

Equitable land distribution promotes social justice by reducing rural poverty and bridging the gap between rich landlords and poor farmers in Assam.

2 Marks Section.

1. What is the role of agriculture in Assam's economy?

Agriculture is the backbone of Assam's economy, employing over 70% of the population. It contributes significantly to the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and supports related sectors like tea production, horticulture, fisheries, and livestock, ensuring food security and livelihood.

2. Why is agriculture important for the economic development of Assam?

Agriculture drives Assam's economic growth by providing employment, supporting allied industries, ensuring food security, and contributing to exports, especially tea. It also promotes rural development, market expansion, and holds potential for modernization, which is crucial for sustainable state development.

3. What are the main causes of low agricultural productivity in Assam?

Low productivity in Assam is due to traditional farming methods, small land holdings, inadequate irrigation, frequent floods, poor quality seeds, limited credit access, low mechanization, poor marketing, lack of awareness, and soil erosion.

4. What is agricultural marketing in Assam?

Agricultural marketing in Assam involves the sale and distribution of farm produce. It is largely unorganized, dominated by middlemen, with poor infrastructure, limited



storage, low farmer awareness, and inadequate regulated markets, reducing farmers' income and market efficiency.

5. What is permanent cultivation in Assam?

Permanent cultivation in Assam is practiced mainly in the plains, where the same land is continuously used for crop production. It focuses on rice and other food crops, but faces challenges like soil fertility loss, floods, and limited mechanization.

6. What is shifting (jhum) cultivation?

Shifting or jhum cultivation is practiced by tribal communities in Assam's hills. Farmers clear forests, grow crops temporarily, and then shift to new plots. It is now unsustainable due to shorter fallow periods and increasing environmental damage.

7. What are the effects of shifting cultivation in Assam?

Shifting cultivation causes deforestation, soil erosion, habitat loss, declining soil fertility, climate change impact, and water scarcity. It degrades the environment and reduces long-term agricultural productivity, threatening both ecological balance and livelihoods in Assam.

8. What are the major problems of agricultural credit in Assam?

Farmers face difficulty in accessing institutional credit due to lengthy procedures, lack of collateral, small loan sizes, poor banking infrastructure, high dependence on moneylenders, limited awareness, and the risky nature of agriculture in Assam.

9. What is the land tenure system in Assam?

The land tenure system in Assam includes tribal communal ownership and individual ownership in the plains. It evolved



from traditional and colonial systems. Problems like land disputes, unclear records, and illegal encroachments persist, requiring systematic reforms.

10. What is the land use pattern in Assam?

Assam's land use pattern includes net sown area, forests, fallow lands, non-cultivable lands, and pastures. Agriculture dominates, but flood-prone areas, soil erosion, and encroachments affect effective land utilization and agricultural productivity.

11. What is the cropping pattern in Assam?

Rice is the dominant crop in Assam, grown in three seasons. Other crops include tea, jute, sugarcane, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables. Multiple cropping and horticulture are practiced where irrigation is available, but much agriculture remains monsoon-dependent.

12. Why is there a need for land reforms in Assam?

Land reforms are needed to ensure fair distribution, protect tribal land, modernize farming, provide security to tenants, prevent fragmentation, update land records, reduce disputes, and support flood-affected farmers, promoting social justice and agricultural growth.

13. How does the lack of land records affect farmers in Assam?

Outdated or unclear land records prevent farmers from proving land ownership, limiting their access to bank loans and government schemes. It also leads to disputes, insecurity, and hinders long-term investment in agriculture.

14. What are the challenges of agricultural marketing in Assam?

Agricultural marketing in Assam faces poor storage, lack of



cold chains, inadequate transport, middlemen exploitation, low bargaining power, and insufficient regulated markets, forcing farmers to sell at low prices soon after harvest.

15. How can land reforms improve agriculture in Assam?

Land reforms can ensure land security, reduce inequality, provide access to credit, encourage investment in modern farming, protect tribal rights, and resolve disputes. This would increase productivity, farmer income, and rural economic growth in Assam.

Unit -4

Industrialization of Assam

(1) Explain the concept of Industry.

Answer:

Industry refers to the economic activity concerned with the processing of raw materials and the manufacturing of goods in factories. It is a key sector of the economy that contributes to national income, employment generation, and overall development. The term "industry" broadly covers all activities involved in the production of goods and services using machinery, technology, and labor.

Industries are generally classified into three major types:

primary, secondary, and tertiary. The **primary industry** includes activities like agriculture, mining, and fishing that involve the extraction of natural resources. The **secondary industry** focuses on manufacturing and construction, where raw materials are transformed into finished goods. The **tertiary industry** refers to the service sector, which includes activities like transport, banking, education, and healthcare.

Industries play a crucial role in the economic growth of a country by increasing production, providing jobs, and earning foreign exchange through exports. They also support the growth of infrastructure and promote technological advancements. However, industries can also cause environmental challenges like pollution if not properly regulated. Overall, industries are essential for the balanced growth of any economy, providing the foundation for modernization and improving the standard of living of the people.

(2) Explain the role of organised and unorganized industries in Assam.

Answer:

Industries in India, including Assam, can broadly be divided into **organised** and **unorganised** sectors. Both play crucial roles in economic development, employment generation, and social welfare.

Role of Organised Industries:

- **Large-Scale Employment:** Organised industries like oil refineries, tea plantations, and cement factories in Assam provide stable employment to a large number of skilled and unskilled workers.
- **Contribution to State Revenue:** These industries contribute significantly to Assam's economy through taxes, exports, and other revenue streams.
- **High Productivity:** Organised industries adopt advanced technology and machinery, ensuring mass production and improved quality.

- **Social Security Benefits:** Workers in organised sectors receive benefits like provident fund, health insurance, and job security.
- **Development of Infrastructure:** Growth of organised industries in Assam promotes better roads, power supply, and communication facilities.

Role of Unorganised Industries:

- **Employment to Rural Population:** Unorganised sectors like handloom, handicrafts, pottery, and small tea growers provide employment, especially in rural areas.
- **Low Capital Requirement:** These industries require minimal investment and are accessible to small entrepreneurs in Assam.
- **Preservation of Traditional Skills:** Handicraft and weaving industries in Assam help in preserving the rich cultural heritage of the region.
- **Support to Local Economy:** Unorganised industries contribute to the local economy by meeting the demands of the local population at affordable prices.
- **Flexibility and Adaptability:** These industries can easily adapt to changing market conditions and are crucial for supporting large industries with raw materials and semi-finished goods.

In conclusion, both organised and unorganised industries are vital for Assam's balanced growth, contributing to employment, regional development, and cultural preservation.

(3) Explain the causes of Low Industrialization of backwardness in Assam.



Answer:

Assam is rich in natural resources like oil, tea, coal, and forests, yet it remains one of the least industrialized states in India. Several factors contribute to this industrial backwardness.

- **Poor Infrastructure:** Assam suffers from inadequate transportation, limited rail connectivity, irregular power supply, and weak communication facilities, which discourage industrial investment.
- **Political Instability:** Frequent political unrest, strikes, and insurgency in Assam have created an unfavourable business environment, preventing both public and private investment.
- **Lack of Skilled Manpower:** The shortage of skilled and technically trained workers in Assam restricts the growth of modern industries that require specialized knowledge.
- **Capital Scarcity:** There is limited availability of financial resources and industrial credit, making it difficult for entrepreneurs to start or expand industries.
- **Limited Market Size:** Assam's market is small due to low population density and limited purchasing power, which reduces the demand for industrial goods.
- **Transport Bottlenecks:** Assam's geographical isolation from mainland India leads to high transportation costs and supply chain delays, affecting industrial efficiency.
- **Low Level of Industrial Awareness:** The people of Assam, especially in rural areas, lack awareness about industrial opportunities and available government support schemes.



- **Inadequate Government Support:** Delayed implementation of industrial policies, lack of proper incentives, and bureaucratic hurdles discourage potential investors.
- **Floods and Natural Calamities:** Frequent floods and natural disasters cause damage to infrastructure and disrupt industrial activities.
- **Neglect of Small and Cottage Industries:** Traditional industries like handloom and handicrafts lack modernization and sufficient financial support, restricting their growth.

In summary, Assam's industrial backwardness is the result of a combination of infrastructural, financial, social, and geographical challenges that need to be addressed through focused government policies and private sector participation.

(4) Explain the extent of Industrial Development in Assam.

Answer:

The industrial development in Assam has been moderate compared to other states in India, despite its rich natural resources. Assam's industrial growth is largely concentrated in a few sectors, and the overall pace of industrialization remains slow.

Assam is well-known for its **tea industry**, which is one of the oldest and most prominent in the world. The state accounts for more than half of India's total tea production. The **petroleum industry** is another major contributor, with oil refineries in Digboi, Bongaigaon, and Guwahati playing a significant role in the state's economy. Assam was the site of Asia's first oil refinery at Digboi.



The **natural gas and fertilizer industries** have also developed to some extent, with the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) in Namrup being a key establishment. Additionally, **coal mining, cement production, sericulture, and handloom weaving** contribute to Assam's industrial landscape.

The **handloom and handicraft industries** remain vital, especially in rural areas, preserving Assam's rich cultural heritage. Assam's unique silk products like Muga and Eri have national and international recognition.

However, the growth of **large-scale and diversified industries** in Assam is limited due to various challenges such as poor infrastructure, geographical isolation, political instability, and frequent natural disasters like floods. The industrial sector in Assam contributes a relatively small share to the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) compared to agriculture and services.

In recent years, efforts have been made by both the state and central governments to promote industrial growth through the North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS), establishment of industrial parks, and improvement of connectivity. Yet, Assam still requires significant investment in infrastructure, skill development, and modern technology to achieve balanced and sustainable industrial growth across sectors.

(5) Write a note on development of Small Scale Industries and Khadi and Village Industries in Assam .

Answer:

Small Scale Industries (SSIs) and Khadi and Village



Industries (KVI) play a crucial role in the economic development of Assam. These industries provide employment opportunities, support rural development, preserve traditional skills, and contribute significantly to the socio-economic growth of the state.

Development of Small Scale Industries in Assam:

Small Scale Industries in Assam include sectors such as handloom, handicrafts, food processing, bamboo and cane products, and agro-based industries. These industries require relatively low capital investment and are labour-intensive, making them suitable for Assam's rural and semi-urban areas.

The Government of Assam, along with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), has introduced several policies and schemes to promote SSIs. Financial support, skill development programmes, and market linkage initiatives have been provided to encourage local entrepreneurship. Industrial estates, growth centres, and technology parks have been established to facilitate the growth of small industries.

The handloom sector is particularly significant in Assam, producing the famous Muga, Eri, and Pat silks. Bamboo and cane industries also have great potential due to the abundant availability of raw materials in the region. Food processing, including tea packaging, rice milling, and oil extraction, has seen steady growth, creating local employment and adding value to agricultural produce.

Development of Khadi and Village Industries in



Assam:

The Khadi and Village Industries sector holds a special place in Assam's economy and cultural heritage. It focuses on promoting traditional crafts, self-employment, and rural-based production activities. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been actively supporting this sector in Assam through financial assistance, marketing support, and training programmes.

Khadi production in Assam, especially using Eri and Muga silk, has been promoted under various government schemes. Village industries like pottery, beekeeping, soap making, carpentry, blacksmithing, and weaving have been encouraged to ensure sustainable livelihoods in rural areas. The Khadi and Village Industries sector helps reduce rural-urban migration by creating employment opportunities close to home.

KVIC also organizes exhibitions, fairs, and buyer-seller meets to provide a platform for artisans and small producers to showcase their products and access larger markets.

Conclusion:

The development of Small Scale Industries and Khadi and Village Industries in Assam has made a significant contribution to employment generation, poverty alleviation, and the preservation of traditional skills. However, challenges like inadequate infrastructure, limited access to modern technology, and lack of marketing support need to be addressed to further strengthen these sectors and ensure their long-term sustainability.



(6) Explain the prospect and diversification of Industries in Assam.

Answer:

Assam holds considerable potential for industrial growth and diversification due to its rich natural resources, strategic location, and improving connectivity. The following points highlight the key prospects and areas for diversification in Assam's industrial sector:

- **Agro-Based Industries:** Assam has immense potential to develop agro-processing industries, including rice mills, oil extraction units, fruit processing, and tea packaging. The state's fertile land and favourable climate can support high-value agricultural exports.
- **Petrochemical and Gas-Based Industries:** With abundant reserves of oil and natural gas, Assam can expand petrochemical, plastic, and fertilizer industries, offering significant growth opportunities.
- **Tea and Bamboo Diversification:** Assam can diversify its tea industry into specialty teas, packaged teas, and green teas. Similarly, bamboo can be used for making furniture, handicrafts, paper, and eco-friendly products.
- **Textile and Sericulture:** The state has the potential to develop large-scale textile units focusing on silk products like Muga, Eri, and Pat silk, which are globally recognized.
- **Tourism Industry:** Assam's scenic beauty, wildlife sanctuaries, tea gardens, and cultural heritage offer great prospects for the growth of eco-tourism, tea tourism, and adventure tourism.
- **Handloom and Handicrafts:** Traditional industries like



handloom weaving and handicrafts can be diversified through design innovation and better market access.

- **Food Processing Industry:** The state can attract investments in fruit processing, tea-based products, packaged drinking water, and spice processing, promoting value addition.
- **Information Technology (IT) Sector:** With proper infrastructure and digital connectivity, Assam can develop IT parks and attract software and service industries.
- **Renewable Energy:** Assam can explore solar, bio-energy, and small hydropower projects to support sustainable industrialization.
- **Logistics and Warehousing:** With improved transport links and border trade routes, Assam can emerge as a logistics hub for the North-East and neighbouring countries.

In conclusion, Assam's industrial diversification holds promising prospects that can transform the state into a vibrant industrial destination with proper investment, policy support, and infrastructure development.

(7) Explain the problems and prospects of Tea Industry in Assam.

Answer:

The tea industry in Assam is one of the oldest and most significant sectors, contributing substantially to the state's economy, employment, and exports. However, despite its potential, the industry faces several challenges.



Problems of Tea Industry in Assam:

- **Ageing Tea Bushes:** Many tea gardens in Assam have old and less productive tea bushes, leading to declining yields and poor quality.
- **Labour Issues:** The industry frequently faces labour unrest, low wages, poor living conditions, and shortage of skilled workers.
- **High Production Costs:** Rising costs of inputs like fertilizers, fuel, and transportation reduce profit margins for tea producers.
- **Climate Change:** Unpredictable weather, droughts, excessive rainfall, and rising temperatures affect tea quality and yield.
- **Stiff Competition:** Assam tea faces tough competition from other tea-producing states and countries, reducing its market share.
- **Marketing and Price Fluctuation:** Prices of tea are highly unstable, and small tea growers struggle to secure fair prices due to weak bargaining power.
- **Pests and Diseases:** Tea gardens in Assam frequently suffer from pest attacks and diseases, causing significant crop losses.
- **Lack of Modern Technology:** Many tea gardens continue using traditional methods with limited adoption of modern machinery and scientific practices.

Prospects of Tea Industry in Assam:

- **Global Demand:** Assam tea, known for its strong flavour and bright colour, enjoys high demand in both domestic and international markets.



- **Scope for Diversification:** The industry can diversify into specialty teas, green teas, organic teas, and ready-to-drink tea products.
- **Government Support:** The government is offering subsidies, infrastructure support, and market promotion to revive the tea sector.
- **Small Tea Growers:** Growing participation of small tea growers is boosting production and creating local employment.
- **Tea Tourism:** Assam's beautiful tea estates can be developed as attractive tea tourism destinations, providing an additional source of revenue.

In conclusion, despite facing numerous challenges, the tea industry in Assam has bright prospects if issues are addressed through modernization, better labour management, and global marketing strategies.

(8) Explain the problems and prospects of Paper Industry in Assam.

Answer:

The paper industry in Assam has significant potential due to the state's abundant natural resources like bamboo, softwood, and water. Major paper mills like Nagaon Paper Mill and Cachar Paper Mill were once key contributors to Assam's economy. However, the industry currently faces several challenges that hinder its growth.

Problems of Paper Industry in Assam:

- **Closure of Paper Mills:** The shutdown of major paper mills like Nagaon and Cachar due to financial losses



and mismanagement has severely affected the industry.

- **Raw Material Shortage:** Over the years, the availability of quality bamboo and other raw materials has declined due to over-exploitation and poor resource management.
- **Outdated Technology:** Many paper mills still use old machinery and lack modernization, leading to low productivity and high production costs.
- **Financial Crisis:** Poor financial planning, heavy debts, and lack of working capital have contributed to the collapse of several paper units in Assam.
- **Labour Issues:** Labour unrest, delayed wages, and poor working conditions have affected the stability and smooth functioning of the industry.
- **Transportation Bottlenecks:** Assam's distance from major markets and weak transport infrastructure increase logistics costs.
- **Environmental Regulations:** Increasing environmental concerns and strict pollution control norms require costly waste management systems, which many units struggle to afford.

Prospects of Paper Industry in Assam:

- **Abundant Raw Materials:** Assam's rich bamboo forests and water resources offer significant potential for the revival of the paper industry.
- **Growing Market Demand:** The demand for paper products, including eco-friendly packaging materials, is increasing in India and abroad.
- **Government Support:** Revival plans, subsidies, and policy incentives from the central and state

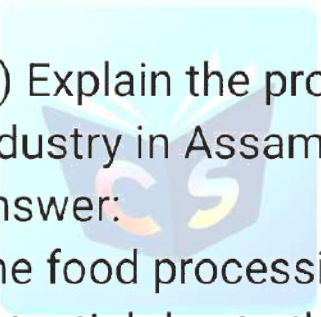


governments can support the sector's growth.

- **Employment Opportunities:** The revival and expansion of the paper industry can create large-scale employment in both skilled and unskilled sectors.
- **Scope for Modernization:** Adoption of modern technology, efficient production processes, and sustainable practices can improve productivity and competitiveness.

In conclusion, while the paper industry in Assam faces serious challenges, it also has promising prospects if adequate government support, investment, and modernization efforts are implemented.

(9) Explain the problems and prospects of Food Processing Industry in Assam.

Answer:  The Learning App

The food processing industry in Assam holds immense potential due to the state's rich agricultural base, diverse horticultural products, and favourable climate. However, this industry is still underdeveloped and faces several challenges that limit its growth.

Problems of Food Processing Industry in Assam:

- **Lack of Infrastructure:** Poor road connectivity, insufficient cold storage facilities, and inadequate transportation systems hinder the timely movement and storage of perishable goods.
- **Low Level of Technology:** Many food processing units in Assam still use outdated machinery, resulting in low



- efficiency and poor-quality products.
- **Shortage of Skilled Manpower:** There is a scarcity of trained personnel with expertise in modern food processing techniques and quality control.
 - **Limited Financial Support:** Small entrepreneurs often face difficulty in accessing bank credit and government subsidies to set up or expand processing units.
 - **Weak Supply Chain:** Disorganized procurement and lack of farmer-processor linkages lead to the wastage of agricultural produce.
 - **Lack of Awareness:** Farmers and small entrepreneurs often lack knowledge about the benefits of food processing, value addition, and available government schemes.
 - **High Transportation Cost:** Assam's geographical distance from major consumption centres increases transportation costs, making processed products less competitive.

Prospects of Food Processing Industry in Assam:

- **Abundant Raw Materials:** Assam produces rice, fruits, vegetables, tea, spices, fish, and meat in large quantities, providing a solid base for food processing.
- **Government Initiatives:** Central and state governments offer financial incentives, subsidies, and infrastructure development under schemes like PM-FME and PMKSY to promote food processing.
- **Export Potential:** Processed food items like pickles, fruit juices, packaged tea, and spices from Assam have



- growing demand in national and international markets.
- **Employment Generation:** The expansion of the food processing industry can create significant employment opportunities in rural and semi-urban areas.
- **Scope for Entrepreneurship:** The sector offers good prospects for local entrepreneurs, especially in areas like organic products, ready-to-eat foods, and traditional delicacies.

In conclusion, with proper investment, technology adoption, and government support, the food processing industry in Assam can become a key driver of economic growth and rural development.

(10) Explain the problems and prospects of Fertilizer Industry in Assam.

Answer:

The fertilizer industry in Assam plays a vital role in supporting agricultural productivity in the region. Assam's only major fertilizer manufacturing unit is the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) located in Namrup. Despite its importance, the fertilizer industry in Assam faces several problems that limit its growth and efficiency.

Problems of Fertilizer Industry in Assam:

- **Outdated Technology:** The existing fertilizer plants, particularly BVFCL, suffer from old and inefficient technology that results in high production costs and low productivity.
- **Frequent Breakdown:** Old machinery and lack of timely



maintenance often lead to plant shutdowns, affecting continuous production.

- **Raw Material Shortage:** Limited availability of natural gas, the key raw material for fertilizer production, creates challenges in maintaining a stable supply.
- **High Production Cost:** Due to ageing equipment, poor energy efficiency, and high transportation costs, the production cost in Assam is higher compared to other regions.
- **Financial Losses:** BVFCL has been facing financial stress due to rising costs, low capacity utilization, and competition from modern plants in other parts of India.
- **Labour and Management Issues:** Delayed wages, labour dissatisfaction, and inefficient management practices further hamper smooth operations.
- **Environmental Concerns:** The fertilizer plants need to comply with pollution control norms, but many lack modern waste management systems, posing environmental risks.

Prospects of Fertilizer Industry in Assam:

- **Government Revival Plans:** The government has initiated revival plans, including setting up the new Namrup-IV plant with modern technology to boost production.
- **Growing Agricultural Demand:** Assam's agriculture sector has increasing demand for fertilizers to enhance crop yields, ensuring a steady market.
- **Raw Material Availability:** Assam's natural gas reserves, if properly utilized, can support the long-term growth of



the fertilizer industry.

- **Employment Generation:** Expansion of fertilizer plants can create direct and indirect employment opportunities in the region.
- **Strategic Location:** Assam's location can help meet the fertilizer demand of the entire North-East region, reducing reliance on supplies from distant states.

In conclusion, while the fertilizer industry in Assam faces several operational and financial challenges, it has significant potential for revival and growth with proper modernization, government support, and improved management.

(11) Explain the problems and prospects of Cement Industry in Assam.

Answer

The cement industry in Assam holds substantial potential due to the state's rich limestone reserves, which are the primary raw material for cement production. Assam has several cement plants, including both public and private units, that contribute to the state's industrial development. However, the industry also faces several challenges.

Problems of Cement Industry in Assam:

- **High Transportation Cost:** Assam's geographical distance from the main consumption centres increases transportation costs, making cement from Assam less competitive in larger markets.
- **Power Shortages:** The industry frequently suffers from inadequate and irregular power supply, increasing



dependency on expensive alternative energy sources.

- **Outdated Technology:** Some older cement plants use inefficient production methods, leading to higher energy consumption and lower productivity.
- **Limited Local Market:** Assam's relatively small local market restricts large-scale expansion of cement plants, limiting profitability.
- **Raw Material Constraints:** Though limestone is available, poor mining management and transportation bottlenecks hinder the smooth supply of raw materials.
- **Environmental Regulations:** Cement production generates dust and emissions, requiring high investment in pollution control measures to meet environmental standards.
- **Labour Issues:** Occasional labour unrest, wage disputes, and lack of skilled manpower affect the smooth functioning of the industry.

Prospects of Cement Industry in Assam:

- **Abundant Raw Materials:** Assam and neighbouring states have large reserves of limestone, clay, and other essential raw materials.
- **Growing Construction Demand:** Rapid urbanization, infrastructure development, and government projects in the North-East are increasing the demand for cement.
- **Government Incentives:** The North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS) and other policy support encourage investment in the region's cement sector.
- **Export Potential:** Assam's proximity to Bhutan, Bangladesh, and other North-Eastern countries offers



export opportunities.

- **Employment Generation:** The growth of the cement industry can create direct and indirect employment, supporting local economies.

In conclusion, despite facing several operational and market-related challenges, the cement industry in Assam has strong prospects if supported by modernization, better infrastructure, and favourable government policies.

2 Marks Section

- **Question:** What is the significance of the tea industry in Assam's economy?

Answer:

The tea industry is vital to Assam's economy as it contributes significantly to employment, exports, and state revenue. Assam produces more than half of India's tea, renowned globally for its strong flavour and bright colour.

- **Question:** Mention two major problems faced by the tea industry in Assam.

Answer:

The tea industry in Assam faces issues like ageing tea bushes leading to low productivity and frequent labour unrest due to low wages and poor living conditions, affecting production and profitability.

- **Question:** What is the export potential of Assam tea?

Answer:

Assam tea has high export potential due to its global popularity. Specialty teas like green and organic tea can capture international markets, especially with proper branding and diversification.



- **Question:** Why did major paper mills in Assam shut down?

Answer:

Major paper mills like Nagaon and Cachar closed due to financial mismanagement, outdated machinery, raw material shortages, and labour unrest, leading to operational losses and eventual shutdown.

- **Question:** State two prospects of Assam's paper industry.

Answer:

Assam's paper industry has prospects in abundant bamboo resources and increasing demand for paper products, including eco-friendly packaging materials, both in domestic and international markets.

- **Question:** What are the major problems of the food processing industry in Assam?

Answer:

The food processing industry in Assam faces challenges like poor infrastructure, lack of cold storage, high transportation costs, weak supply chains, and limited access to modern technology and finance.

- **Question:** How can Assam's food processing industry grow?

Answer:

Assam's food processing industry can grow through government support, improved infrastructure, technology adoption, better farmer linkages, and tapping into export markets for processed tea, spices, and organic products.

- **Question:** Why is the fertilizer industry in Assam under stress?



Answer:

The fertilizer industry in Assam, particularly BVFCL, suffers from outdated technology, financial losses, frequent plant shutdowns, and raw material shortages, making it difficult to operate profitably.

- **Question:** What is the future prospect of the fertilizer industry in Assam?

Answer:

The fertilizer industry in Assam can revive with government support, modern plants like Namrup-IV, efficient raw material use, and rising fertilizer demand from Assam's growing agricultural sector.

- **Question:** What are the key problems of the cement industry in Assam?

Answer:

The cement industry in Assam faces high transportation costs, power shortages, outdated technology, limited local markets, raw material supply issues, and stringent environmental regulations.

- **Question:** What is the prospect of the cement industry in Assam?

Answer:

Assam's cement industry can grow with government incentives, increasing infrastructure demand, regional exports to neighbouring countries, and availability of limestone and other raw materials in the North-East.

- **Question:** How can tea tourism benefit Assam?

Answer:

Tea tourism can attract domestic and international tourists to Assam's scenic tea gardens, generating additional