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CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE ANALYSIS

DATE - 10 FEBRUARY 2021

For Preliminary and Mains examination

As per new Pattern of APSC

(Also useful for UPSC and other State level government examinations)

CSAP

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Leadership through knowledge...

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Answer of MCQs of 9-02-2021

1. (a) Only 1

Explanation:

Iran is a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty

2. (b) 2,3

Explanation:

UN inspectors to monitor its military sites, but their access will not be automatic and requests for access can be challenged by Iran. The deal reduces the number of Iranian centrifuges by two-thirds. It places bans on enrichment at key facilities, and limits uranium research and development to the Natanz facility. The deal caps uranium enrichment at 3.67 percent and limits the stockpile to 300 kg, all for 15 years. Iran will be required to ship spent fuel out of the country forever, as well as allow inspectors from the IAEA inspectors certain access in perpetuity. Heightened inspections, including tracking uranium mining and monitoring the production and storage of centrifuges, will last for up to 20 years.

3. (d) All

4. (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

MCQs of 10-02-2021

Q1. For removal of a Governor from office, the President seeks advice from ___:

- A. Council of Ministers
- B. Supreme Court
- C. Chief Minister of the concerned state

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D. None of them

Q2. Who appoints the Chairman and members of the State Public Service Commission?

- A. Chief Justice of the High Court
- B. The governor of the state
- C. President
- D. Chief Minister of the state

Q3. Who is authorized to remove the chairman and members of a State Public Service Commission?

- A. Supreme Court
- B. High Court
- C. President
- D. Governor

Q4. In which part of the Indian Constitution there is a provision for the establishment of the State Public Service Commission and the Union Public Service Commission?

- A. 14th
- B. 11th
- C. 12th
- D. 17th

Q5. Which of the following statements is correct about the State Public Service Commission?

- A. The governor determines the number of members in the Public Service Commission

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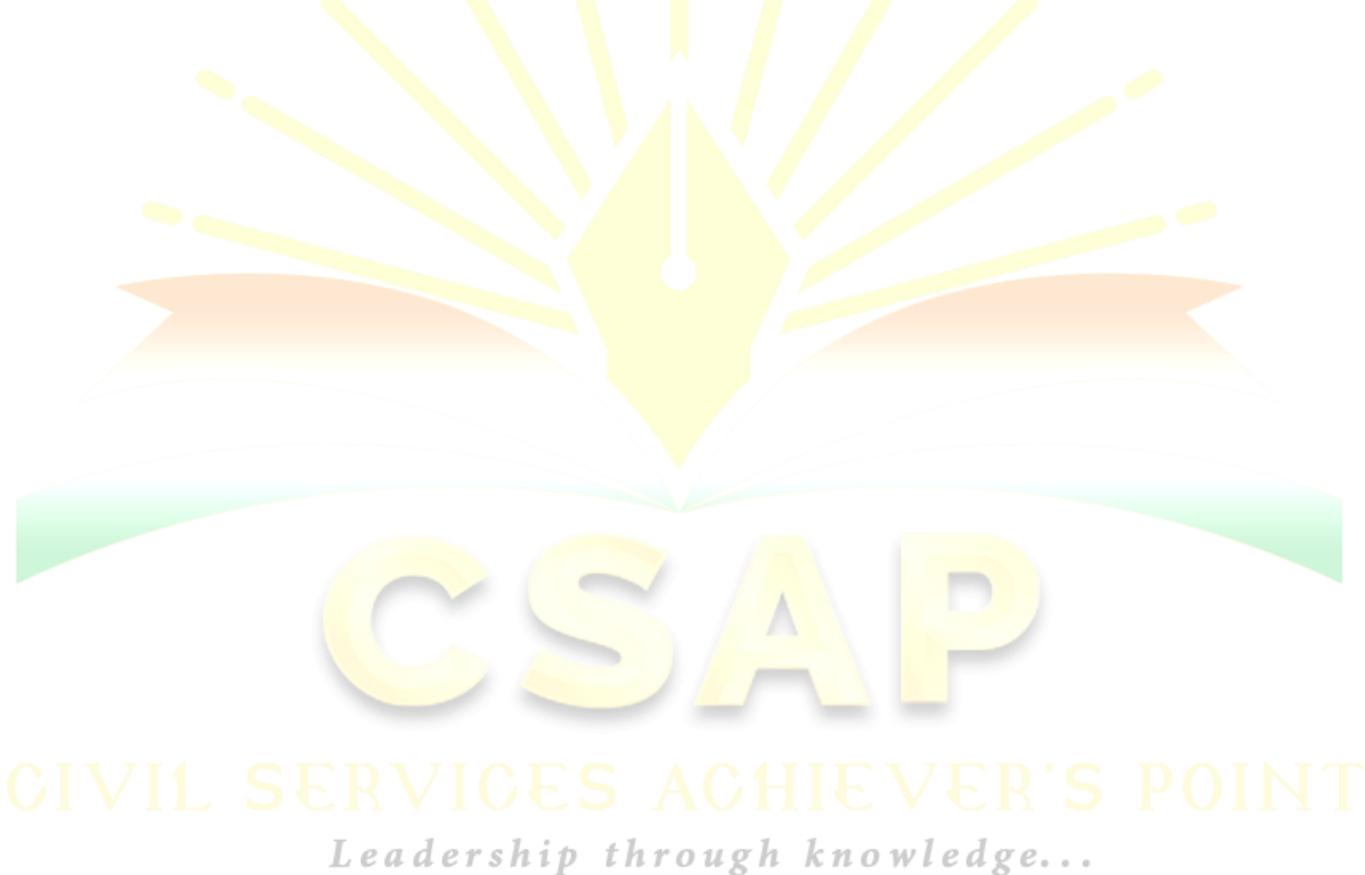
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- B. The number of members of Public Service Commission in the Constitution shall be 10
- C. The Governor has the right to remove the members of the State Public Service Commission
- D. Members of State Public Service Commission can remain in office upto the age of 65 years

Q6. Among all form of empowerments, economic empowerment is the most important one. Both the social and political empowerment of a section depends upon its level of economic empowerment. Discuss it in the backdrop of women empowerment.



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NEWS ARTICLES

Aadhaar-like security regime for NRC: Centre

- The Centre on Tuesday said the Supreme Court has directed the NRC State Coordinator to enact an appropriate security regime similar to the one provided for Aadhaar data and only thereafter, the list of inclusions and exclusions shall be made available to the Centre, State and Registrar General of India.
- The Centre also said that due to the COVID-19 outbreak and flood situation, the process of issuing rejection slips has been postponed.
- In a reply in the Lok Sabha to a question by Congress MPs Abdul Khaleque and Gaurav Gogoi, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said that the Supreme Court – vide its order dated May 8, 2018 – allowed the State Coordinator to develop a system to provide reasons of rejection without bringing the same in the public domain so as to protect the privacy of the applicants.
- On the direction of the Supreme Court, the hard copies of the supplementary list of inclusions and online family-wise list of exclusions were published on August 31, 2019, he added.
- The NRC in Assam is an application-based process. Each applicant is mandatorily required to furnish documentary proof of residence of self or ancestors (legacy person) in Assam or any other part of India on or before the cut-off date, through one of the stipulated legacy documents, the Minister said.
- A total of 19,06,657 persons have been found not eligible for inclusion in the NRC list published on August 31, 2019. Any person not satisfied with the decision for inclusion of name may prefer to appeal before the designated Tribunal constituted under the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964. The period of appeal was increased from 60 days to 120 days, with effect from August 21, 2019, he said.

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- At least 200 Appellate Foreigners Tribunals, in addition to the existing 100 FTs, were established in 2019. The Assam government has made arrangements to provide legal aid to those people excluded from the final NRC by providing all assistance through the District Legal Services Authority, the Minister informed.

Startup push to trigger job creation, manufacturing growth: DPIIT Secy

- India's budgetary boost for startups is expected to trigger employment generation, besides ushering in manufacturing and innovation-led growth in FY22.
- According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary Guruprasad Mohapatra, measures such as extension of startup tax holiday and norms to incorporate One Person Companies (OPCs) will give a major boost to the sector and these benefits will percolate to the overall economy.
- The Union Budget 2021-22 has proposed to extend tax holiday for startups by one more year. The move comes as India focuses on 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' mission aimed at making India a more self-reliant nation.
- In another boost for startups, OPCs will be allowed to grow without any restriction on paid-up capital or turnover and convert into any other type of company at any time.
- Besides, the Budget proposes to allow non-resident Indians (NRIs) to incorporate one-person companies in India.
- On further moves to promote startups, Mohapatra pointed out that the Centre is considering implementation of a 'credit guarantee scheme for startups' which will provide guarantee up to a specified limit against credit instruments extended by member lending institutions to finance eligible startups.
- This fund is likely to be established with a corpus of Rs 2,000 crore and will provide guarantee to banks, FIs, NBFCs and AIFs for collateral-free loans to DPIIT-recognised startups up to Rs 10 crore.
- Furthermore, he said the higher FDI limit for the insurance sector with safeguards will have a positive impact on the economy.
- The proposal, Mohapatra said, will benefit the end-consumer via increased competition leading to more innovative and affordable products.
- FY22 Union Budget has proposed to raise the foreign ownership limit on insurers to 74 per cent from 49 per cent which would allow foreign investors to hold majority stakes in India-based insurers for the first time.
- The proposal comes with new requirements to ensure sufficient local participation, such as the majority of insurers' key management personnel and board members to be resident Indians and a requirement that at least half of the board comprises independent directors.

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- Notably, the Centre plans to specify a percentage of profit to be retained as general reserve within the insurer to prevent excessive capital extraction by foreign parents. – IANS

APSC Chairman sworn in

- Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi administered the oath of office to Rajiv Kumar Bora as the chairman of Assam Public Service Commission at a programme held at Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan here today.
- Earlier, Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua sought the permission of the Governor to start the proceedings of the ceremony.
- Members of the APSC, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Paban Borthakur, Additional Chief Secretary VS Bhaskar, Principal Secretary (Administrative Reforms and Training Department) Niraj Verma, Commissioner and Secretary to the Governor SS Meenakshi Sundaram, Deputy Commissioner Kamrup (M) Biswajit Pegu, Police Commissioner MP Gupta and several senior government officers were also present on the occasion.

Assam bans inter-state liquor movement after 6 pm.

- As part of measures to check flow of liquor in the run-up to the Assam Assembly elections, the State's excise department has prohibited inter-state movement of consignments after 6 pm every day.
- "Smuggled liquor is often transported during the night. To check this, there will be no inter-state movement of consignments after 6 pm every day. This will come into force immediately and will remain till the elections are over," official sources told *The Assam Tribune*.
- Even during the day, vehicles carrying liquor will have make an entry at the inter-state check gate where a transit pass will be issued. Vehicles not possessing transit passes will be seized. "This has been done to avoid disappearance of vehicles on the way," the sources said.
- As many as 190 polling stations in the bordering districts of the state have been identified as vulnerable from the liquor point of view.
- Over the past few days, top excise officials held a series of meetings with counterparts from Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and West Bengal in a bid to chalk out a strategy to check clandestine inflow of liquor into Assam from the neighbouring states "which may play a role in influencing the electorate before and during the Assembly election".

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- During the meetings, the Commissioner of Excise, Assam apprised officials of the neighbouring states about the directions issued by the Election Commission of India in connection with the forthcoming Assembly elections. The issue of illegal liquor through the inter-state border, especially the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border, was discussed with an appeal to give special focus to these aspects.
- Reporting of the entry and exit of every vehicle carrying liquor consignments was one of the important decisions taken during the meetings.
- "It was also agreed that intelligence inputs and other vital information would be shared by the officials on both sides of the borders," said Sailendra Pandey, PRO to the Excise Minister.
- Excise check posts are being set up at Hollengi, Bhalukpung and Banderdewa to monitor the liquor movement from Arunachal Pradesh and one at Byrnihat for those coming from Meghalaya.
- Tankers carrying extra neutral alcohol (ENA) – the primary raw material for making alcoholic beverages – will also be checked at these gates to be manned jointly by excise and police personnel. The personnel manning the gates will have to send a daily report to the Commissioner of Excise.
- More than 30,000 cartons of liquor worth Rs 17 crore have been seized during operations carried out by excise personnel in the current financial year.

No field is off limits for a woman, says Assembly's first lady deputy marshal

- For the first time in its 84-year-long history, the Assam Legislative Assembly has got a woman as a deputy marshal.
- Twenty-nine-year-old Satabdi Dutta from Chabua who recently joined the Assembly as a deputy marshal, feels that no field is off limits for a woman, provided there is determination and hard work.
- Satabdi, who joined the State Assembly on November 21, 2020, would be attending her second Assembly session which is starting from February 11.
- "After joining the Assembly in November last year, the winter session in December last was my first Assembly session, and it has been a great learning experience so far, amid a new environment. I strongly believe in hard work, determination and total commitment towards one's profession," Dutta told *The Assam Tribune*.
- Completing her schooling in Dibrugarh, Satabdi graduated from Women's College, Tinsukia and initially worked as a guest lecturer at B Borooah College in Guwahati for three semesters. An accomplished NCC cadet from 63 Assam Girls Battalion, Dutta said that NCC training strengthened her willpower, imbibing the love for discipline and perseverance.

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EDITORIALS

Biden's initiatives

- The new US President Joe Biden has been using his first days in office reversing the actions of the maverick former President Donald Trump who, in the name of putting America first, had turned conventional polity upside down, thereby destabilizing the world order even while isolating his nation.
- Biden has signed a slew of executive orders designed to, among other things, rejoin the Paris Climate Accord and the World Health Organization, as also reverse Trump's policies on immigration, construction of the border wall and ban on visas for some Muslim countries.
- However Biden, who was a Senator and US Vice-President, is thoroughly conversant in foreign policy matters and has been selective while reversing Trump's foreign affairs strategy, as shown by his acceptance of the accords arrived at by the UAE and Bahrain with Israel, and the continuation of the Quad and the Indo-Pacific policy of the previous administration.
- Similarly, he has persisted with a hard line stance with China, describing her as America's most serious competitor and vowing to push back on her attacks on human rights, intellectual property, and global governance.
- He has, however, rejected the bonhomie which prevailed with Russia during Trump's time, and has accused Russia of "interfering with our elections, cyber-attacks and poisoning its citizens", the last being a reference to the Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, whose immediate release he has demanded.
- But Biden is yet to fully articulate his policy in middle and west Asia, perhaps aware of the complexity of the situation there and the reality that the US might tread on many toes within and outside the country if pre-emptive reversal is undertaken.
- The sole move he has made in the region is to announce that the US would end all support for warring parties in Yemen, while refusing to designate the Houthi rebels as 'terrorists' as Trump had done. His Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, has appointed a special envoy to Yemen to work with the UN and all involved parties to bring hostilities to an end.
- However, he has yet to frame his policy on the Palestine-Israel issue and, equally important, firmly reverse Trump's policy on Iran. It may be recalled that the 2015 nuclear deal, an agreement reached between Iran, the US, China, France, Germany, Russia and the UK, had sought to limit Iran's nuclear programme, with sanctions eased in return.

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- Iran had complied with the laid down provisions till Trump withdrew the US from the deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions, which prompted Tehran to re-embark on its nuclear programme. Biden appears to be treading carefully, resulting in a stalemate, with the US wanting Iran to stop uranium enrichment and the latter asking America to first lift the economic sanctions, and it is not yet clear who will blink first to break this impasse.

Covid and the transplant crisis

- Currently the active waiting list for kidney transplant stands at 5,810 while it is 470 for liver. Between March and October 2020, when the Covid-19 infections were peaking, the Tamil Nadu State Transplant Agency or Transtan recorded organ donations from 17 brain dead patients. There was a fall in the number of donors in Tamil Nadu from 185 in 2016 to 27 in 2020.
- The pandemic in 2020 brought out the worst and the best in all of us. We as a society learnt that it is important to invest in our healthcare, research, development and education sectors. Healthcare was seen to be the most burdened till date, with immense pressure on both the caregivers and patients.
- One department that faced a definite setback was the Surgery, especially the organ transplants. Doctors have quoted in interviews that many did not turn up for health check-ups, some opted to continue treatment instead of surgery. In some cases, the patient's family preferred dialysis, instead of transplant and risking morbidity during a pandemic and making a viable kidney, a medical waste.
- Elective surgeries including live donor transplant were halted in many countries. Transplant programmes suggested screening of deceased donors to prevent inadvertent transplantation from a Covid-19-infected donor. Covid hence created a crisis of organ donation. Patients that required transplants and those with end-stage organ failure were put in a very vulnerable position.
- The risk of donor-derived transmission, the reliability of diagnostic tests, healthcare resource utilization and the effect of immunosuppression became much higher than the usual. This writer lost a dear and beloved one in December 2019 due to multiple organ failures in need of a combined liver and kidney transplant in a long -drawn struggle even before the pandemic, and with the pandemic this struggle increased manifold.
- There are mainly two types of transplants, live and cadaveric (deceased donor), and there exists a waiting list for it. Upon the disheartening news of an untimely demise, if the deceased is declared brain dead, the organs could still be viable and can be donated for the purpose of transplant. This gives more people an array of hope enrolled in the line.

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- The above definitely occurs with due permission, consent and counselling of the grieving family members. Moreover, if a person registers him/her/themselves as organ donors prior to any kind of bereavement, the organ/s get registered to the list.
- This list is pan-India and one needs to register as soon as possible and the earlier one registers the better are the chances to receive a viable organ in time. According to the rules set up by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization India, organs are allotted in a slotted manner, and are released in rotation on emergency according to capacity.
- Liver cirrhosis is often the cause for the early onset for the need of a liver transplant. Cirrhosis on a broad scale can be either alcoholic or non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). The latter is often related to lifestyle choices and the body's immune response to it.
- From the personal experience of medical counselling with the doctors, with regards to combined kidney and NAFLD transplant, I learnt that fatty liver and obesity are highly likely indicators to developing the symptoms and later ill health. There is no medication in case of NAFLD, but you can reverse fatty liver diseases with lifestyle changes at the earliest.
- Statistics from January 2020 reveal that in India, an estimated 220,000 people with end-stage renal disease require kidney transplantation and only around 7,500 kidney transplantations are performed at 250 kidney transplant centres in India. Of these, roughly 90% come from living donors and 10% from deceased donors.
- The truth is very hard to digest, however, the sooner you can accept, more are the chances for you to save the life of your loved ones. One should not hesitate for a moment if the diagnosis has been confirmed and a transplant is recommended. Patients often choose to ignore the symptoms and reach for help when the symptoms get worse.
- In the longer run it costs extra time, looking for either donors or waiting their turn in the list. The cost incurred for transplant also needs to be taken into account. It is a good idea to start a fundraiser on platforms such as Milaap or Ketto.
- For cadaveric transplant, the match of the blood group of the organ is a must, whereas, for live transplant, the donor has to be a family member. One also has to undergo a series of fitness tests and clearance from the medic's side. In a few exceptional cases, if the blood group of the family member is not a match, there can be a swap transplant procedure, provided the patient has the strength to withstand the weight of the immunosuppressants used in the surgery. The Liver Transplant Society of India (LTSI) released some special guidelines for transplant centres across the country in order to make transplants amidst the pandemic hassle-free.

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- Often, conversations surrounding transplant are sparse and hence people in most cases are unwilling to donate. Liver and kidney transplants happen to be the most common form of transplant. The liver of a donor regenerates after a few months and a kidney donor can survive well with one kidney. However, not much about it is discussed unless they are put in tight a spot. Many are even scared to speak about it fearing legal repercussions. Humour is often a tool that is used to deflect the grave seriousness that comes with the topic.
- Tamil Nadu received the best State award for transplant for the sixth consecutive year in 2020. Surgeons and transplant counsellors have faced several challenges during the pandemic. Dr Mohammed Rela, senior transplant surgeon, said: "There were more patients who died waiting for an organ compared to those who acquired the viral infection while in hospital waiting for transplant."
- Currently the active waiting list for kidney transplant stands at 5,810 while it is 470 for liver. Between March and October 2020, when the Covid-19 infections were peaking, the Tamil Nadu State Transplant Agency or Transtan recorded organ donations from 17 brain dead patients. There was a fall in the number of donors in Tamil Nadu from 185 in 2016 to 27 in 2020.
- The transplant procedure is complex and takes a toll on the caretakers and family/friends too, impacting anybody irrespective of age, gender, caste, class or religion. It is time we as a society should come together to make organ donation a cherished endeavour in life.

Nirode Chaudhury: A master storyteller

- Like many of his short stories and novels written in the backdrop of Doomdooma, the tiny industrial township of upper Assam surrounded by tea gardens, the story of *Chameli Memsaab* written by journalist and writer Nirode Chaudhury is based on a real life story of a tea garden damsel in the vicinity of Doomdooma.
- In fact late Chaudhury himself admitted that just like English novelist Thomas Hardy in whose novels like *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, *Jude the Obscure* and *Under the Green Tree* the city of Wessex came alive, it had been his endeavour, too, to bring Doomdooma to life in his various short stories and novels.
- There is no denying the fact that Doomdooma shot into fame first after the publication of the eminent writer late Jogesh Das's novel *Dawor Aru Nai* (1955) set at Doomdooma in the backdrop of ravages of the Second World War (1939 -1945) and of the moral degradation brought to the then society in its wake.
- Again with the release of the *Chameli Memsaab*, the film version of the story by Nirode Chaudhury, Doomdooma came to limelight for a second time in a vibrant and varied form. Incidentally both the writers were from Doomdooma and were associated with the Assam Tribune Group of Publications.

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- It is pertinent to note that except Jogesh Das's novel *Dawor Aru Nai*, none attempted to write a novel on the Second World War in Assamese afterwards. In this regard Nirode Chaudhury felt, as revealed by him in his offbeat autobiography *Doomdooma, Doomdooma*, there must have been enough materials to write a novel on the war.
- But he was then too young and was not matured enough to write a novel on war, the way he later became capable of expressing his subtle thoughts to write a short story like *Chameli Memsaab*. Even then *Chameli Memsaab* gave exposure to *Doomdooma* in a different way after its release in 1975. This was because till date *Chameli Memsaab* was the only Assamese story to have been transformed into celluloid in three prominent Indian languages, i.e., Assamese, Bengali and Hindi.
- Secondly, it was the first Assamese film that won the award for the Best Music Direction for *Sudhakantha* Dr Bhupen Hazarika. Thirdly, it earned the distinction of being the first Assamese film to be screened in the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The making of the film had to overcome many hurdles. So was the challenges – so dramatic and full of romances as found in the short stories – that late Chaudhury had to encounter while attempting to pen the story. To his credit five of his stories have been made into films. Those are *Chameli Memsaab*, *Banahongsha*, *Kanchghar*, *Mon Prajapati* and *Pani*.
- Nirode Chaudhury's journey towards the medium of films was a studious and long one. It had its beginning when he got himself associated with the then widely-circulated popular Assamese weekly *Asam Bani* as a regular column and sectional writer and from there he tried his hand in short story writing. Initially his short stories tried to portray the psychological aspects of the woman minds. It contributed largely in establishing him as a very popular romantic short story writer.
- He carved a niche for himself as a column writer of 'Page 3' of the popular Assamese weekly *Asam Bani* on various thrilling and human-interest stories like life sketches of Nobel laureates, Adolf Eichmann responsible for the killing of the Jews, Hollywood's romantic actress Marilyn Monroe and the Profumo, Christine Keeler's biggest political scandal of the twentieth-century British politics, to mention a few.
- Thus his writings contributed immensely for popularization of the weekly. But his coverage of sensational case of judge Upen Rajkhowa killing his entire family set an all-time record in circulation of the said weekly.
- He also wrote for the cinema page of the weekly where in addition to covering cinema-related stories of Assamese, Bengali and Hindi films, a regular review of the newly-released Hindi cinema under the caption '*Guwahatir Chabigharat*' was also published.

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CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

- This paved the way for him to become a film critic. He started minutely observing and studying various aspects of filmmaking and thus he gradually ventured to become a script writer, dialogue writer and even composer of film songs. Out of experience so gathered, he wrote a book titled *Asamiya Bolchabir Itihash* (History of Assamese Films), the first of its kind in Assamese language so far.
- Obviously there will be quite a number of other litterateurs and artists as well who have switched over to one of the most powerful mediums of modern age like the audio-visual media from the print media. But in case of Nirode Chaudhury, it sprouted during the days he worked as a journalist for *Asam Bani*.
- The most exceptional thing about *Chameli Memsaab* is that the humanitarian aspect of a character that he brought out so assiduously from a real life person transcends itself beyond the geographical boundaries through the film medium and was not only able to catch the attention of whole of India but was also able to glorify the place known as the 'Tea City' situated in the easternmost frontier of the State of Assam, i.e., Doomdooma.

Welcome step

- The inauguration of the State's first Safety Driving Education Centre is a step in the right direction. Road safety education has been a dire need in the State where the incidence of fatalities and injuries caused by road accidents has been alarmingly high. Indeed, this has been a discernible trend for over a decade, made worse by the absence of required interventions to ease the situation.
- The failure to even to rectify some basic issues coupled with poor enforcement has had a mounting impact on the disturbing incidence of road mishaps. Inadequate signage and reflectors on speed-breakers, road dividers and bridge approaches have contributed towards many fatal accidents in recent years.
- The absence of highway patrolling and enforcement has ensured that shocking infringements on the laws and rules of road safety are committed as a matter of routine by irresponsible drivers and with impunity. It is common to see large vehicles parked along the roadside with no parking lights – something that has led to fatal mishaps.
- The year 2020 witnessed 6,593 accidents in the State, leading to 2,629 deaths and 5,279 injuries – most of those being attributable to the lack of knowledge of road safety and violation of road safety norms. While all the stakeholders need to put up a coordinated effort to bring down the incidence of accidents, the Government has to discharge its basic responsibilities in the matter of raising awareness and enforcement.
- Often, one is seen taking recourse to the argument that the high automobile density inevitably brings with it accidents. However, this is fallacious reasoning and the situation needs to be viewed from a broader

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perspective so that the factors fuelling the spurt in fatal mishaps can be addressed. And compared to the advanced States of the country, Assam's vehicle density is considerably less.

- Reckless driving in the State has been too conspicuous a phenomenon to be missed – one that is causing a spurt in accidents. One only needs to visit our roads to see how a large segment of drivers – many of them being downright unqualified – operate in blatant disregard to rules of the road. It is time violations of speed limits or any other traffic rules and regulations were made a serious offence, eliciting severe punishments including cancellation of licences, at least for a reasonable time frame.
- A majority of the accidents do not occur accidentally but are induced by reckless and callous driving. Another imperative need is to sensitize our vehicle drivers on the safety requirements of pedestrians, cyclists, stray animals and every other person using the road. Regrettably, most of those behind the wheel tend to drive as if the road belongs to them alone.
- The message that the road is a public place and every driver is under a legal and moral obligation to respect the rule of the road and be mindful of the safety of other road-users has to reach all drivers.



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CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVER'S POINT
Leadership through knowledge...

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