

LOCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ASSAM

- Assam is located in the central part of North East India between $24^{\circ}3'N$ latitude and $27^{\circ}58' N$ latitude and $89^{\circ}5' E$ longitude and $96^{\circ}1' E$ longitude. Assam shares border with Arunachal Pradesh in the east, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Bangladesh in the west; Arunachal Pradesh, Bhutan in the north and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura in the south.

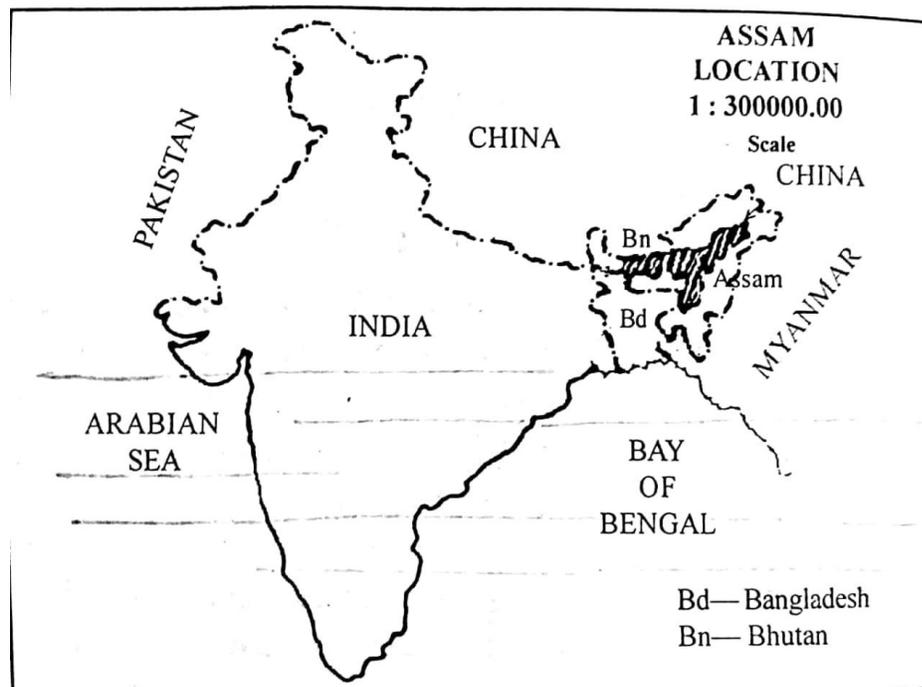


Fig: Location of Assam

- Geographically, Assam is situated in one of the most important strategic locations. It is the Gateway to the Far East. It was particularly through the gates of Assam that the Mongoloids had come to India from their homeland in Indo-China. Assam can thus be rightly termed as an “anthropological museum” owing to fact that it is inhabited by people belonging to different races and having different culture, language and religious beliefs.
- Assam is bestowed with vast natural resources.
- Assam controls the entry point to the North east region through the Siliguri corridor (Chicken’s neck). Loss of Assam would mean loss of the entire land mass in the North-East along with its rich natural resources.

- Assam tea is famous all over the world. North East India produces more than 2/3 of the total tea production of India and Assam alone produces more than 20% of the world's tea. Tea industry has a turnover nearly of Rupees 3000 crores.
- Besides there is abundance of other mineral resources like coal, gas, limestone, mica and so on in the state.
- Apart from that, the hydro power potential of the region is enormous in the tunes of 60000 MW. NER is called the powerhouse of India.
- With the emergence of China as an economic and military powerhouse the global geopolitical perspective has shifted and South East Asia got special importance. Assam is India's gate way to the South East Asia, which has now become a very important from this geopolitical point of view. Re-opening of the Stillwell will accelerate trade with Burma and the South East Asian countries.
- The NER become the nerve centre of the Act east Policy. India seeks to integrate SE Asia and NER with a network of highways, railways, pipelines and transmission lines. As such India has concluded a number of bilateral and multilateral projects. Assam is the key to the success for India's Act East Policy
- Thus, the geographical location of Assam plays a very important role for the development of Assam as well as India.