

# **CHAPTER - II**

## **THE STUDY AREA**

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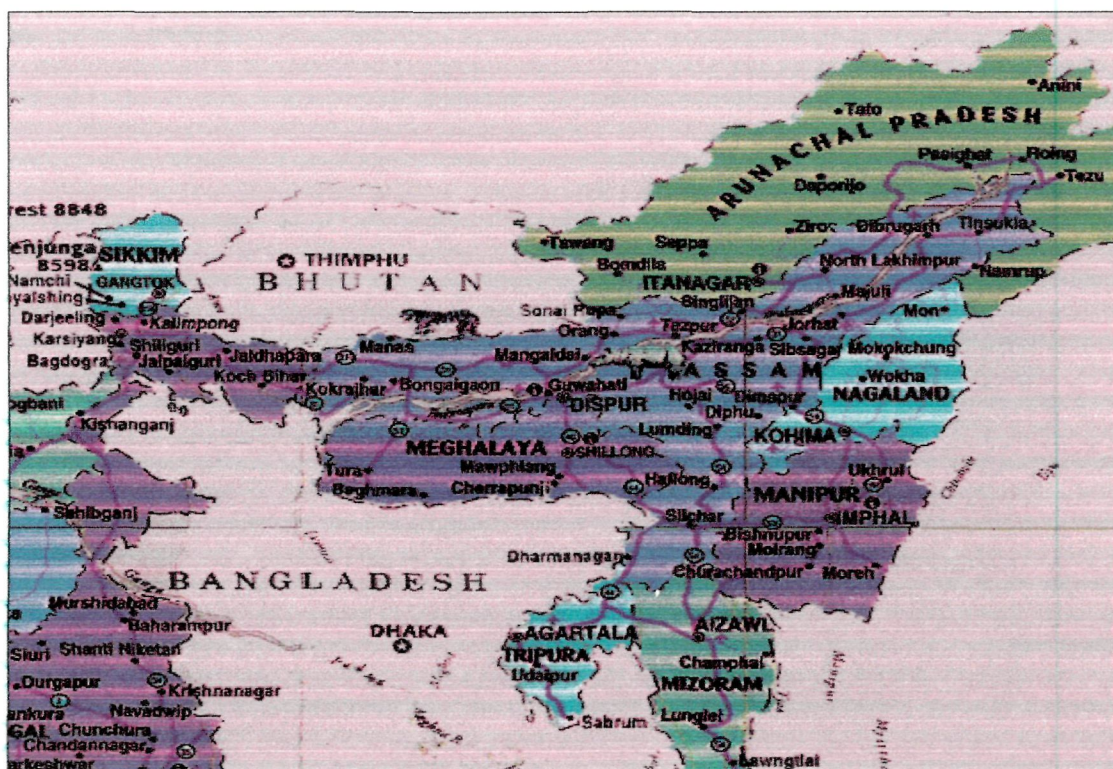
The present study is conducted in Chandrapur block and Chayani Barduar block of Kamrup district in Assam.

#### **NORTH-EASTERN REGION**

The North-Eastern region is situated at the North-Eastern Himalayan sub-region of India. The North-Eastern region is located in the remote eastern corner of Indian Union. The entire region is connected with the rest of the country through a narrow strip of land West Bengal linking Assam. The region is bounded by Tibet and China in the north and east, Bangladesh in the south, Burma in the South-East and Bhutan in the West. The North-Eastern region is separated from Tibet by the Mac Mohan line.

The total geographical area of the North-Eastern region is 2, 55,083 sq. km. as against the country's total area of 32, 87,263 sq. km. Thus the region constitutes nearly 7.76% of the total land area of the country. Initially the North-Eastern region was composed of five states and two union territories. But with the granting of statehood to Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1987, this region is now composed of seven states, namely: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. Recently Sikkim is included in this region. Among the various states of the region, the geographical area of Arunachal Pradesh is the highest at 83,743 sq. km. followed by Assam at 78,438 sq. km. the geographical areas of Meghalaya, Manipur and Mizoram are of smaller size and these are 22,429 sq. km. 22,327 sq. km. and 21,081 sq. km. respectively. The geographical area of the remaining two states viz., Nagaland and Tripura are quite small and these are only 16,579 sq. km. and 10,486 sq. km. respectively.

As per census report, 2001, total population of the North-Eastern region stood at 384.94 lakhs. Among the various states of the region, the population of Assam stood highest at 266.38 lakhs. In order of size, the population of Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland was 31.92 lakhs, 23.88 lakhs, 23.18 lakhs and 19.82 lakhs respectively. The population of remaining two states of the region viz., Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram are among the lowest being 10.91 lakhs and 8.91 lakhs respectively as on 31<sup>st</sup> march, 2001. Population pressure in the entire NE region is very high. This is because of high level of birth rate along with a falling level of death rates. During the decade 1991-2001 growth rate of population was 26.21% in Arunachal Pradesh, 18.85% in Assam, 29.18% in Mizoram, 64.41% in Nagaland, 15.74% in Tripura, 31.80% in Meghalaya and 28.56% in Manipur. This high rate of population growth is not entirely due to biological cause. A significant portion of the increase is due to the influx of people from outside and this trend has been continuing since the beginning of the century.



The economy of North-Eastern region is depending too much on agricultural sector. The development of industrial sector and the service sector is very slow in this region. Due to the lack of proper development of secondary and tertiary sector, more than 70% of the total population of this region depends on agriculture for its livelihood. According to 2001 census, in Assam total no. of workers (main +marginal) was 9,557,064 out of which 3,741,912 was cultivators, 1,289,902 was agricultural labourers, 328,541 was household industry workers, and 4,196,709 was other workers. In Tripura total no. of workers (main +marginal) was 1,158,190 out of which 311,378 was cultivators, 278,334 was agricultural labourers, 33,535 was household industry workers, and 534,943 was other workers. In Manipur total no. of workers (main +marginal) was 1,069,578 out of which 492,696 was cultivators, 120,991 was agricultural labourers, 97,955 was household industry workers, and 357,936 was other workers. In Meghalaya total no. of workers (main +marginal) was 956,425 out of which 457,195 was cultivators, 172,975 was agricultural labourers, 17,956 was household industry workers, and 308,299 was other workers. In Nagaland total no. of workers (main +marginal) was 849,982 out of which 544,433 was cultivators, 33,852 was agricultural labourers, 18,072 was household industry workers, and 253,625 was other workers. In Arunachal Pradesh total no. of workers (main +marginal) was 482,206 out of which 281,822 was cultivators, 18,569 was agricultural labourers, 4,130 was household industry workers, and 177,685 was other workers. In Mizoram total no. of workers (main +marginal) was 469,597 out of which 253,167 was cultivators, 27,494 was agricultural labourers, 6,572 was household industry workers, and 182,364 was other workers.

The North-Eastern states are economically backward, so the per capita income of these states is of low level. The per capita income of North-Eastern states in 2004-

05 (at current prices) was : Arunachal Pradesh-Rs.19,724/-, Assam-Rs.13,633/-, Manipur-Rs.14,901/-, Meghalaya-Rs.19,572/-, Mizoram-Rs.22,207/-, Nagaland-Rs.20,746/- and Tripura-Rs.20,357/-

According to the 2001 census, the density of population was highest in Assam i.e., 340 per sq. km. and in Tripura it was 304 per sq. km., in Arunachal Pradesh it was 13 per sq. km., in Meghalaya it was 103 per sq. km., in Nagaland it was 120 per sq. km., in Manipur it was 85 per sq. km. and in Mizoram it was only 35 per sq. km.

Among the various North-Eastern states, the rate of literacy in Mizoram was highest. According to the census of 2001 it was 88.49%. In Assam it was 64.3%, in Manipur it was 68.8%, in Nagaland it was 67.1%, in Tripura it was 73.6%, in Meghalaya it was 63.3% and in Arunachal Pradesh it was 54.7%. During the same period the literacy level in India was 65.38%.

The sex ratio was varying in different states in North-East. In 2001 in Assam it was 932 female as against 1000 male. In Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh it was 978, 975, 938, 909, 950, and 901 respectively as compared to that of 933 for all India.

The plain regions of North-East India inhabited by three social groups-(a) Assamese, (b) Bengali and (c) The Plain Tribes. Again the hill regions are inhabited by different types of hill tribes. The population of the North-Eastern region is composed of heterogeneous elements of different races, castes, languages and cultures. This diversity led to the growth of diverse social institution. There are different types of tribal population settled both in the plain and hill areas of the North-Eastern region of the country. Each tribal group maintains different languages and professes different faiths. Every tribe has its own peculiarities and peculiar social institutions. In recent times it has been observed that the old type of static society is

fast disintegrating in this region and this has an important influence in determining the life of these people and also shape of the economy of the North-Eastern region of our country.

The North-East India is very rich in respect of natural resources. The important natural resources of this region include forest resources, mineral resources and water resources.

The North-East India is very rich in respect of forest resources. Total area covered by forest in the entire North-Eastern region was 163,799 sq. km. in 1999. About 62.2% of the total geographical area of the North-Eastern Region is covered by forest. Among the various states of this region, the concentration of forest is highest in Arunachal Pradesh, the total area under forest cover being 68,847 sq. km. which accounts for nearly 82.2% of the total geographical area of the state.

Out of the total forest area of the North-Eastern region only one third is covered by reserve forest. Various variable trees like Sal, Chegun or Teak, Hallong, Bansam, Simul, Sishu, Gamari, Sarol, Sonar etc. bamboo, cane, valuable medical plants, birds and animals are in plenty in the forests of North-Eastern region. On the basis of forest resources of the North-Eastern region, various type of forest-based industries, viz., plywood industry, paper industry, saw mills, match industry etc. have been developed in the region.

The North-Eastern region is very rich in respect of its deposit of mineral resources. Various types of mineral resources are available in different north-eastern states. Out of these mineral resources coal, petroleum crude, natural gas, lime stone, Silliminite, dolomite, iron ore, uranium, china clay, feldspar etc. In North-Eastern region, a huge quantity of coal is available. The reserve of coal in the entire NE region is estimated at 927 million tones. Among the various states of this region, maximum

amount of coal is produced in Assam and Meghalaya. Coalfields in the North-Eastern region are situated at Makum, Oilli-Joyapura, Margherita, Ledo, Lanka Daman, Namdam etc. of Assam, Garo Hills and Khasia Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya, Namchik and Namphuk of Arunachal Pradesh and Jhanji and Dichai etc. of Nagaland.

The North-Eastern region is very rich in petroleum crude oil. Oil deposits in Assam are mostly found in Naharkatiya, Moran, Geleky, Hugrijan, Rudrasagar, Lakha, Nazira, Teok etc. A minimum quantity of petroleum crude oil is also available in upper part of Arunachal Pradesh and in Baramura area of Tripura. In order to refine this petroleum crude, three refineries have already been set up in Assam at Digboi, Noonmati and Bongaigaon and fourth refinery is now being set up at Numaligarh.

The North-Eastern region is well blessed by nature in respect of natural gas. Natural gas is available in Assam and Tripura. Total reserve of natural gas in the entire region is estimated about 23,000 million cubic meters. The reserve of natural gas is mostly available at Naharkatia, Moran and Kakwa area located in Sibsagar and Dibrugarh districts of Assam and also at Baramura area of Tripura.

In North-Eastern region adequate quantity of limestone is available. Limestone deposits are mostly available at Garampani and Koilajan in the district of Karbi-Anglong and North-Cachar Hills of Assam; Khasia-Jaintia and Garo Hills of Meghalaya; Ukhrul area of Manipur and Fek area of Nagaland.

Some other minerals are also available in North-Eastern states which include-silliminite, uranium, fire clay of Meghalaya; iron ore, kaolin, fuller's earth, feldspar etc. of Assam and chromite of Manipur.

The North-Eastern region is quite rich in respect of water resources. The entire region is experiencing adequate quantity of rainfall due to the favorable impact of monsoon. Moushingram of Meghalaya established the record of highest rainfall

throughout the world. The two main rivers of this region are Bramaputra and Barak.

Agriculture is the back bone of the North-Eastern states. The majority of population of North-Eastern states is getting their means of livelihood from the agricultural sector as they have accepted agriculture as their primary occupation. About 70% of the total working population of the North-Eastern region is earning their livelihood from agriculture. Agricultural sector contribute towards the development of some agro-based industries of this region. Some important agro-based industries are tea industry, jute industry, sugar industry, flour mill, oil pressing mill etc.

The North-Eastern region is one of the industrially backward regions of the country. In spite of being blessed with huge potential for development of resource-based and demand-based industries, the pace of industrial development in this region had not been satisfactory. The industrial sector in this region had been centralized around some particular sectors like tea, petroleum, coal, jute and forests. The industries in North-Eastern region can be classified into- (a) organized industries and (b) unorganized industries. The organized industries of this region include tea, petroleum, paper, cement, plywood, coal, jute, sugar etc. The unorganized industries of the region include the small and cottage industries, Khadi and village industries etc. Both the organized and unorganized industries are playing a very important role in the economy of the region.

The North-Eastern region is full of potentially in respect of power generation. In this region, there is huge potentiality for the development of number of hydel power and thermal power projects. There are huge reserves of coal, petroleum and natural gas in this region which are very much essential for generation of thermal power.



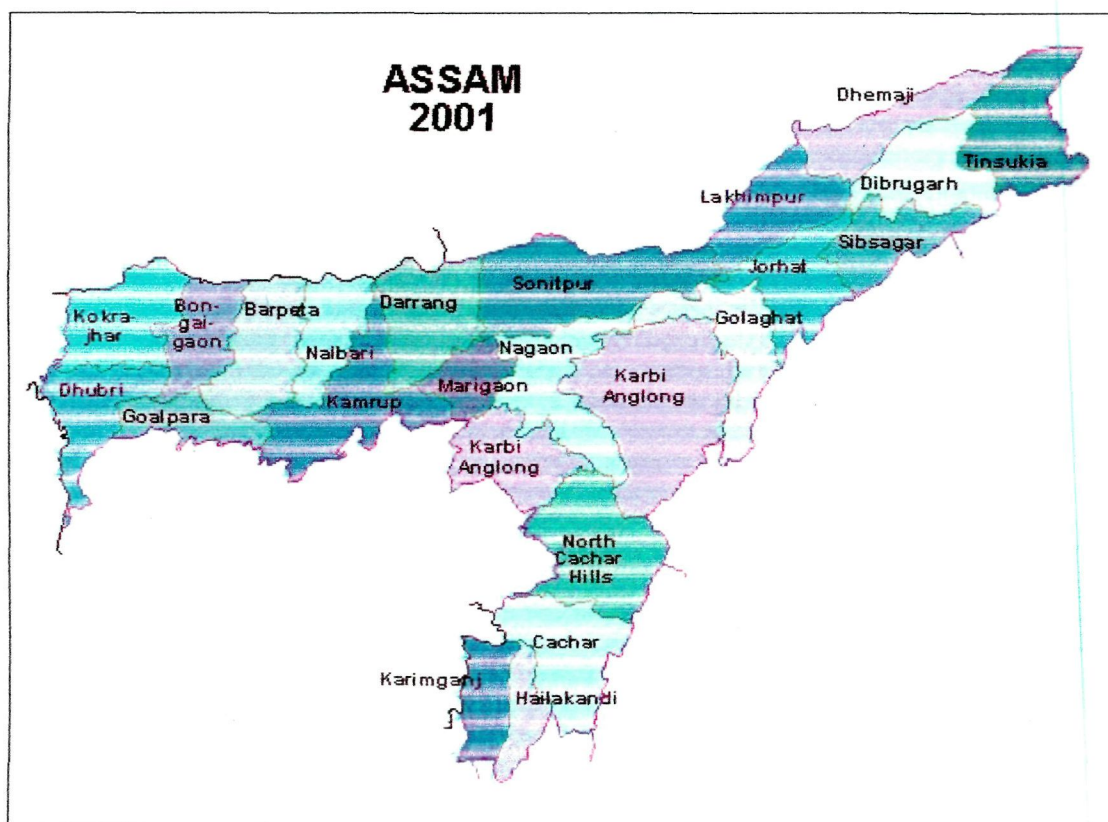
The North-Eastern region is quite rich in respect of hydro-power potential. At present the total investigated potential of hydro-electrical projects in this region is 30,000 MW approximately out of which only 492 MW has been developed and another 1,250 is now being developed for the construction work is going on. Among the different states of NE region, Arunachal Pradesh is having the highest potential for the development of hydro-electric projects amounting to nearly 25,880 MW which constitutes nearly 86.2 percent of the total investigated potential of the region.

Considering the huge potential of the North-Eastern region , the central govt. constituted a central agency, namely, North-Eastern Power Corporation (NEEPCO) in 1976 with the aim of developing the electric power potential of the this region. The corporation is now all set to plan, promote, survey, design, construct, generate operate and maintain different power station in the region.

The transportation system of the North-Eastern region is not so develop. The geographical position and geographical isolation of the region are mostly responsible for such backwardness. The major transportation systems of this region are- Rail transport, Road Transport, Water transport and Air transport. Excepting Meghalaya, all the other six State of this region are included in the rail map of India. In 2001-02, total route length of railway in the entire North-Eastern region was 2,577.9 km. Out of which the total length of meter gauge route was 1,339.1 km. (62 percent) and that of broad gauge was 1,233.8 km. Developed road transport system in North-Eastern states is very essential for the improvement of the economy. In the absence of extension of rail transport in the different North-Eastern states, the importance of road transport in this region is quite high. Total length of road in this region was 1, 39,845 km in 2002. Out of this total length surfaced road was 39,903 km. and the remaining 1, 04,942 km. was subsurface.

## ASSAM

Assam is the gateway to the North-Eastern part of India, situated just below the Eastern Himalayan foothills. Assam is bordered by the Kingdom of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh to its north-east. The states of Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram lie in the South, while Meghalaya lies to the south-west. West Bengal and Bangladesh are to its west. The state of Assam spreads over area of 78,438 sq. km. and has a population of 2,66,55,528 (census, 2001). According to 2001 census, there are 932 females per 1000 males. The decadal growth rate of population in Assam from 1991 to 2001 was 21.34%. The density of population in Assam was 340 per sq. km. in 2001. The literacy rate of Assam in 2001 was 64.28% (Male 71.93% and Female 56.03%).



Blessed with several natural gifts, Assam is dominated by the massive Brahmaputra river which has its origin in Tibet. The state is bestowed with vast alluvial plains and dense forests, tracts of paddy and tea and oil from the deep depths

of the earth. In Assam, we can see a variety of flora and fauna including the world famous one horned rhinoceros and other rare species. In fact, after Africa, Assam is perhaps the only part of the world where a wide variety of wildlife exists. Besides, Assam's colorful fairs and festivals, rich art and culture and cuisine surely leave us spellbound.

As per history, from 350 AD to 12<sup>th</sup> century, Assam was mainly ruled by the Varman Dynasties such as the Kacharis, the Chutias etc. During the rule of the famous Varman king, Bhaskarvarman (600 AD-650 AD), the Chinese traveler Xuan Zang visited the Assam region and recorded his trips. The Ahoms ventured into Assam around 1228 AD and ruled till 1826 AD. Other noted Kingdom during that period was the Koch, which arrived in the region in 1510 AD.

In the later part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Ahom Kingdom weakened due to internal conflicts. Later in 1821, the Burmese invaded Assam and installed a puppet king. Due to the Burmese intervention, The Anglo-Burmese war broke out. The war ended with the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826 and the East India Company occupied the region. From 1905 to 1912, Assam was separated with some parts of Bengal and separate provinces of Eastern Bengal and Assam were established. At the time of India's independence in 1947, Assam consisted of the original Ahom Kingdom and the present-day Arunachal Pradesh. Further, Assam was divided into four more states to become one of the seven sister states in the 1960s and 1970s.

Blessed with nature's scenic grandeur, Assam has a wealth of rarest and near-extinct wildlife species. Some of the wild species which we can spot in the wildlife sanctuaries and parks are Tigers, Clouded Leopard, Hillock Gibbon, Golden Languor, Pygmy Hog, Hispid Hare, Swamp Deer, Gang tic Dolphins, White-Winged Wood-duck etc. Apart from these, a number of resident and migratory birds make Assam

their habitats in winter and other seasons. Most popular wildlife sanctuaries and national parks of Assam include Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri National Park, Orang (Rajib Gandhi) National Park and Pabitora Sanctuary.

A perfect fusion of heritage of several old races has made Assam the home of a rich art and culture. Art and culture of Assam reflect the true spirit, tradition and lifestyle of the people of the state. Music, dance and several other art forms make *important part of the people of Assam. Also, since the time immemorial, the people of Assam have traditionally been master craftsmen. Though the state is known mainly for its fine silk fabric and the bamboo and cane products, but one will find several other excellent pieces of crafts here. Some of the popular arts and crafts include cane and bamboo, metal crafts, woodcraft, handlooms, toys, pottery, masks, jewellery and traditional paintings.*

People of Assam love traditional as well as Indian and continental cuisine. A fusion of indigenous as well as external influences, Assam cuisine will definitely pamper our taste-buds. Assamese cuisine is characterized by the use of simple ingredients which are very delicious. Rice is principal component of Assamese cuisine, besides; fermented food is also used widely which has a distinct flavor. Fish and meat are the favorite food of the Assam. Vegetable dishes are also liked by large number of people.

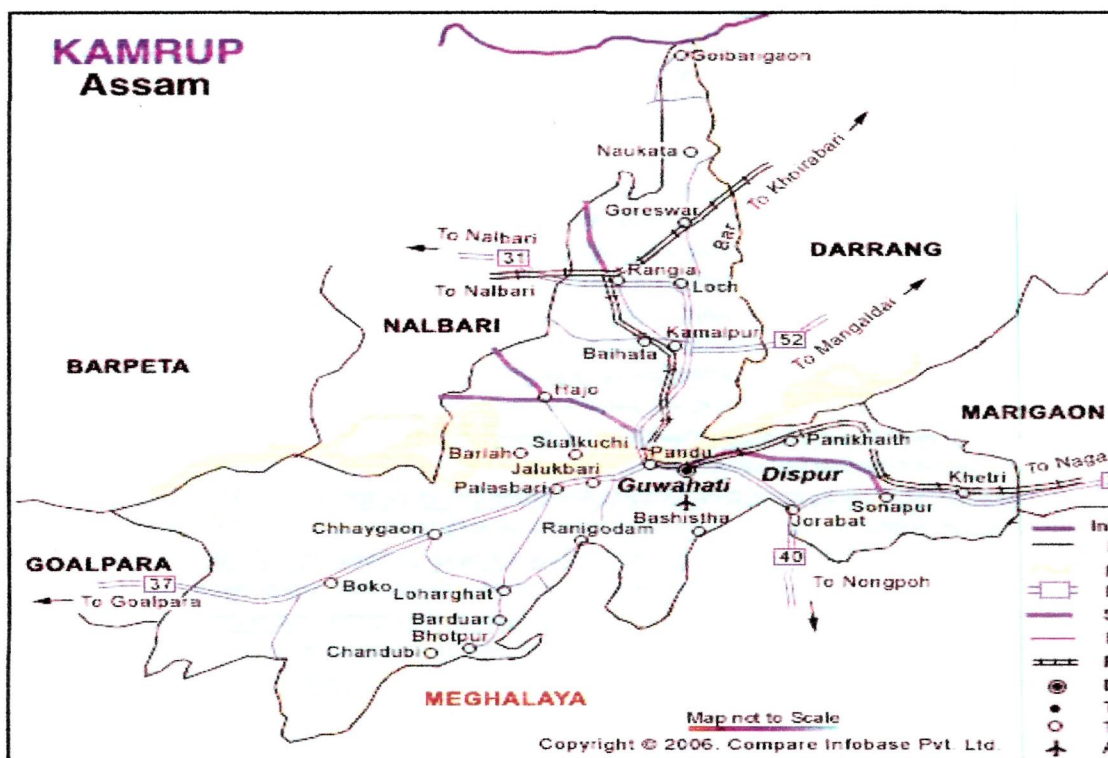
A land of varied culture and traditions, Assam witnesses a number of fairs and festivals all through the year. Most of the festivals in Assam have their roots linked to the diverse faith and belief of its inhabitants. Important fairs and festivals are Bihu, Baishagu, Rongker, Ali-ai-liang, Rongali Utsav, Jonbeel Mela, Majuli Festival, Elephant Festival, Brahmaputra Beach Festival, Dehing Patkai Festival, Rajini Gabra and Harni Gabra, Ambhbashi Mela, and Tea Festival.

Assam's climate is characterized by a high humidity. The climate of Assam is somehow different from rest of the country; the most distinguishing feature is the copious rainfall between the months of March and May when most parts of Indian Territory remain dry. Climatically, the year in Assam can be divided into two main seasons namely winter season and the rainy season. The south-west monsoon starts in the state from mid-June and continues till September. The winter season begins from October and ends by February. In between monsoon and winter seasons, the summer comes for a short duration.

### **KAMRUP DISTRICT**

Kamrup district is the capital district of Assam. It is situated between 25.46 degree and 26.49 degree North Latitude and between 90.48 degree and 91.50 degree East Longitude. The total geographical area of Kamrup district is 2740.74 sq. km. The district is bounded by: **North:** Foothills of Bhutan and Nalbari district, **South:** state of Meghalaya, **East:** Nagaon district and Darang district, **West:** Goalpara district and Nalbari district. The Kamrup district comprises two sub-divisions namely Guwahati and Rangia. The total geographical area of Guwahati sub-division is 2197.48 sq. km. and the Rangia sub-division has 543.26 sq. km. and below this level there are 13 revenue circles under Guwahati sub-division and 4 revenue circles under Rangia sub-division. Furthermore, from developmental angle, the district is divided into 17 development blocks. Below the block level set-up, there are 178 Gaon Panchayats, each comprising of a number of villages and governed by local bodies. From the angle of police administration, the district is divided into two police district, namely, Guwahati city district and Kamrup district (for other than city of Guwahati). The district area is divided among 27 police stations. Both of the district headquarters are located (rather side by side) in the heart of the city of Guwahati. According to the

2001 census the total population of Kamrup district was 2,515,030. The metropolitan district population is somewhere around a million. The literacy rate of the district was 81.24 percent and the growth rate of population was 25.75 percent (census, 2001).



The district administration is headed by the deputy commissioner. He also acts as the collector in case of revenue matters, as district magistrate in case of maintenance of law and order and general administration, as district election officer in case of conduct of election and so on. The deputy commissioner is aided by a number of officers like additional deputy commissioner, sub-divisional officers, extra assistant commissioners and others.

Revenue administration has historically been the primary responsibility of the district administration. This involves collection and fixing of land revenue, registration, mutation and overall management in regard to land matters - private and

public. Besides the revenue branch of the deputy commissioner's office, which is looked after by the additional deputy commissioner (revenue), there are 11 outlying revenue circles in the district, supervised by circle officers. The Mouzadars under the circle officers are responsible for collecting land revenue (Khazna) from land owners (pattadars). All the circle officers are required to submit 'doul' (demand of revenue) to DC, and after his approval, Mouzadars are to collect revenue as per demand.

Apart from Revenue matters, district development is one very important objective of the district administration. As head of the district administration, the DC is responsible for all-round developmental activities in the district under various programmes such as MP's local area fund (MPLAD), MLA's fund, untied fund, sub-divisional plan scheme fund, border area development fund and so on. For this work, the DC assigns the A.D.C. (development) the specific task of looking after and coordinating various developmental activities undertaken in various sectors. The ADC (development) is aided in this matter by the decentralized planning cell of the DC's office. All development departments in the district, like public works department, irrigation, health, education and many others work in co-ordination and a district development committee (DDC) headed by D.C. has been in place to ensure this coordination. Under the government policy of rapid upliftment of rural population, a district rural development agency (DRDA) is functioning in the district which has the DC as the chairman and one project director as its functional head. All schemes for rural development are implemented by this agency and in this work, it is aided by the 15 (fifteen) development blocks situated in outlying rural areas of the district. These development blocks are supervised by block development officers (BDOs) and senior BDOs.

As for the rural areas in Kamrup district, a hierarchy of local administrative bodies is in place with Zila Parishad at the top (sub-division level) followed by Anchalik and Gaon Panchayats which cover a total number of 1422 villages in the district.

The climate of Kamrup district is sub tropical with semi dry summer & cold in winter. The annual rainfall of Kamrup district is ranges between 1500 mm to 2600 mm. The average humidity of Kamrup district is 75%. The maximum temperature is 38.5 celsius and the minimum temperature is 07.0 celsius.

Today “Kamrup” is confined to only a district of modern Assam. But in the ancient Sanskrit literature, both the name Kamrup and Pragjyotishpur were used as a designation for ancient Assam. In “Kalika Purana” and “Jogini-Tantra” however, Kamrup alone appears as the name of this country. Till the Ahom conquest, Pragjyotishpur was known as Kamrup. The mythologies of ancient Assam tell a beautiful story as to how Pragjyotishpur become known as Kamrup. The word “Kamrup” means the land where “Kama” (Love) regained his “Rupa” (form).

The Brahmaputra, which divides the district into two nearly equal portions, is navigable by river steamers throughout the year, and receives several tributaries navigable by large native boats in the rainy season. The chief of these are the Manas, Chaul Khoya and Barnadi on the north, and the Kulsi and Dibru on the south bank. There is a government forest preserve in the district and also a plantation where seedlings of Teak, Sal, Sissu, Sum and Nahar are reared and experiments are being made with the Caoutchouc tree. The population is entirely rural, the only major town being Guwahati. The temple of Hajo, Madan Kamdev and Kamakhya attract many pilgrims from all quarters. The staple crop of the district is rice. The indigenous



manufactures are confined to the weaving of silk and cotton cloths for home use, and to the making of brass cups and plates. The chief exports are rice, oilseeds, timber and cotton; the imports are fine rice, salt, piece goods, sugar, hardware etc. A section of the Assam-Bengal railway starts from Guwahati, and a branch of the eastern railway has recently been opened to the opposite bank of the river. A metallic road runs due south from Guwahati to Sillong. Some important places of Kamrup District are:

### **CHANDUBI**

A natural lagoon and a fine picnic spot which is 64 km. from Guwahati. The lake and its surroundings broken by glades, is in ideal holidays resort and has the added attraction of fishing and rowing in the lake. The place is easily accessible by bus from the central bus stand at Adabari, Guwahati.

### **DAUL GOVINDA MANDIR.**

Located at the north bank of the mighty river Brahmaputra, it is a place of historic importance. The temple and shrines, copper plates and rock inscription are scattered to suggest a glorious heritage in and around North Guwahati. The holy Daul Govinda Mandir is perfectly placed at the beautiful foot hills of Chandrabharati hill at Rajaduar, a place of the east of North Guwahati and this natural ambience heightens the sanctity of this place of worship.

Everyday hundreds of pilgrims assemble here particularly, during the month of Magha and especially on the auspicious full moon day. Daul Govinda Mandir has two idols i.e. of Lord Shyamaray and Lord Govinda of course most of the devotees offer their prayers mainly to lord Govinda.

## **MADAN KAMDEV TEMPLE**

Barely 40 km. away from Guwahati, the gateway of North-East and 3 km. from Baihata Chariali on national highway 52, Madan Kamdev is an enigma, a mystery, a marvel which speaks about the ancient Kamrup. Scattered all around the dewangiri hillock with an idyllic back drop of green hills and flowing rivulet, are griffins, nymphs, dancing fairies, gods and goddesses in cosmic evaluations, walls, pillars, lintels and door frame decorated with flowers, animals, kalpa-vriksha (the tree of fulfillment), six sided Bhairava, four headed Shiva, Demons, Serpents and men, women and animals in every conceivable erotic postures, all in ruins-ruin of gigantic proportion - that is Madan Kamdev.

It is believed that Kama or Madan, the God of love was reborn in this place after being turn into ashes by angry Lord Shiva. One school believes that Madan was reborn and united to his wife Rati in this tiny hillock. Another school argues that the name Madan Kamdev is romantic association to palace, because of the numerous erotic sculptures.

Perhaps there is no place in India except Khajuraho and Kanarak, where basic weaknesses of mortals caught in fear, doubt, love, jealousy and consummate passion have been so eloquently expressed. It is really a mystery, how Madan Kamdev, a place exquisite antiquities, so near to Guwahati escaped the notice of all for such a long time. It is now established that many priceless images of Madan Kamdev were either stolen by curio hunters or by religion-duped villagers without perhaps realizing the value of the curving they removed.

Assam Archeology more or less has confirmed that the ruins of Madan Kamdev belonged to the 10th to 12th century A.D. when the Pala Dynasty ruled Kamrupa. The ruins are believed to be the remains of more than 20 temples consigned to Lord Shiva. The surviving portion of Madan Kamdev shows that these were perhaps the finest medieval temples ever built in the entire Brahmaputra valley. Be it so, or it otherwise Madan Kamdev, continues to remain an archeological challenge.

### **SARAIGHAT NATIONAL PARK**

This Park is at Agyathuri on the northern bank of river Brahmaputra .The Park has been constructed for preservation and promotion of the memories associated with the Battle of Saraighat which took place in the year 1671 A.D. between the Ahoms and Mughals under the command of the great Ahom "Senapati" Lachit Barphukan.

### **POA MACCA**

Poa Macca is a place of pilgrimage for the Muslims and is located at Hajo, a small town near Guwahati. It is the tomb of seer Giasuddin Auliya. It is believed that by offering prayers here the faithful gain one fourth of the spiritual enlightenment of what could be gained at Macca. Hence, the name - "Poa", means one-fourth.

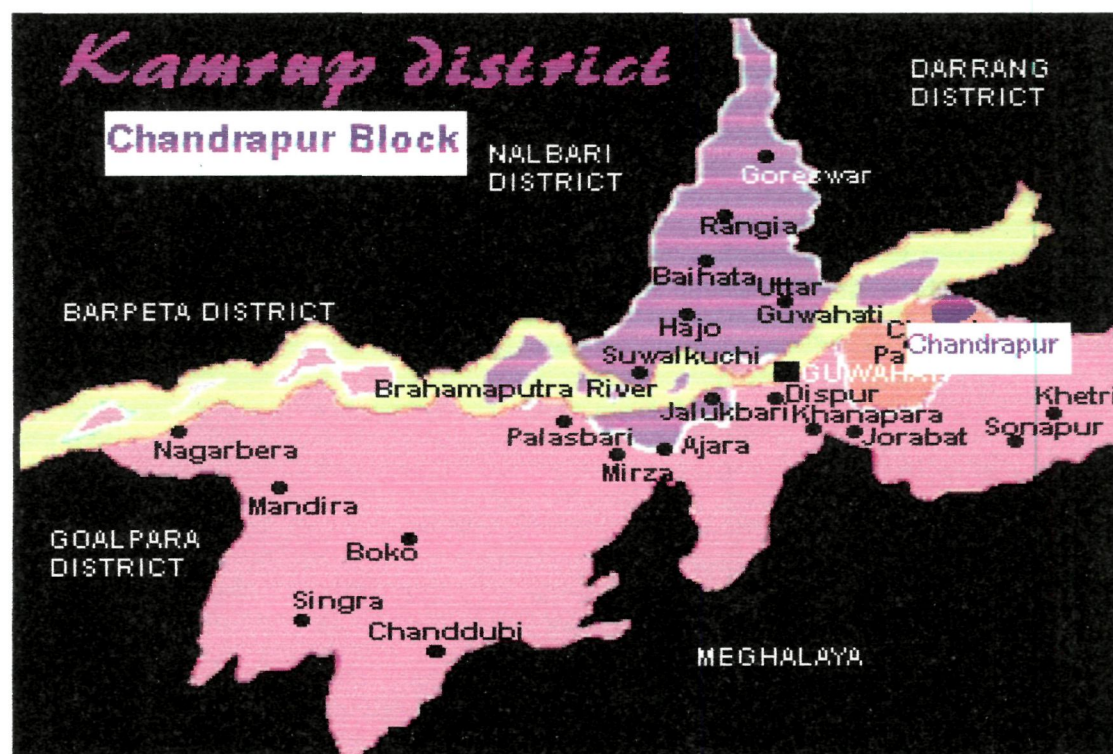
### **ASWAKLANTA**

This temple being famous for the Hindus was constructed by king Siva Singha in 1720 A.D. situated on the bank of the river Brahmaputra. It consists of two big temples. It is said that Lord Krishna, while coming to kill Narakasura, his horse got tired in this place. There are also some others opinion that the horse was attacked near this temple and the name of it should have been Aswakranta and not Aswaklanta.

Formally there was a Kunda, a place of sacrifice near the temple. Now this Kunda does not exist because it was eroded by the river Brahmaputra. Inside this temple, there are two images one of Janardana and the other of Anantasai Vishnu. The later is a fine art specimen of eleventh century. There is one stone inscription on the body of the temple located at North Guwahati. Ideally located on the bank of the river, it is linked by regular ferry services with the south bank. It can be reached by road across the Saraighat Bridge.

### CHANDRAPUR BLOCK

Chandrapur is one of the development block of Kamrup district in Assam. It is around 20 km. far away from Guwahati city. The total area of this block is 84-85 sq. km. According to 2001 census the total population was 49,431. On the basis of the sex the total male population was 26,289 and female population was 23,142.



On the basis of the rural/urban area, the rural population was 42,058 and urban population was 7,373. On the basis of caste/category the total schedule caste male population was 3,895 and total female population was 3,663. The total schedule tribe male population was 1,397 and schedule tribe female was 1,139 and the other community population was 39,347. The block comprises 4 Gaon Panchayats, namely Panikhati, Chandrapur, Pachim Mayang and Amsing. The total numbers of inhabitant villages are 43 and uninhabitant villages are 6 in these 4 Gaon Panchayats.

The Panikhati GP comprises 17 villages and the total population was 14,843, out of which total male population was 7,903 and female population was 6,940. The total SC population was 2,225 of which total male population was 1,122 and total female population was 1,103. The total ST population was 1511 out of which total male population was 792 and female population was 719.

The Chandrapur GP, there are 15 villages. The total population in this GP was 12,627, out of which total male population was 6,749 and total female was 5,878. The total no of SC population was 419, out of which total male population was 224 and total female population was 195. The total ST population was 354, out of which the total male population was 188 and total female population was 166.

The Amsing GP, there are 5 villages. The total population was 10,572, out of which total male population was 5,671 and the total female population was 4,901. The total no of SC population was 195, out of which total male population was 109 and total female population was 86. The total no of ST population was 771, out of which total male population was 413 and the total female population was 358.

In Pachim Mayang GP, there are 12 villages and the total population was 11,389, out of which total male population was 5,966 and total female population was

5,423. The total no of SC population was 4,719, out of which total male population was 2,440 and the total female population was 2,279. The total no ST population was only 6, out of which total male population 4 and total female population was only 02.

The block is a heterogeneous land composed of high hills, low lands and level plains. The block is connected by road and railway. Most of the people are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. There are no heavy industries in this block, but there are almost 35 bricks industries. As far as education is concerned the literacy rate goes to 66 percent. There are only two colleges in this block and numbers of school are around 35 (high school, medium school, lower primary school). As per the estimate of DRDA, Kamrup there are about 900 SHGs are functioning in this Block.

#### **CHAYANI BARDUAR BLOCK**

Chayani Barduar block is another development block of Kamrup district in Assam. It is around 25 km. far away from Guwahati city. The block comprises 11 Gaon Panchayats, namely Kochpara, Parly Hudumpur, Bongara, Maliata, Amaranga, Haropara, Birogaon, Rajapara, Satpur, Barenti-Maniari-Parakuchi and Sarpara. The total numbers of inhabitant villages are 62. According to 2001 census the total population in this block was 87,444. Most of the people in this block are SC and ST and from OBC category. On the basis of the sex the total male population was 44,949 and female 42,495. On the basis of caste-category, the total schedule caste male population was 2,686 and total female population was 2,508. The total schedule tribe male population was 10,127 and schedule tribe female was 9,658 and the other community population was 62,465.

The block is a heterogeneous land composed of high hills, low lands and level plains. Most of the people are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. There is no

any big industry in this block except the bottling plant of Indene gas in Mirza town under this block. There are about 1100 SHGs under government scheme as well as NGOs in this block.