

CHAPTER 3

PROFILE OF GOLAGHAT DISTRICT

3.1. History of Golaghat District

The name 'Golaghat' originated from the markets established by a business class of people called 'Marwari' (who have their origins in Rajasthan) during the middle of 19th century at the bank of the river Dhansiri in the vicinity of the district headquarters. "Gola" means market and "Ghat" means the port of river transport (**everipedia**).¹

Inscription on rocks of Nagajari Khanikar village of Sarupathar, remnants of fortifications, brick structures, monuments, temples, tanks, etc. are evidence of a ninth-century kingdom in the Doyang-Dhansiri valley. The Ahoms were the rulers of the Doyang-Dhansiri valley in the 16th century. Earlier, this part was ruled by the Kacharis known as Herombial. The Kacharis were pushed back towards west of the Karbi Hills by the Ahom. The Ahom King appointed a ruler entitled 'Morongi-Khowa Gohain', an administrative post with the Rank of a Governor/Minister of the Ahom administration. Under Morongi-Khowa Gohain, large number of people from different parts of Ahom kingdom were settled in ertswhile Kachari Kingdom. An interesting aspect of such settlement was that a large number of people from different castes/communities were mixed up together so that there was remote chance of rebellion in such newly acquired territory (Wikipedia).² Most of the Morongi-Khowa Gohains were appointed from the Burhagohain families although there were few exceptions. The Numaligarh was a Fort built by Numal Gohain, a young Ahom prince, which served as the administrative headquarters of the 'Morongi-Khowa Gohain' and also as a border trade post with the Nagas, Kacharis, Dimasas and other such hill people (**District Census Handbook, Golaghat**).³

During the time of British control, the Doyang-Dhansiri valley was incorporated under the newly formed Golaghat subdivision of the Sibsagar district in 1846 and had been functioning till 1986. In 1981 Jorhat was declared as an independent district comprising of three Sub-divisions i.e., Jorhat, Majuil and Golaghat. On 22nd November, 1987 the

¹ https://www.everipedia.com/Golaghat_district/

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golaghat_district

³ Directorate of Census Operations Assam. (2011). *District Census Handbook, Golaghat*. Series-19, Part XII-B

Golaghat Sub-division was declared as a new district comprising of Golaghat and Dhansiri Sub-divisions (Bhuyan, 1991).⁴

3.2. Administrative Set Up of Golaghat District:

Golaghat district of Assam came into existence vide Govt. of Assam Notification No. (B)/489/85/51 dated 05.10.1987 with area of Golaghat subdivision of erstwhile Jorhat district with its headquarter at Golaghat.

For administrative purposes, Golaghat district is divided into three subdivisions namely Golaghat, Bokakhat and Sarupathar. In the district, there are 6 revenue circles with 1125 villages. In the district there are 8 Community Development Blocks for the purpose of administrative convenience namely Golaghat East Development Block (Padumoni), Golaghat West Development Block (Bokakhat), Golaghat North Development Block (Dergaon), Golaghat South Development Block (Sarupathar), Golaghat Central Development Block (Kathalguri), Kokodonga Development Block (Sitalpathar), Gamariguri Development Block, Morongi Development Block (Purabangla) (MSME, **Brief Industrial Profile of Golaghat District**).⁵ The district consists of as many as 7 towns (5 statutory towns and two census town). The number of Police Stations in the district is 8.

Table 3.1: Administrative Set up of Golaghat District

Administrative Units	Year	Figure's in number
Sub-divisions	2011	3
Revenue Circle	2011	6
Development Block	2011	8
Municipal Board	2011	2
Town Committee	2011	3
Gaon Panchayats	2011	102
Town	2011	7
Villages	2011	1125
Assembly Constituency	2011	4
Police Station	2011	12

⁴ Bhuyan, P.L. (1991). *A Study on the Community Development Programme on Rural Development in the Golaghat District of Assam*. Ph.D Thesis, Gauhati University, pp. 67.

⁵ MSME. Government of India. (2014-15). *Brief Industrial Profile of Golaghat District*, retrieved in <http://dcmsme.gov.in/dips/Dist-Ind-Profile%20Golaghat%2014-15.pdf>

Police Outpost	2011	6
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Source: District at a Glance, Golaghat- 2011 & Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2015⁶

3.3. Geographical Features

3.3.1. Location & Geographical Area

It is surrounded by the river Brahmaputra in the North, Nagaland on the South, Jorhat district in the East and Karbi Anglong and Nagaon district in the West. Dhansiri is the principal river, which originates from Laisang peak of Nagaland. It streams through a distance of 352 km from south to north before joining the Brahmaputra. Its catchment area is 1220 km. Doyang, Nambor, Doigrung and Kalioni are the four rivulets of the Dhansiri. The river Kakodonga marks the border between Golaghat and Jorhat districts (<http://dictionary.sensagent.com/golaghat%20district/en-en/>).⁷ The district occupies an area of 3502 km and lies 100 m above sea level. The district of Golaghat lies between 93⁰16' and 94⁰10' East Longitude and 25⁰50' and 26⁰47' North Latitude.⁸

Table 3.2: Geographical Area of Golaghat District

Item	Unit	Golaghat Sub-Division	Bokakhat Sub-Division	Dhansiri Sub-Division	Golaghat District
Total Geographical Area	Sq. km	1838	776	888	3502
Geographical Area (Rural)	Sq. km	1825.76	770	879.12	3474.88
Geographical Area (Urban)	Sq. km	12.24	6	8.88	27.12

Source: <http://dcmsme.gov.in/dips/Dist-Ind-Profile%20Golaghat%2014-15.pdf>⁹

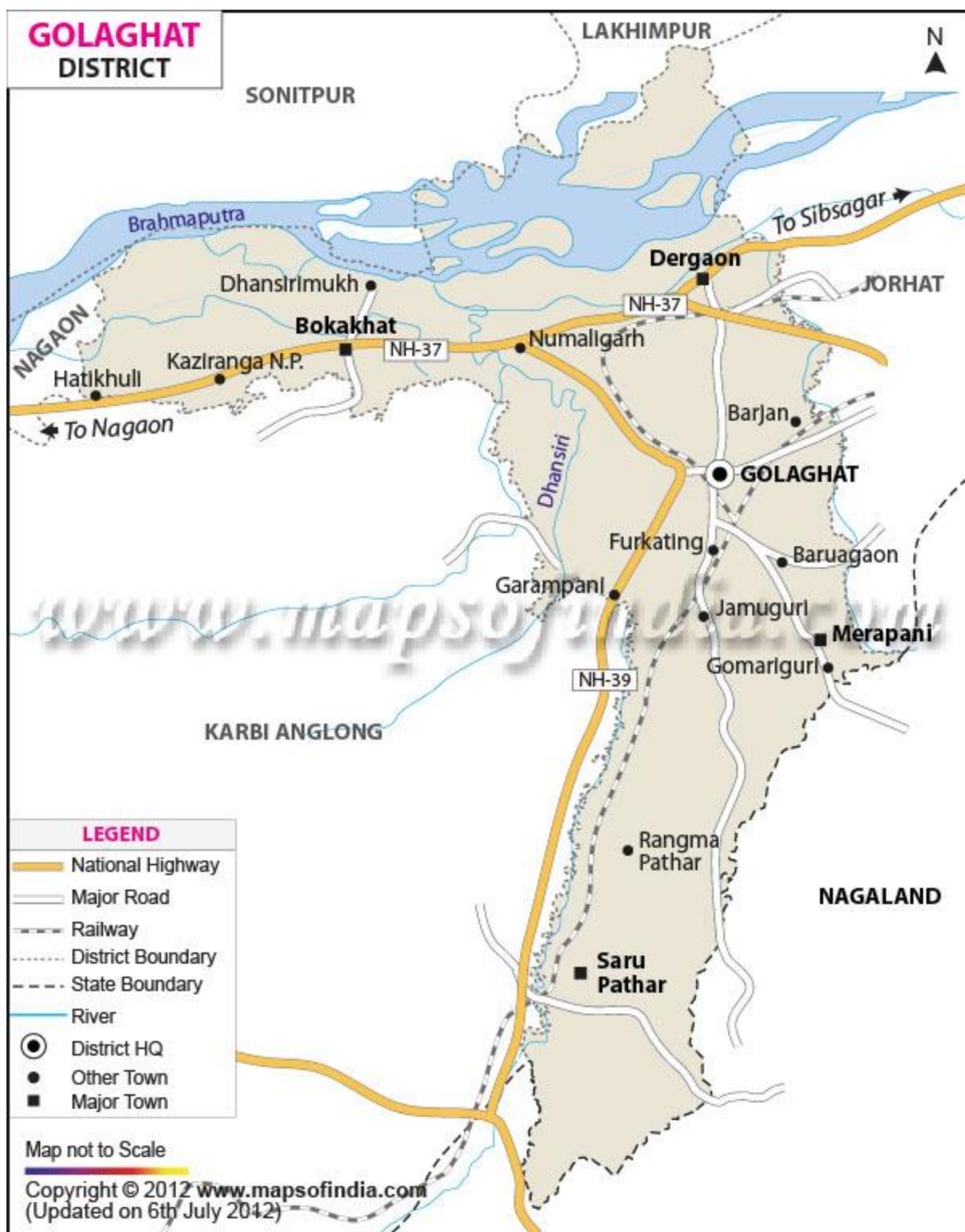
⁶ Directorate of Economics and Statistics. (2015). *Statistical Handbook of Assam*. Guwahati: Government of Assam.

⁷ <http://dictionary.sensagent.com/golaghat%20district/en-en/>

⁸ <http://golaghat.gov.in/>

⁹ <http://dcmsme.gov.in/dips/Dist-Ind-Profile%20Golaghat%2014-15.pdf>

Figure3.1: Map of Golaghat District



Sources: Maps of India

3.3.2. Climate and Rainfall

The climate of Golaghat District is characterised by a highly humid atmosphere, abundant rains and general coolness. Average annual rainfall in the district is 2,012 mm. About 60 to 65% of the annual rainfall is received during south-west monsoon from June to September. The pattern of rainfall varies in the district, from south to north, the intensity of rainfall increases and the maximum rainfall is recorded in the north eastern parts of the district (**Ministry of Water Resource, 2013**).¹⁰

The summer and monsoon seasons in Golaghat are usually hot and humid, starting from the month of March and extending till October. The average annual temperature during the summer season varies from 29° Celsius to 36° Celsius, with the maximum temperature recorded at 38° Celsius during the month of June. In Golaghat, winter starts from the month of November and the typical characteristics of this season is scanty rainfall and foggy mornings and afternoons. The minimum temperature recorded during this season is 10° Celsius, in the month of December, with the average annual temperature being 6° Celsius to 14° Celsius (**www.bharatonline.com**).¹¹

3.3.3. Flora and Fauna

The flora and fauna of Golaghat District are rich and diverse. Nambor Reserve Forest is very rich in plant diversity (**MSME, Brief Industrial Profile of Golaghat District**).¹² Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is nestled on its banks. The Park is famous because it is one of the few remaining places with a substantial population of the Asiatic one-horned rhinoceros. The other significant reserved forests in the district are Nambor-Doigrung Wildlife Sanctuary, Deopahar Reserve Forest, Doyang Reserve Forest, Panbari Reserve Forest and parts of Rengma Reserve Forest and Diphu Reserve Forest. The forests of Golaghat form a contiguous landmass spreading across the Karbi Anglong district and play an important role in the conservation of elephants in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape (**Gogoi, 2013**).¹³ Besides the one horned Rhino, Tigers, Gaurs, Wild Pig, Hollock Gibbon, Sambar deer,

¹⁰ Ministry of Water Resource (2013), Ground Water Information Booklet, Golaghat District, Assam. Retrieved from

http://www.cgwb.gov.in/District_Profile/Assam/Golaghat.pdf

¹¹ <http://www.bharatonline.com/assam/golaghat/weather.html>

¹² MSME. Government of India. (2014-15). *Op.cit.*

¹³ Gogoi, Mayuri. (2013). *Struggle for Survival: Communities in Conflict with Animals in Two Districts of Assam*. Ph.D Thesis. Department of Social Work, University of Delhi-Delhi.

Swamp Deer, Water Buffalo, Elephant, Turtle and Tortoise, Butterflies, Honeybee, Great Indian Hornbill, Bengal Florican, White wing Wood Duck, Pigtail Macaque, Slow loris, Chinese Pangolin, and much more also found in the forests of Golaghat District.¹⁴

3.4. Attraction

3.4.1. Kaziranga National Park:

Kaziranga is located between latitudes 26°30' N and 26°45' N, and longitudes 93°08' E to 93°36' E within two districts in the Indian state of Assam -the Kaliabor subdivision of Nagaon district and the Bokakhat subdivision of Golaghat district (www.kaziranga.co.in/about_kaziranga.php).¹⁵ Established in 1908 as a game reserve, it became a national park in 1974 and is inscribed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) list of World Natural Heritage Site in 1985. It has an area of 430 sq. km. and lies between the Brahmaputra river and the Karbi Anglong hills. Kaziranga's wildlife include the great Indian one-horned Rhinoceros, tiger, leopard, elephant, wild pig, hog deer, swamp deer, buffalo and other water fowl. Many migratory birds visit Kaziranga in the winter season (www.assaminfo.com/districts/11/golaghat.htm).¹⁶ For viewing wildlife in the swamp land, there are several watch towers. Elephant and jeep rides are also available. The park usually remains open for visitors from October to April. The best period to visit is from December to March.

3.4.2. Neghereting Shiva Mandir:

Perched on a hill top, it is an ancient Shiva temple built by Ahom kings. It is surrounded by lush green tea gardens and is a popular picnic spot. From the NH 37, it is only about 1 and 1/2 Km to the north. From Golaghat town, it is about 30 Kms and from Jorhat town it is about 32 Kms. Neghereting temple is also the home of hundreds of monkeys. (www.assaminfo.com)

3.5. Demographic Profile of Golaghat District

3.5.1. Population

According to 2011 census, Golaghat had population of 10,66,888 of which male and female were 5,43,161 and 5,23,727 respectively. Population density of Golaghat district for 2011 is 305 people per sq. km. Out of the total Golaghat population for 2011 census, 9.16 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 97,736 people, lives in urban areas

¹⁴ MSME. Government of India. (2014-15). *Op.cit.*

¹⁵ http://www.kaziranga.co.in/about_kaziranga.php

¹⁶ <http://www.assaminfo.com/districts/11/golaghat.htm>

of which males are 50,036 and females are 47,700. As per 2011 census data 90.84 % population of Golaghat districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Golaghat district population living in rural areas is 969,152 of which males and females are 493,125 and 476,027 respectively. Out of total population, 10.48 percent people belong from schedule tribe and 5.84 percent belong from schedule caste. In total 111,765 people belong from schedule tribe out of which 56,420 are male and 55,345 are female. In Golaghat district, 62,298 people belong from schedule caste out of which 31,807 were male and 30,491 were female.

Table 3.3. Population of Golaghat District as per 2011 Census

Golaghat District	Male	Female	Total
Total Population	5,43,161	5,23,727	10,66,888
Rural	4,93,125	4,76,027	9,69,152
Urban	50,036	47,700	97,736
Scheduled Caste	31,807	30,491	62,298
Scheduled Tribe	56,420	55,345	1,11,765

Source: District Census Handbook, Golaghat.

3.5.2. Literacy

Average literacy rate of Golaghat District in 2011 were 77.43 percent compared to 69.38 percent of 2001. The literacy rate of male is 83.56 percent while the literacy rate of female is 71.09 percent. In rural areas, the percentage of literacy is 75.94 percent whereas literacy in urban areas is 91.74 percent. The number male literate person is higher than that of the females in Golaghat district.

3.5.3. Workforce

Out of the total population, 4,79, 928 person are workers and 5,86,960 are non-workers. Only 44.98 percent of total population are working as main and marginal workers out of which 56.91 percent are male workers and 32.62 percent are female workers. Out of the total population 31.04 percent worked as a main worker and 13.94 percent worked as marginal workers.

Table 3.4: Category of workers in Golaghat District (Main and Marginal)

Category	Male		Female		Total	
	Workers	Percentage	Workers	Percentage	Workers	Percentage
Cultivator	1,29,408	41.87	61,182	35.82	1,90,590	39.71
Agricultural Labours	31,114	10.07	35,502	20.78	66,616	13.88
Worked in household Industry	6,589	2.13	8,479	4.96	15,068	3.14
Other workers	1,41,993	45.94	5,61	38.44	2,07,654	43.27
Total Worker	3,09,104	56.91	1,70,824	32.62	4,79,928	44.98

Source: District Census Handbook 2011, Golaghat

3.6. Socio Economic Indicators

3.6.1. Education

Golaghat district is well served by sufficient number of schools and degree colleges for providing education to the student's upto bachelor degree. But district administration is fails to establish Medical College, Engineering College and University for technical education and master degree. The following table provides the list of education institutions in Golaghat District.

Table 3.5: Educational Institutions in Golaghat District

SI. No.	Institutions	Number
1.	Lower Primary School	1332
2.	Upper Primary School	416
3.	High School	243
4.	Higher Secondary School	30
5.	Junior College	20
6.	Degree College	11
7.	Law College	1
8.	College of Teachers Education	1
9.	Polytechnic College	1

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam 2015 & District at a Glance, Golaghat District

3.6.2. Health and Family Welfare

Medical facilities are not sufficient in Golaghat district in comparison to its population particularly in rural areas. There are 1 district civil hospital, 1 sub divisional health

centre, 40 primary health centres, 144 sub centres and 6 private nursing homes in Golaghat district of Assam.

Table 3.6: Status of Medical Facilities in Golaghat District

SI. No.	Hospital/ Health Centre	Number
1.	Civil Hospital	1
2.	Sub-Divisional Civil Hospital	1
3.	Primary Health Centre	40
4.	First Referral Unit	2
5.	Community Health Centre	4
6.	Sub Centre	144
7.	Private Polyclinic/ Nursing Home	6
8.	Private Diagnostic Centre	14

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2015

3.6.3. Transport and Communication

Roads and railways are the main means of communication of the district. Waterways are also used in some parts of the district. The total length of roads of the district is 2768.52 kms of which 1438.52 km is surface and 1170 k.m ‘gravelled’ and ‘kutchra’. The National Highway 37 runs through the district from Bagori to Kakodonga Bridge which is approximately 15 km away from its district headquarter. The National Highway 39 starts at the district at Numaligarii and runs through to Nambor Reserve Forest covering a distance of 36 km. Other roads passing through the district are—1) Dergoan Golaghat Road 2) Golaghat Chilonijan Nawjan Road 3) Golaghat Merapani Road. 4) Golaghat Kamargoan Road. And 5) Dhodar Ali (Saikia, 1996).¹⁷

There is good network of railways in the district. The main line of North east Frontier Railway enters the district at Nawjan and passes through the station Nawjan, Sarupather, Barpathar, Jamuguri, Oating, Furkating and Kamarbandha Ali. There is also a branch line of the railway, which starts at Furkating and passes through the station Furkating,

¹⁷ Saikia, J.C. (1996). *The Role Played by State Bank of India in Agricultural Financing in Assam: A performing Appraisal of its Agricultural Development Branch in Golaghat District of Assam*. Ph.D Thesis. Guwahati University.

Golaghat, Salmora, Numaligarh, Khumtai, Badulipara, Boruabamungoan, Mohbandha and Rawraia (Hazarika, 2005).¹⁸

Table 3.7: Status of Transport and Communication in Golaghat District

SI. No.	Facility	Kilometre
1.	National Highway	127.52
2.	State Highway	160
3.	Major District Road	157
4.	Rural Road	2131
5.	PWD Road	2481
6.	Railway line: Broad gauge	100 (approximately)
7.	Post Office	150

Source: Statistical Handbook of Assam, 2015

3.6.4. Economy

The economy of Golaghat District is predominantly agrarian in nature where agriculture sector provide livelihood to more than 75 percent population directly or indirectly. Tea, rice, sugarcane, matikalai, rape & mustered, wheat, jute and potato are the principal agricultural crops in the district. The farmers and the workforce engaged in agriculture activities has to encounter with adverse weather condition such as frequent flood and draught like situations along with lack of proper inputs in time, which affects the production and growth in this sector (**Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Assam, 2015**).¹⁹ Tea industry is the largest agro based industry with 63 large tea gardens producing about 20,000 tonnes of tea per year. Moreover, the emergence of small tea growers has proclaimed a considerable fame here because of large incomes compared to other high-land crops. The rearing and reeling of muga and endi, the making of Japi (headgear) and earthen potential and the extraction of agaru oil are the cottage industries prevalent in Golaghat district. Quality muga silk and agaru oil in Golaghat district are well known in the state. Long-neck earthen potential made in Dhekial, especially for

¹⁸ Hazarika, S. (2005). *Rural Development: Role of Development Blocks with Special Reference to the Blocks of Golaghat Sub-Division*. PhD Thesis. Guwahati University.

¹⁹ Directorate of Economics and Statistics (2015). *State/District wise Area, Production, Price and Value of Ten Major Crops in Assam from 2003-04 to 2012-13*, Government of Assam.

storing molasses, is unique in the world. 'Japi' of Naharani, Dergaon finds a market in the entire Brahmaputra valley (familypedia.wikia.com/wiki/Golaghat_district).²⁰

3.6.5. Industry

Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) is the only major heavy industry in Goaghat District was set up at Numaligarh in accordance with the provision made in the historic Assam Accords signed on 15 August 1985, has been conceived as a vehicle for speedy industrial and economic development of the region. NRL was incorporated on 22nd April 1993, and started commercial operations from October 2000. With its track records of profitability and steady growth, it has earned the status of a “Mini Ratna” PSU (**Community Development Brochure, NRL**).²¹ NRL has achieved global standards by obtaining certification of its Quality, Environment and Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems. It has already adopted Hydrocracker technology to enhance the production of middle distillates (**Wikipedia**).²²

Apart from this, 390 registered industrial units are established in golaghat district of Assam. According to DICCC, there are 102 micro and small enterprise registered in Golaghat district out of which 14 agro based, 22 textile based and 38 engineering based industry.

3.6.6. Banking Network

The banking Network of the District is covered by thirteen commercial banks,one regional rural bank namely Assam Gramin Vikash Bank and one Cooperative Apex Bank. United Bank of India worked as a lead bank in the district. State bank of India, United Bank of India (UBI) and Assam Gramin Vikash Banks occupies major market share in banking business due to wide network of branches and presence in rural, semi-urban and urban areas. The name of the bank and their respective branches in Golaghat district was shown in the table below:

²⁰ http://familypedia.wikia.com/wiki/Golaghat_district

²¹ Numaligarh Refinery Limited, *Community Development Brochure*, Numaligarh, Assam. Retrieve from <http://www.nrl.co.in/upload/nrl.pdf>

²² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golaghat_district

Table 3.8: List of Banks and Their Respective Branches in Golaghat District, 2013-14

Sl. no.	Bank name	No. of branch
1	United Bank of India (UBI)	10
2	State Bank of India (SBI)	8
3	Vijaya Bank	1
4	Indian Bank	5
5	Punjab National Bank (PNB)	2
6	Central Bank Of India (CBI)	2
7	Allahabad Bank (AB)	4
8	Union bank of India	1
9	Canara Bank	1
10	Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)	1
11	Assam Gramin Vikash Bank (AGVB)	25
12	Assam Cooperative Apex Bank (ACAB)	3
13	ICICI Bank	1
14	HDFC Bank	2
15	AXIX Bank	1

Source: District Credit Plan, 2013-14, Golaghat District²³

All the development Blocks of Golaghat District have been covered by public sector Commercial Banks. Only two public sector commercial banks namely SBI and UBI have their business in each of the development block in Golaghat district. The block wise Bank branches operating in the district is shown below in the Table.

²³ Lead District Manager. (2013-14). District Credit Plan. Golaghat: United Bank of India.

Table 3.9: Block-wise Public Sector Commercial Bank Branches in Golaghat District

Sl. No	Golaghat East Dev Block, Podumoni	Golaghat West Dev. Block, Bokakhat	Golaghat North West Dev. Block, Dergoan	Golaghat South Block, Sarupathar	Golaghat Central Dev Block, Kathalguri	Kakodanga Dev Block, Sitalpathar	Gomariguri Dev Block, Gomariguri	Morongi Dev Block, Doigrung
1	SBI Golaghat	SBI Bokakhat	UBI Barua Bamun Goan	UBI Barpathar	SBI Golaghat	Indian Bank Hatiakhowa	Indian bank, Golaghat	UBI Golaghat
2	SBI Pulibor	SBI Kohora	SBI Dergoan	UBI Padumoni	SBI Pulibor	UBI Barua Bamun Goan	SBI, Golaghat	SBI Murphlani
3	UBI Golaghat	UBI Bokakhat	ALB Dergoan	SBI Sarupathar	Indian Bank Hatiakhowa	SBI Dergoan	UBI, Golaghat	Vijaya Bank Golaghat
4	UBI Kamarbandha	UBI Kamargoan	UBI Dergoan		Indian Bank Gosaisatra	UBI Dergoan		
5	ALB Furkating	CBI Numaligarh			PNB Kathalguri	ALB Dergoan		
6	Union Bank Golaghat	ALB Bongoan			CBI Golaghat	SBI Pulibar		
7		Indian Bank Bokakhat			ALB Bongoan			
8		Indian Bank Rongamati			UBI Dhekial			
9					UBI Kamargoan			
10					UBI Khumtai			
11					Canara bank Golaghat			
12					IOB Golaghat			

Source: District Credit Plan, Golaghat

