



drishti

Assam's Jerenga Pothar and Dhekiajuli Town

 drishtias.com/printpdf/assam-s-jerenga-pothar-and-dhekiajuli-town

Why in News

The Prime Minister visited two significant historical places in Assam.

- The first was **Sivasagar's Jerenga Pothar**, where 17th-century **Ahom Princess Joymoti** sacrificed her life.
- Second was **Dhekiajuli town**, associated with the **Quit India Movement** of 1942.

Key Points

- **Jerenga Pothar:**

- **Jerenga Pothar**, an open field in **Sivasagar** town, is popularly connected to the valour of **17th century Ahom princess Joymoti**.
 - Formerly known as **Rangpur, Sivasagar** was the seat of the powerful **Ahom dynasty**, who ruled Assam for six centuries (1228-1826).
 - **Chaolung Sukapha** founded the Ahom kingdom.
- From 1671 to 1681, the **Ahom kingdom** was undergoing a period of turmoil, it was at this time that **Prince Godapani** (Joymoti's husband) escaped to the **Naga Hills** before enemies could capture him.
- But his enemies captured his wife **Joymoti**, hoping she would tell them about his whereabouts, however, despite being tortured for days, tied to a thorny plant, in an open field, **Joymoti refused** to divulge any information.
- She died, sacrificing her life for her husband, who ultimately became the king, ushering in an era of stability and peace in Assam.

The place Joymoti was tortured to death was **Jerenga Pothar**.

- Significance of the Place:

- While the Jerenga Pothar itself is not a protected archaeological site, **its vicinity includes a number of protected sites**, including the **Na Pukhuri tank** to its east and the **Pohu Garh**, a natural zoo built during the Ahom era, to its west.
- Close by is the large **Joysagar tank**, built by Ahom king Swargadeo Rudra Singha in 1697, and the Vishnu Dol temple.
- In 2017, the field was **used for the centenary celebrations** of the apex and influential literary body, the **Asam Sahitya Sabha**.

- **Dhekiajuli Town:**

- **Dhekiajuli** was home to possibly the youngest martyr of the Indian freedom struggle.
- On **20th September, 1942**, as part of the **Quit India Movement**, processions of freedom fighters marched to various police stations across several towns in Assam.
- These squads, which were known as '**Mrityu Bahini**', or death squads, had wide participation - including **women and children** - and set out to unfurl the tricolour atop **police stations**, seen as **symbols of colonial power**.
- The British administration came down heavily on them. In **Dhekiajuli**, at least 15 people were shot dead, three of them women, including the 12-year-old **Tileswari Barua**.
- **Tileswari** is considered as one of the **youngest martyrs** of India's freedom struggle.
- **20th September** has for long been observed as **Martyrs' Day in Dhekiajuli** town.

Source: IE