

15. Shillong: The Rock Capital of India

A1. Answer these questions.

Q1. Where is Shillong? Describe its geographical location?

1. Perched at an elevation of about 1500 meters above the sea level, this tiny hill station is the capital of the beautiful state of Meghalaya, which means the abode of clouds

Q2. What made Shillong receive worldwide attention?

2. While Shillong's love affair with music is a long one, it received worldwide attention for entering the Guinness Book of World Records with the largest guitar ensemble in 2007. A total of 1,730 local guitarists gathered and played to the tunes of Bob Dylan's popular number, Knocking On Heaven's Door.

Q3. Write a short note on Soulmate?

3. Local bands from Shillong have achieved success at music festivals all over the world. Soulmate has to be the most famous export though. This blues-rock band was the first to represent India at the prestigious International Blues Challenge in Memphis in 2007. Since then they have become one of the most respected musical acts in the country.

Q4. What is the other passion that Shillongites have other than rock music?

4. Shillong's other great passion is football.

Q5. What makes Shillong, a must visit place?

5. The scenic beauty of Shillong, the hospitality of its people and the rich culture of the city makes it a must visit the place.

A2. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1. Perhaps that's why the Scotland of the east is more popular today as the rock capital of India.

A. What has been called the Scotland of East?

a. Shillong has been called the 'Scotland of the East'.

B. Why is the Scotland of east called the rock capital of India?

b. While Shillong's love affair with music is a long one, it received worldwide attention for entering the Guinness Book of World Records with the largest guitar ensemble in 2007. A total of 1,730 local guitarists gathered and played to the tunes of Bob Dylan's popular number, Knocking On Heaven's Door. This is the biggest testimony to the love that Shillongites have for music.

C. Which other Indian cities famous for their music are mentioned by the writer.

c. Kolkata and Chennai are two other cities which were mentioned by the writer.

2. *The most unique part of the Khasi society is its matrilineal nature.*

A. What do you understand by matrilineal?

a. "Matrilineal" means being identified to be descended from the mother's bloodline.

B. How is the wedding in the Khasi society so different?

b. After the wedding the groom has to shift to the bride's house and has to assume the bride's family surname. The youngest daughter of the family inherits all the property and stays in her mother's house.

C. What happens to the younger daughter of the family?

c. The youngest daughter of the family inherits all the property and stays in her mother's house.

3. *His child-like approach to music is a living embodiment of Shillong's musical spirit.*

A. Whose childlike approach is being spoken about here?

a. The essayist is talking about Lou Majaw's 'child-like approach'.

B. How is the person being spoken about as a living embodiment of Shillong's musical spirit?

b. Since 1972, Majaw has been organising a birthday concert for the legendary Bob Dylan on May 24 every year. It's one of the biggest events in Shillong's busy music calendar. At the age of 71, Majaw continues to perform across the country even today. He has thus become the 'living embodiment of Shilling's musical spirit'.

C. Why is he called the grand old man of rock and roll in Shillong?

c. He is 71 and he performs even today. That is why he is called the 'grand old man of rock and roll' in Shillong.

A3. Think and answer.

Q1. Why do you think Shillong became a hub of western music?

1. Shillong became the hub of Western Music owing to its rich culture and the influence of the British from a very early time

Q2. Would you like to visit Shillong? Why?

A2. Open Response answer