlife tourism*?

Ans. Wildlife tourism focuses on observing and enjoying wild animals in their natural habitats, such as in national parks and sanctuaries.

C. Physiographical Divisions, Water Bodies, and Climatic Conditions

Q1. Mention two important tributaries of the Brahmaputra.

Ans. Subansiri and Manas Rivers.

Q2. Name two important lakes of North East India.

Ans. Loktak Lake (Manipur) and Chandubi Lake (Assam).

D. Important Wildlife Habitats and Biodiversity Hotspots

Q1. Name two UNESCO World Heritage Sites located in Assam.

Ans. Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park.

Q2. Name two important wildlife sanctuaries of Assam other than Kaziranga.

Ans. Orang National Park and Nameri National Park.

Q3. Where is Keibul Lamjao National Park located and why is it unique?

Ans. It is located in Manipur and is the world's only floating national park, home to the endangered Sangai deer.

Unit: II

Section A – Ancient Remains of North-East India

1. Where is *Goalpara* located and what ancient remains are found there?

→ *Goalpara*, in western Assam, preserves remains of early Buddhist and Hindu temples, stone sculptures, and archaeological mounds reflecting the ancient Kamarupa civilisation.

2. What is the archaeological significance of *Ambari* (Guwahati)?

→ Excavations at *Ambari* revealed terracotta artefacts, brick structures, pottery, and coins, proving the existence of an early urban settlement of ancient Pragjyotishpura (present-day Guwahati).

3. Why is *Tezpur* known as the “City of Blood”?

→ *Tezpur* means “City of Blood” and is linked to the mythic battle between Lord Krishna’s army and King Bana’s forces; archaeological sites like Da-Parbatia show early Gupta-style stone carvings.

4. Mention one important feature of the *Da-Parbatia* temple ruins at Tezpur.

→ The temple doorway at Da-Parbatia, with sculptures of Ganga and Yamuna, is an excellent example of early Gupta-era art in Assam.

5. What do the remains at *Deopahar* in Golaghat district indicate?

→ The site of *Deopahar* contains brick temples, stone idols, and inscriptions, indicating it was a major Hindu religious centre during the early medieval period.

6. Describe the archaeological importance of *Malinithan*.

→ *Malinithan*, in Arunachal Pradesh, has stone plinths, carved pillars, and sculptures associated with the Shaktism cult, dedicated to Goddess Durga (Malini) and connected with the legend of Krishna and Rukmini.

7. Which period's cultural development is reflected in the Ambari excavations?
→ The findings belong mainly to the early historical and medieval periods (7th–12th centuries CE), reflecting urban culture and Buddhist influence in the Brahmaputra Valley.

Section B – Important Tourist Places of North-East India

1. What makes *Shillong* a popular tourist destination?

→ Known as the “Scotland of the East,” Shillong attracts tourists for its hills, waterfalls, pleasant climate, and colonial heritage.

2. Why is *Cherrapunjee* famous worldwide?

→ *Cherrapunjee* (Sohra) in Meghalaya is renowned for being one of the wettest places on Earth, with living root bridges and scenic valleys.

3. Mention one major tourist attraction of *Gangtok* in Sikkim.

→ *Gangtok* offers attractions like the Rumtek Monastery, Tsomgo Lake, and panoramic views of Kanchenjunga.

4. Why is *Kohima* historically significant?

→ *Kohima*, the capital of Nagaland, was the site of the famous Battle of Kohima (1944) during World War II and houses the Kohima War Cemetery.

5. What attracts tourists to *Tawang* in Arunachal Pradesh?

→ *Tawang* is famous for the Tawang Monastery, one of the largest Buddhist monasteries in India, and its stunning mountain scenery.

6. What is *Poa Mecca* at Hajo known for?

→ *Poa Mecca* in Hajo (Assam) is a Muslim pilgrimage site believed to contain soil brought from Mecca; it symbolises Hindu–Muslim unity, being near the Hayagriva Madhava Temple.

7. Who was *Azan Pir*, and why is his *Dargah* a tourist site?

→ *Azan Pir* (also known as Ajan Fakir) was a 17th-century Sufi saint and poet who composed *zikir* and *zari* songs promoting unity. His Dargah at Sivasagar is a site of spiritual pilgrimage and cultural heritage.

8. What natural phenomenon is associated with *Jatinga* in Assam?

→ *Jatinga*, in Dima Hasao district, is famous for the mysterious phenomenon of birds descending at night, attracting ornithologists and tourists alike.

9. Mention one feature that links *Shillong* and *Cherrapunjee*.

→ Both lie in Meghalaya's Khasi Hills and are known for spectacular waterfalls, caves, and high rainfall.

10. How does *Tawang* contribute to religious tourism in Arunachal Pradesh?

→ It is a centre of Mahayana Buddhism, drawing pilgrims from India, Bhutan, and Tibet to its 400-year-old monastery.

11. Give one example each of religious and natural tourism from the list.

→ Religious: *Poa Mecca (Hajo)* or *Azan-Pir-Dargah (Sivasagar)*;

Natural: *Cherrapunjee* or *Tawang*.

Unit: III

A. Dimapur, Kasomari, Maibong, Khaspur

Q1. What is the historical significance of Dimapur in the context of North-East Indian architecture?

Ans. Dimapur was the capital of the Kachari (Dimasa) Kingdom, known for its ancient brick gateways, massive monoliths, and stone relics reflecting pre-Ahom architectural traditions of Assam.

Q2. Identify the capital city of the Kachari Kingdom after Dimapur and describe its architecture.

Ans. After Dimapur, the Kachari capital shifted to Maibong, which is known for its stone-carved temple architecture, especially the *Maibong Stone Temple* dedicated to Vishnu, blending Hindu and local motifs

B. Charaideo, Garhgaon, Sivasagar, Rangpur

Q1. Who built the maidams (burial mounds) at Charaideo, and what is their significance?

Ans. The Ahom kings, beginning with Sukapha (13th century), built the *maidams* at Charaideo as royal burial tombs, symbolizing the blending of Tai and local architectural traditions.

Q2. What was the architectural contribution of Ahom king Suklenmung (Garhgayan Raja)?

Ans. Suklenmung established Garhgaon as his capital and constructed a seven-storied palace made of wood and stone, which exemplified Ahom defensive and residential architecture.

Q3. Name two major architectural monuments of Sivasagar.

Ans. The Rang Ghar (amphitheatre) and the Talatal Ghar (multi-storied palace with secret tunnels) are two major Ahom architectural monuments located in Sivasagar.

Q4. What was the purpose of building Rang Ghar, and by whom was it built?

Ans. The Rang Ghar was built by Ahom king Pramatta Singha (1744–1751 CE) as a royal pavilion for watching games and festivals, often called the earliest amphitheatre in Asia.

Q5. What was the function of the Talatal Ghar at Rangpur?

Ans. The Talatal Ghar functioned as a military base and royal residence with secret tunnels and underground passages, reflecting advanced engineering under Ahom rule.

C. Ujayanta Palace and Neer Mahal

Q1. Who built the Ujayanta Palace and where is it located?

Ans. The Ujayanta Palace was built by Maharaja Radha Kishore Manikya (1901–1906) in Agartala, Tripura, and represents Indo-Saracenic architecture.

Q2. Describe one unique feature of Neer Mahal's architecture.

Ans. The Neer Mahal in Tripura uniquely combines Hindu and Mughal architectural styles, and is built in the middle of the Rudrasagar Lake, giving it the title "Lake Palace of Tripura."

Q3. Which ruler commissioned the Neer Mahal and why?

Ans. Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya (1930 CE) commissioned the Neer Mahal as a summer retreat palace symbolising royal luxury and cultural synthesis.

D. Kamakhya, Hayagriva Madhava, Tripura Sundari Temple, Rumtek Monastery

Q1. Where is the Kamakhya Temple located and what deity is worshipped there?

Ans. The Kamakhya Temple, located on the Nilachal Hills in Guwahati, is dedicated to the Goddess Kamakhya (Shakti) and represents the Kamrupa school of temple architecture.

Q2. Mention one characteristic feature of Kamakhya Temple architecture.

Ans. The temple exhibits a curvilinear shikhara (dome) over a cruciform base, blending Nagara and local Assamese styles with ornate sculptural designs.

Q3. What is the significance of Hayagriva Madhava Temple at Hajo?

Ans. The Hayagriva Madhava Temple, dedicated to Vishnu, is significant for its stone architecture resembling Buddhist stupas, symbolizing Hindu-Buddhist syncretism.

Q4. Where is the Tripura Sundari Temple located and to which goddess is it dedicated?

Ans. The Tripura Sundari Temple is located at Udaipur (Tripura) and is dedicated to Goddess Tripura Sundari, one of the 51 Shakti Peethas of Hinduism.

E. Kangla Fort

Q1. Where is Kangla Fort located, and what was its historical importance?

Ans. The Kangla Fort is located in Imphal, Manipur, and served as the royal seat of the Meitei rulers; it is revered as a cultural and political symbol of ancient Manipur.

Unit: IV

[a] Festivals — Bihu, Ali-Aye-Ligang, Mopin, and Tai-Buddhist festivals

1. Q: What are the three main types of Bihu celebrated in Assam?

A: The three main Bihus are Rongali (Bohag Bihu), Kongali (Kati Bihu), and Bhogali (Magh Bihu)—each marking a distinct phase of the agricultural cycle.

2. Q: What does Ali-Aye-Ligang signify for the Mising community?

A: Ali-Aye-Ligang marks the beginning of the sowing season for the Mising tribe and celebrates agricultural prosperity and community unity.

3. Q: Which community celebrates the Mopin festival, and what is its main purpose?

A: The Galo tribe of Arunachal Pradesh celebrates Mopin to ensure good harvest, prosperity, and ward off evil spirits.

4. Q: Name one major Tai-Buddhist festival celebrated in Assam.
A: The Poi Sangken festival, observed by the Tai-Phake and Tai-Khamti communities, marks the Buddhist New Year with rituals of purification and water sprinkling.
5. Q: What is the cultural importance of Bihu in Assamese society?
A: Bihu embodies Assamese identity and agrarian culture, fostering social harmony through dance, music, and communal feasting.

[b] Bhaona and Ras Celebration in Majuli

1. Q: Who introduced the tradition of Bhaona in Assam?
A: Srimanta Sankardeva introduced Bhaona as a dramatic performance of religious stories to spread the teachings of Neo-Vaishnavism.
2. Q: What is the Ras festival of Majuli dedicated to?
A: The Ras festival celebrates episodes from the life of Lord Krishna, particularly his divine dance with the Gopis (Raslila).
3. Q: What is the distinctive feature of Bhaona performances?
A: Bhaonas combine religious drama, music, dance, and costume and are traditionally performed in Namghars and Satras.
4. Q: Why is Majuli called the cultural capital of Assam?
A: Because Majuli preserves Sattriya culture, Bhaona, mask-making, and devotional arts established by the Vaishnavite saints.
5. Q: When is the Ras Mahotsav held in Majuli, and how long does it last?
A: It is celebrated in November (Kati–Aghun) and generally lasts three to five days, attracting thousands of devotees and tourists.

[c] Fairs — Jonbeel Mela and Ambubachi Mela

1. Q: What is the unique feature of the Jonbeel Mela?
A: It is known for its barter system, where tribes exchange goods without money, symbolising traditional tribal economy and harmony.
2. Q: Where is the Jonbeel Mela held every year?
A: It is held at Dayang Belguri near Jagiroad in the Morigaon district of Assam.
3. Q: What does the Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya temple signify?
A: It marks the annual menstruation of Goddess Kamakhya, symbolising fertility and the creative power of the Earth.
4. Q: During which month is the Ambubachi Mela celebrated?
A: It is celebrated in June, during the monsoon season, when the temple remains closed for three days.

5. Q: Why is the Jonbeel Mela important for social harmony?

A: It strengthens ties between hill and plain communities through mutual exchange and traditional rituals of unity.

[d] Tourist and Ethnic Culture-Based Festivals

1. Q: What is the Hornbill Festival, and where is it celebrated?

A: The Hornbill Festival is celebrated in Nagaland (at Kisama Heritage Village) to showcase the Naga tribes' rich cultural heritage.

2. Q: Which festival is considered the festival of festivals in Nagaland?

A: The Hornbill Festival is known as the “festival of festivals” as it brings together all Naga tribes.

3. Q: What is the Sangai Festival named after?

A: It is named after the Sangai deer, the state animal of Manipur, and promotes the state's culture, dance, and eco-tourism.

4. Q: Where is the Dihing Patkai Festival celebrated, and what does it promote?

A: It is held in Tinsukia district of Assam, promoting eco-tourism, adventure sports, and ethnic culture of Upper Assam.

5. Q: How do such ethnic cultural festivals contribute to tourism?

A: They promote intercultural understanding, attract domestic and international tourists, and boost regional economies.
