

Chapter 4

PROFILE OF GUWAHATI CITY

4.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The word Assam is derived from an *Assamese* word ‘Asom’ meaning peerless. Assam is in fact peerless, from the point of view of its exquisite beauty, physical endowment, cultural richness and human wealth. Assam is situated in the North-East region of India- bordering seven states; Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland Tripura and Sikkim and two countries Bangladesh and Bhutan. Assam covers an area of 78,523 square kilometers, about 2.4 percent of the country’s total geographical area. The Arunachal hills are towards its northern limit and bends sharply towards north eastern border, Nagaland and Manipur touch its eastern boundary, Mizoram hills rise from its southern extreme, Bangladesh shares Assam’s western border with Meghalaya and Tripura. The state has 27 districts including Kamrup (metro) district and four districts under the Bodoland council (BTC) areas viz. Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang and Udalguri. The present Guwahati area or the Greater Guwahati area falls in the Kamrup district.

Historically Guwahati is known as the land of Eastern lights and is known as the legendary Pragjyotishpur during the Vedic times. The city has a rich historical past and is often mentioned in the historical sources of the medieval period. We also find the city being mentioned in Mahabharata, Ramayana and Raghuvansham of Kalidasa. There are two opinions regarding the name of the city. The origin of Guwahati city is ambiguous. The meaning of the word Pragjyotishpur has connections with the topographical feature of the land. The name corresponds to an austic formation ‘*pagar- zah*’ meaning surrounded by very high hills (kakati, 1961). One of the views holds that the city was

surrounded by high hills with enormous caves ('*guha*' in assamese). Another opinion regarding the name Guwahati goes like this; one more meaning of '*guha*' means areca nut and '*hati*' means row of houses. The city reflects houses in rows with areca nut grooves (Barua 1973). Ancient Pragjyotishpura experienced changes in its geographical boundaries at different times. During the Verman dynasty that is between 15th to the 17th century A.D. the city area might have located to the southern side of the present city extending up to the foothills of the Meghalaya plateau (Sarkar, 1992). During Ahom rule the city extended to the northern bank of the mighty river Brahmaputra (Choudhry, 1978). A significant change took place in Guwahati when the Kamakhya temple was rediscovered and rebuilt atop Nilachal hills by the founder of Koch kingdom in the western part of Assam, king Biswa singha (1549-1550). However, the importance of Guwahati came into existence when the capital of, Koch Hajo, a bifurcated eastern part of Koch kingdom shifted to North Guwahati (Gait, 1905). However, the Mughals took over the Koch kingdom and started their base at Hajo, a small place some 16 kms to the north-west of Guwahati and shifted their capital to Guwahati in the year 1639.

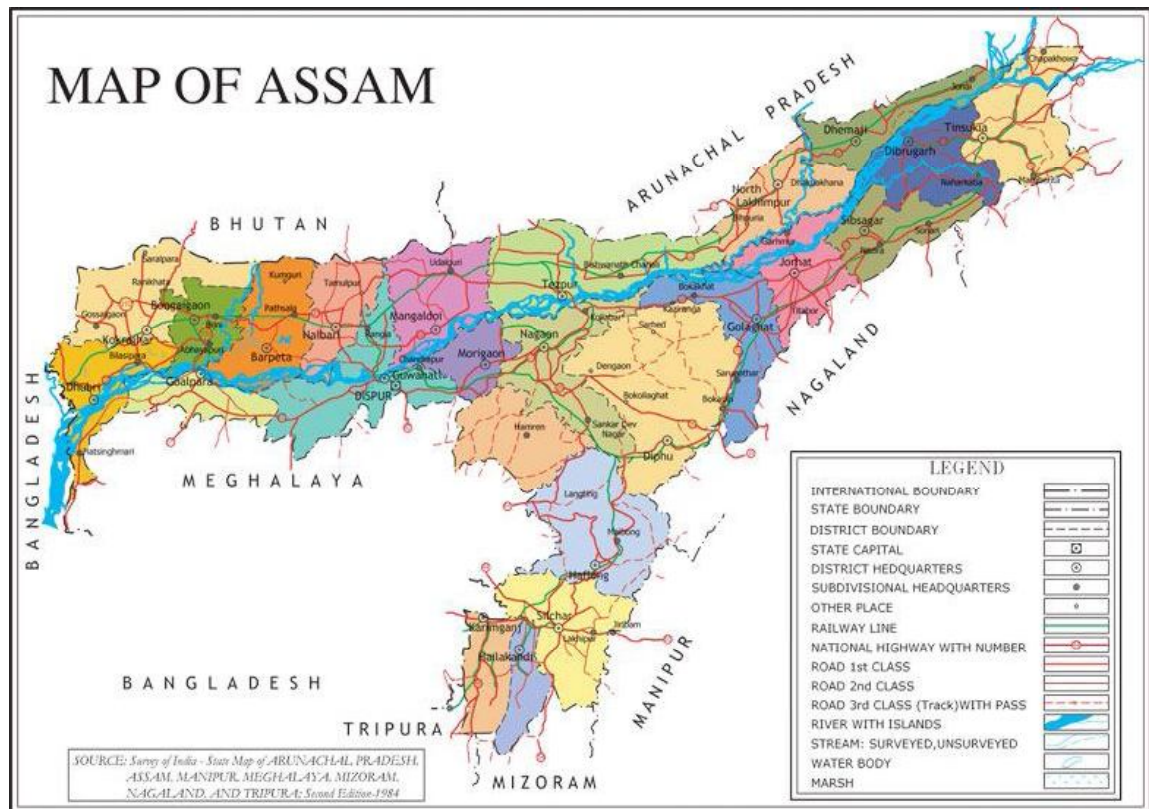
It was the beginning of the growth of medieval Guwahati. Many battles were fought by the Ahoms and the Mughals and the place kept on increasing its significance. Ahom supremacy was established after the battle at Saraighat in 1667 A.D where the Mughals lost the land to the Ahoms. That was a period where many temples were either renovated or built. It was only after the advent of the British that the city started growing in terms of a modern city. After the Ahom rule, The British ruled Assam and made Guwahati an important administrative set up till 1947. There were Four market places in Guwahati in 1850's; Chowk Bazar (possibly present Ujan Bazar), a market near Bharalu bridge, Paltan Bazar and Fancy Bazar. And for the spatial organization of the city various health centers, schools and police station were established. (Gait 1905).

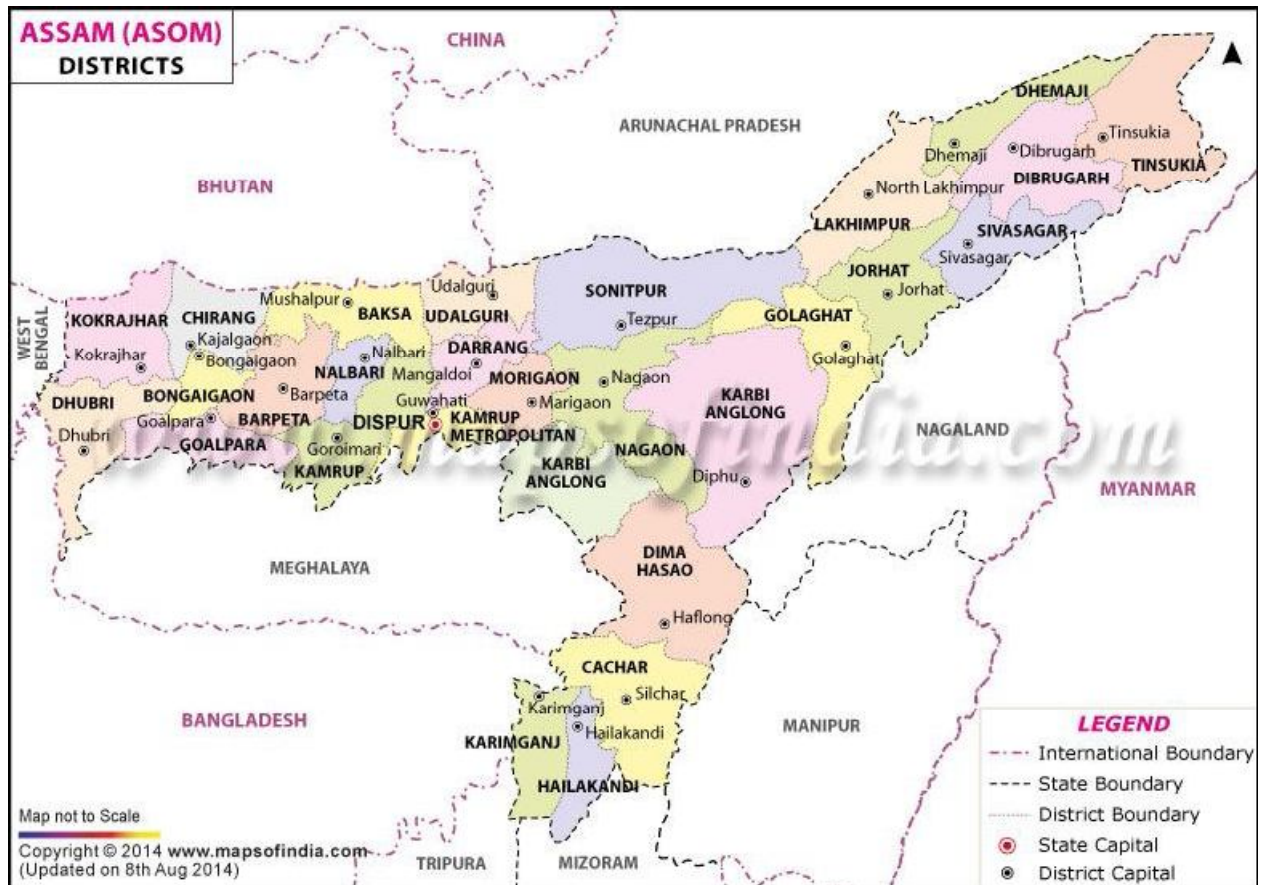
The emergence of Guwahati as a modern city started in the year 1826. The development of railways helped in connecting the city with the rest of the country in the year 1890. However, Guwahati city experienced significant growth after independence. The growth became phenomenal after the reorganization of Assam state when the capital shifted from Shillong to Dispur (Guwahati) in 1972. Dispur, the capital city of Assam, lies in Guwahati city which is the largest city of Assam. A marked growth of the city was noticed after the establishment of a few major institutions like Gauhati Oil Refinery which was established in the year 1961, Gauhati University, Assam medical college and Assam Engineering College. Guwahati city is a major riverine port city and one of the fastest growing cities in India like any other city. Although the city is growing very fast in the sense of modernity yet, it is hallowed by antiquity and it is ornamented by countless monuments from different bygone ages. The city is located on the south bank of the mighty river Brahmaputra and is famous as '*pancha tirtha*' or the place of five pilgrimages. The shrine of Kamakhya atop the Nilachal hills is considered as a very famous *pithasthana* that attracts many pilgrimages during the '*Ambubachi*' mela. '*Umananda*' also known as the peacock island, is the throne of the Shiva temple. The Navagraha temple which is the temple of the nine planets is situated atop Chitrasala hills. It was also a centre of astrological and astronomical studies in the past. This is also a reason why the city was known as '*Pragjyotishpura*' meaning the city of eastern lights. '*Ugratara*' temple is situated in the heart of the city atop the '*Sukleswar*' hill. Also within the heart of the city is situated the '*Janardana*' temple. On the north bank of Brahmaputra is Ashwakhanta, where Arjuna and his weary horse had rested during his '*ashwamedha*' journey. Another pilgrimage is the '*Vashishthapuram*' that houses a temple in an environment that is charmed by rippling streams and green endowment. It is gradually being expanded as North Guwahati to the northern bank of Brahmaputra. To

the east of the city lies the town Narangi and to its west lies the airport; Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Airport. The noted Madan kamdev is situated 30 kms from Guwahati.

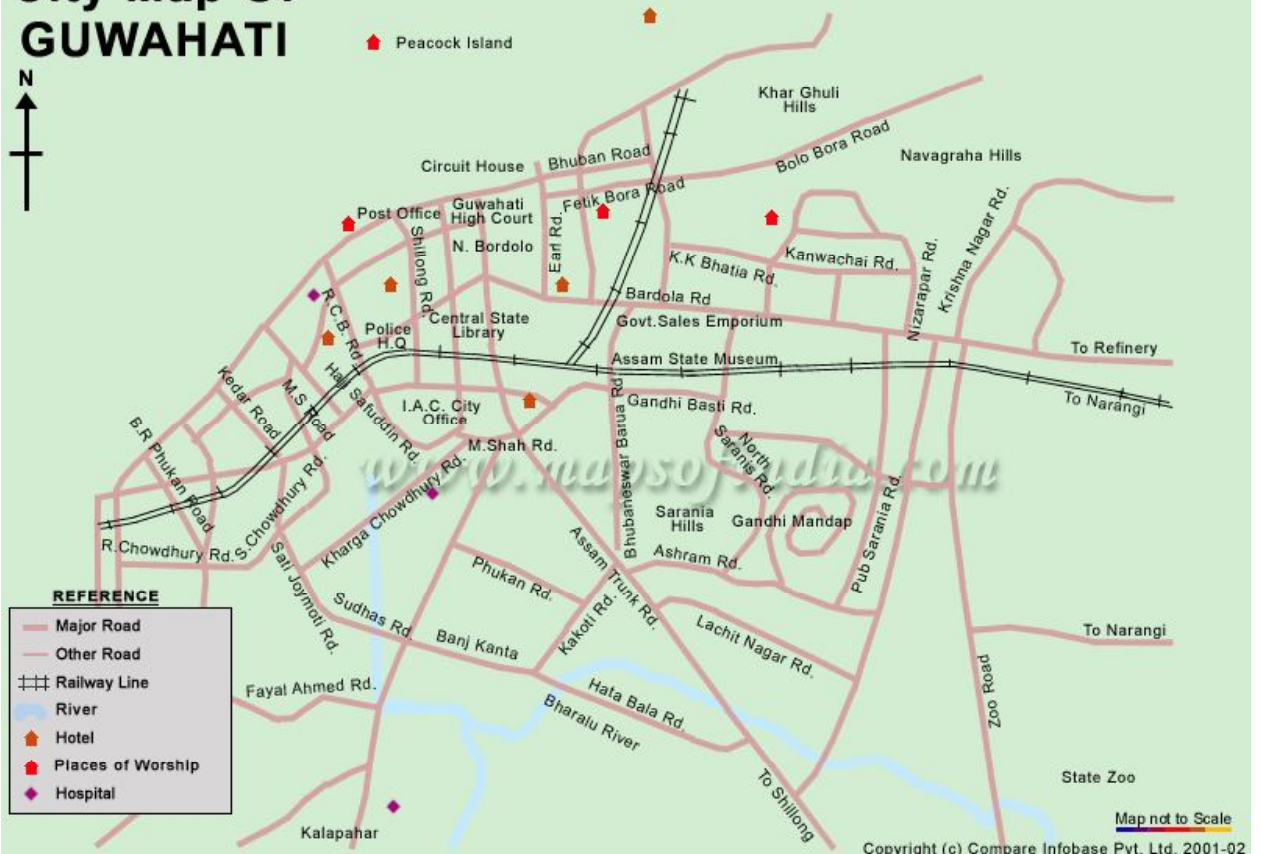
4.2 Geographical Location

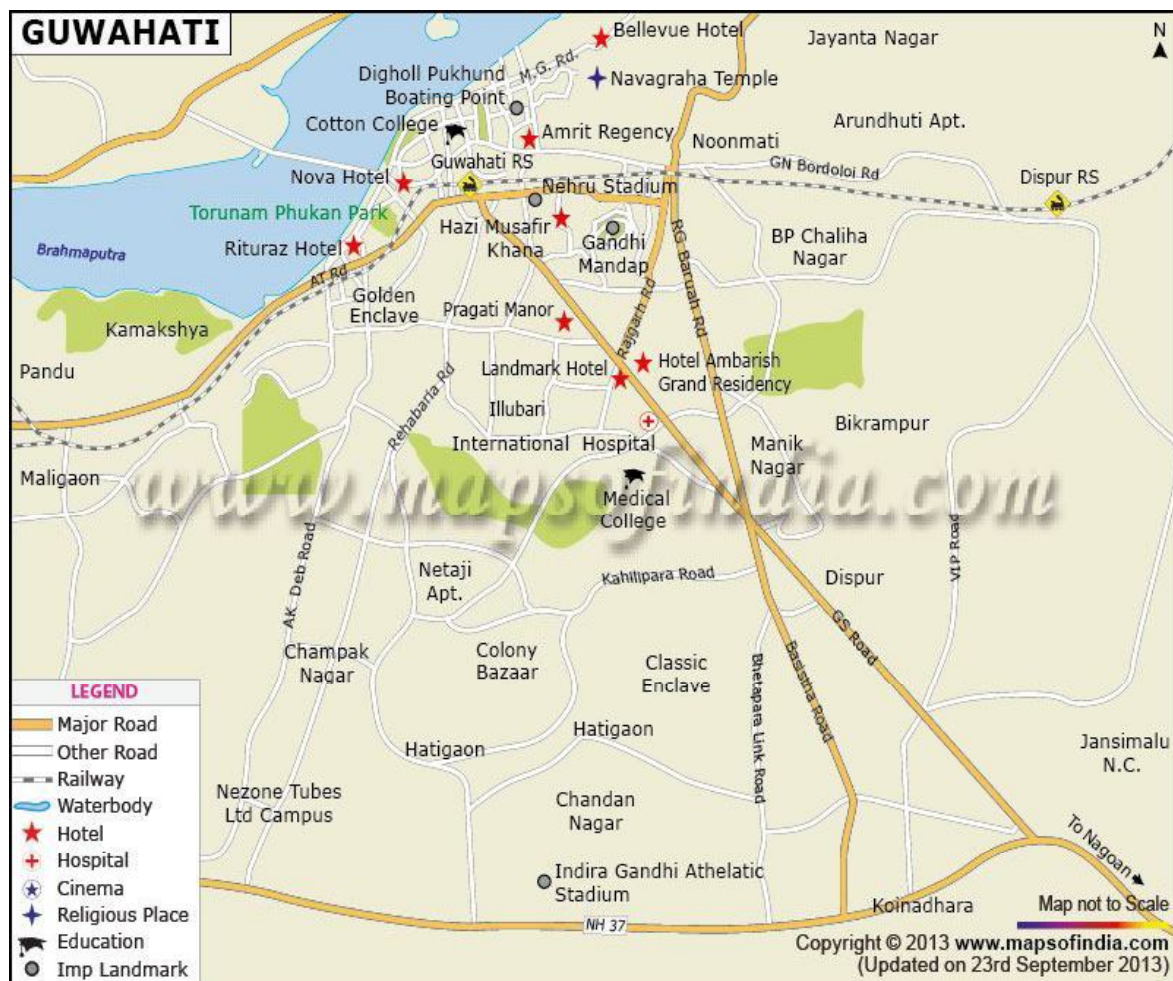
Guwahati lies between the foothills of the Shillong plateau and the southern banks of the Brahmaputra River. It lies towards the south- eastern side of kamrup district with Morigaon and Darrang districts to the east, Goalpara and Barpeta districts in the west, Nalbari in the North and Meghalaya to its south. The city is surrounded by hills except where the Bharalu discharges into the river. The Nilachal hills lie to its west, Chitrachal hills to the north and Narakasura hill to its south. Overall a total of 18 hills exist in and around the city providing a unique landscape. The cardinal points of Guwahati city are $26^{\circ} 10'$ and $92^{\circ} 49'$. The city is situated on undulating plain with different altitudes of 49.5m to 55.5m above the MSL (mean sea level). The city is surrounded by hillocks on the southern and eastern sides. There is a small hillock at the central part of the city namely Sarania hill (193 m), Nabagraha hill (217 m), Nilachal hill (193 m), and Chunchuli hill (293 m). The city is also physically endowed with swamps, marshes, water bodies known as '*beels*' like Deepor beel, Silsakoo beel and Dighali Pukhuri etc.

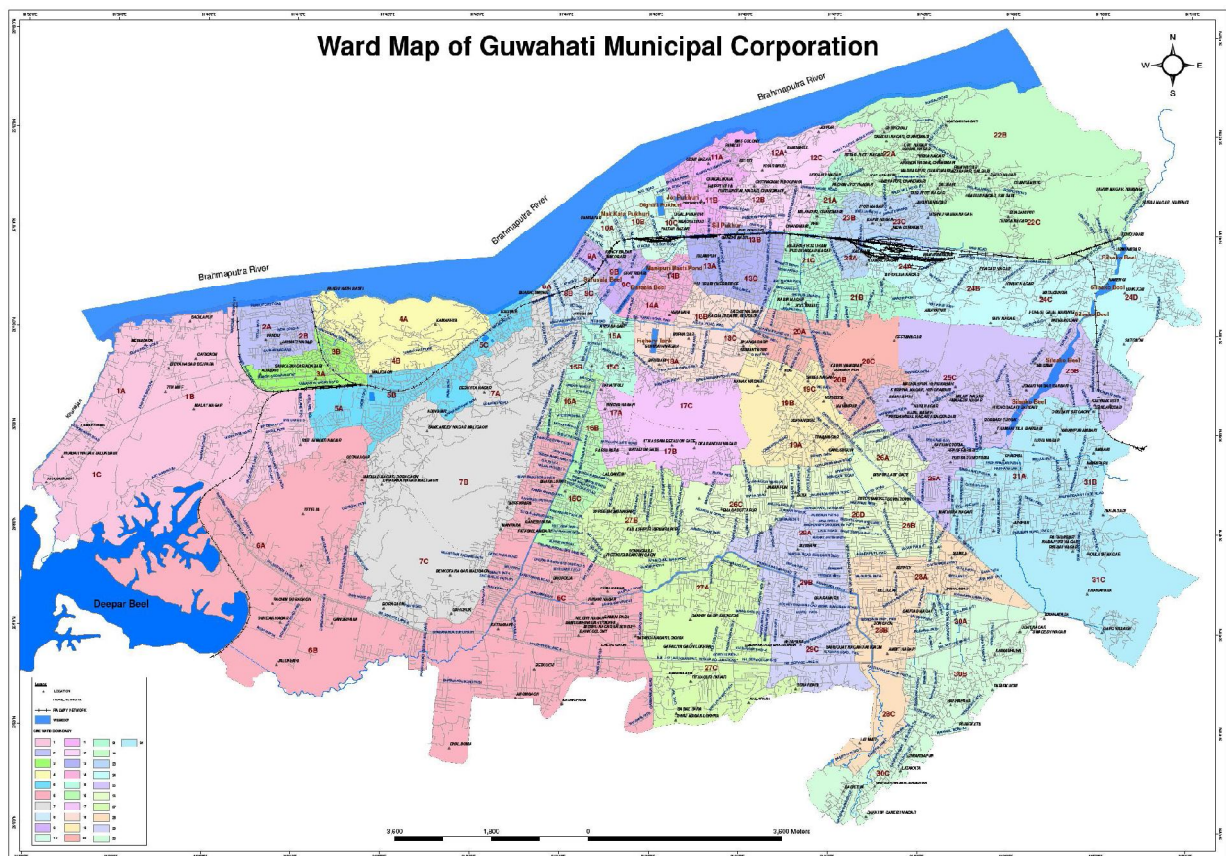


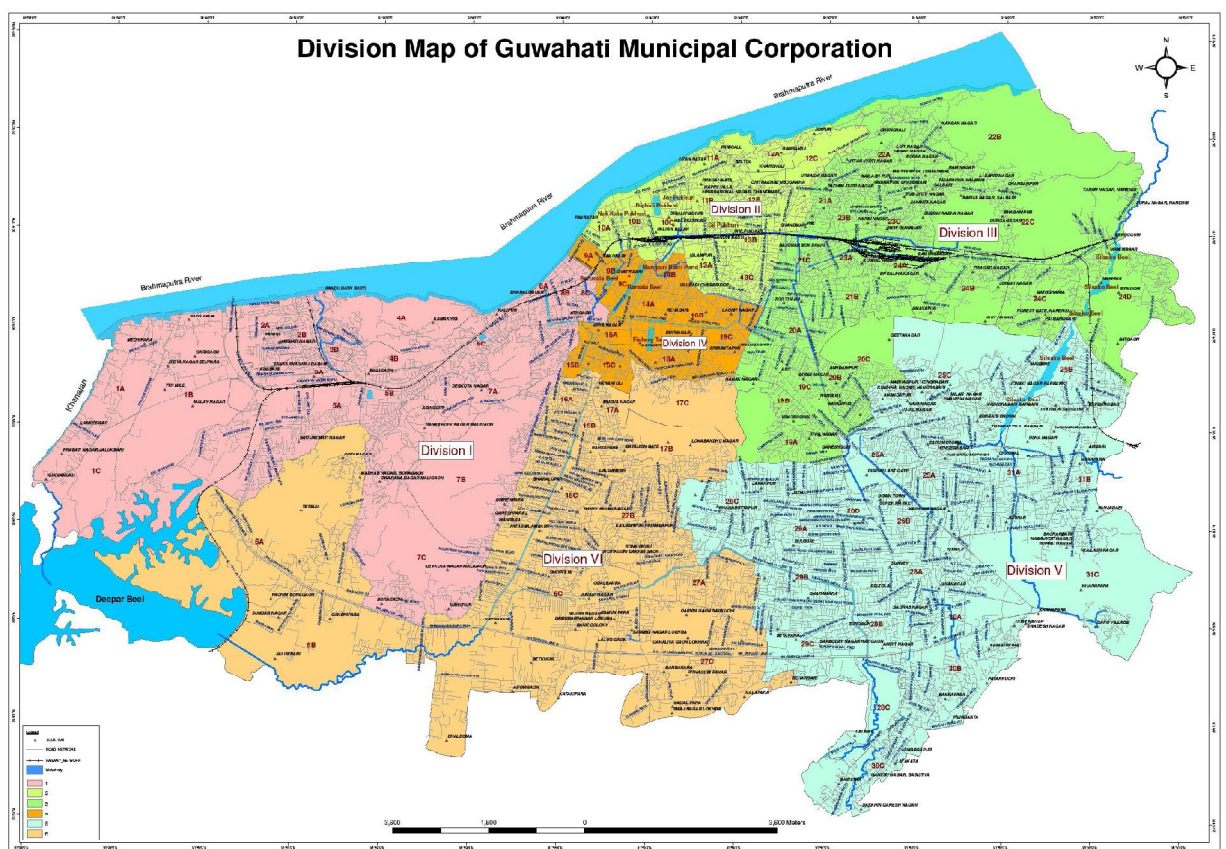


City Map Of GUWAHATI









4.3 ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF THE CITY

4.3.1 LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

Kamrup district comprises two sub-divisions namely, Guwahati and Rangia. Below this level there are 8 revenue circles under Guwahati sub-division and 3 revenue circles (tehsils) under Rangia subdivision. Furthermore, from the development angle the district is divided into 14 development blocks. Below the block development set up there are 139 Gaon Panchayats each comprising of a number of villages and governed by local self bodies. Kamrup district comprises 991 revenue villages. Out of which 735 are under Guwahati sub-division and 256 villages under Rangia sub-division. A total no. of 162 Gaon Panchayats in Kamrup district covers the 991 villages. Under Guwahati sub-division there is one tribal belt in the district and this South-Kamrup Tribal belt comprises villages under Bholagaon, Barduar, Dakhin Rani, Ramcharani part of Palashbari Revenue Circle villages of and 41 villages of Chaigaon Pantan, and Bongaon part mouza of Chaygaon Circle and 113 villages under Boko Mouza, Loki Mouza, and Bekeli Mouza of Boko Revenue circle.

Table No. 4.1: Sub-division wise Revenue Circles and Blocks in Kamrup District.

Name of Sub-divisions	Name of Revenue circles	Name of Blocks
Guwahati	Boko Revenue Circle	Bongaon Development Block
	Chamaria revenue Circle	Bezara Dev. Block
	Chaygaon revenue circle	Boko Dev. Block
	Hajo revenue circle	Chaygaon Dev. Block
	Nagarbera Revenue Circle	Chayani Dev. Block

	North Guwahati Revenue circle	Chamaria Dev. Block
	Palashbari Revenue circle	Hajo Dev. Block
	Goroimari revenue circle	Sualkuchi Dev. Block
		Rani Dev. Block
		Rampur Dev. Block
		Goroimari Dev Block
Rangia	Rangia	Kamalpur
	Goeswar	Rangia
	Kamalpur	Bihidia jajikona
		Goeswar

Source: District report (Kamrup). OKD Institute of Social Change and Development: Guwahati. Pp11.

Owing to the sanitary conditions of the state a town improvement committee was formed in Guwahati city under the initiative of the Civil Surgeon and the District Magistrate in the year 1836. However, the city got the status of Municipal Board in the year 1853 and finally categorized to a class 1 category in the year 1876. Presently the city is a municipal corporation since 1974. In 1974 the Municipal Corporation had only 34 wards which gradually increased in number due to the rise in population.

The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), the city's local government administers an area of 216 square kilometers. The corporation has four revenue zones and twenty three public works zones for administration. GMC was sub divided into 60 municipal wards till 2001. However, after the reconstruction of the city the number of wards has

been compressed to 31 in number under 6 divisions (Census 2011). These six divisions are; Bharalumukh division, Ujan Bazar division, Zoo road division, Ulubari Division, Dispur division and Lokhra division. Thus, GMC is an elected body incorporating 31 Municipal wards. It's the duty of the Ward Committees to prepare an annual plan and budget with the assistance of the Area Sabhas under the Assam Nagar Raj Act. GMC's responsibility is to grant building permission and provide and maintain urban infrastructure (road, streetlight etc.) and services (water supply, sewerage and drainage facilities). The corporation is responsible for governing, developing and managing the city. GMDA provides infrastructure and services in the GMDA area.

The state government prepared a master plan for Greater Guwahati in the year 1965 under section A of the 'Assam Town and country planning Act', 1959, with perspectives 1986. The Master plan was finally entrusted to the GMDA (constituted under Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority Act 1985) with perspective 2001. There is revision in the plan to have a comprehensive master plan (CMP) for Guwahati Metropolitan Area. The Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) is the planning and development body of greater Guwahati Metropolitan Area. GMDA is a state regulatory agency currently responsible for planning and development of Guwahati metropolitan area. Guwahati city was declared the first class city in the year 1985 with the formation of GMDA under (GMDA Act, 1985). The other important bodies along with GMC and GMDA are; Assam Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Board (AUWS&SB) under the Assam Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Board Act 1985, and The Guwahati Metropolitan Drinking Water and Sewerage Board (GMDWSB), formed in 2011 under The Guwahati Metropolitan Drinking Water and Sewerage Board Act 2009 are responsible for the provision of water supply and sanitation in Guwahati city. The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) is also involved in water supply provision in the

city. Moreover, the Flood Control Department (FCD) and Public Works Department (PWD) also play a role in planning and design, construction and operation, and maintenance of the drainage, sewerage, roads and street lighting (CUE working Paper, 2014)

4.3.1 (A): GUWAHATI METROPOLITAN AREA 2001

(GMA) comprises of areas of Guwahati Municipal corporation, North Guwahati town committee, Amingaon Census Town and 21 revenue villages (Abhaypur, Namati Jalah, Rudreswar, Silamoheikhaiti, Tilingaon, Shila, Ghorajan, Mikirpara, Kahikuchi, Mirjapur, Jugipara, Borjhar, Garal Gaon, Ajara Gaon, Dharapur, Jansimalu and jansimalu (NC), Kalitakuchi and kalitakuchi (NC), Kharguli, Bunda, Bondagaon, and Bonda Grant (I and II, Birkuchi). The total area covered is 262 sq. kms. However, according to the Comprehensive Master Plan-2025, the GMA is supposed to be increased by 66 Sq. Kms. The increase in the proposed area is given the table below.

4.3.1 (B): GUWAHATI METROPOLITAN AREA- 2025

Table No. 4.2: Guwahati Metropolitan area- 2025

S. No	Addition	Location	Area (Sq. Kms)
01	New Town II (special scheme area)	North-East of GMA (Sila-Matiya-Nazirakhat-Bhulung area)	14
02	New Town II (special scheme area)	North-West of GMA (Charmajulipani-Gandmou-Ambari-	23

		Bamun Sualkuchi area)	
03	New Town III	South-West of GMA (Panchniyapara-Sajjanpara-gariyapara-Alibari-Tarapatipara area)	19
04	Marginal adjustments in boundary and inclusion of Pamohi village (Special Scheme area)		10
	Total = 66		

Source: Master Plan of Guwahati Metropolitan Area-2025, July, 2009

N.B: Land use classification of the Special Scheme Area is indicative in nature. The final land use is required to be drawn up by GMDA after considering the ground realities.

4.3.1 (C) GUWAHATI CITY AND ITS URBAN AGGLOMERATION:

Guwahati city UA is constituted of Guwahati Municipal Corporation and its 'Outgrowth', Narengi.

Table No.4.3: Urban Agglomeration in the City.

Indicator	GHY-City(Municipal Corporation)	State (Urban)	India (Urban)
Total Population	9, 57352	4,398, 542	377, 106, 125
Total Population of Urban agglomeration	962, 334		

Share of ULB population in District urban population (%)	92.32		
Population growth rate (AEGR) 2001-2011	1.67	2.46	2.76
Area Sq Km	219.06		
Share of ULB area in district (%) ¹	22.94		

Source: Census of India 2011

As per the Census of 2011, the total area of Guwahati city including its UA is considered to be 219.06 Sq Kms. with a population size of 957352. However, with an inclusion of Narengi as its 'outgrowth' the population size increased to 962 334 which shows an increase by 4,982 (population size of Narengi). The percentage share of the population of the urban local bodies in the urban population of the district is 92.32 percent with a share of 22.94 percent of ULB area in the district. The Annual Exponential Growth Rate from 2001 to 2011 in the city is 1.67 percent against 2.46 percent in urban Assam with a population size of 4398542 and 2.76 percent in Urban India with a population size of 377,106,125.

4.3.1(D) POPULATION GROWTH AND GROWING URBANISATION

There has been a continuous increase in the trend of population growth in India, Assam and Guwahati city. Table No. 4.4 (a) shows a decadal increase in the volume of population in the various Census years (1991- 2011)

Table No. 4.4 (a): Population Trend in Assam and India

Year	Population (in Lakh)		In Persons	Percentage Decadal Variation			Density (Persons per Sq. Km)		
	Assam	India	Guwahati	Assam	India	Guwahati	Assam	India	Guwahati
1991	224	8463	584, 342	24.2	23.9		286	267	2705 ¹
2001	266	10270	808, 201	18.9	21.5	38.30	340	325	3741 ¹
2011	311	12102	963, 429	16.9	17.6	19.20	397	382	4370

Source: Economic Survey of Assam (2012-2013)

The total population of India increased vigorously from 8463 lakhs in 1991 to 10270 lakhs in 2001 and 12102 lakhs in 2011. Total population in Assam also increased from 224 lakhs in 1991 to 266 lakhs in 2001 and 311 lakhs in 2011. However, the Population in Guwahati city increased at an alarming rate from 584, 342 in 991 to 808,201 in 2001 and further to 963,429 in 2011. The all India percentage of decadal variation was 23.9 percent in 1991, 21.5 percent in 2001 and 17.6 percent in 2011. In Assam it was 24.2 percent in 1991, 18.9 percent in 2001 and 16.9 percent in 2011 and in Guwahati it was 38.30% percent in 2001 and 19.20 percent in 2011. There was a relative decline in population in all the three cases (India, Assam and Guwahati). This could be possible fallout of people's inclination to small family norms.

The density of population at the all India level increased from 267 persons per sq km in 1991 to 325 persons in 2001 and further to 382 persons per sq km in 2011. At the same time the density of population in Assam increased from 286 persons per sq km in 1991 to 340 persons in 2001 to 397 persons per sq km in 2011. The density of population in Guwahati also increased at a very high rate from 2705 persons per Sq km in 1991 to

3741 persons in 2001 to 4370 persons per sq Km in 2011. This shows a formidable rise in population at an alarming rate. Growth has also been largely skewed resulting congestion in certain pockets. This led to unplanned urbanisation all across the city.

Rural-Urban composition of population reflects the demographic characters of a place. At the All India level, the rural population rose from 74.3 crores in 2001 to 83.3 crores in 2011. The urban population, on the other hand rose from 28.6 crores in 2001 to 37.7 crores in. For the first time since independence, there has been an absolute increase in urban population than the rural population (Population census, 2011). This shows a huge impact on the demographics of the Nation. In Assam, out of the total population of 267 lakhs, 87.10% is composed of the rural population and 12.90% is composed of the urban population in 2001. However, out of the total population of 311 lakhs, 85.92% is composed of the rural population and 14.08% of urban population. In Assam the decadal percentage growth of urban population is 1.08 % (economic survey of Assam 2012-2013). This is obvious of the growth of towns to accommodate the increased urban population. It thus reflects the increasing ‘urban agglomerations’ in the recent years.

Table No. 4.4 (b): Population growth in Guwahati

Year	GMCA Population	GMA excluding GMCA Population	GMA Population
1951	43,615	53,774	97,389
1961	1,00,707	98,775	1,99,482
1971	1,23,783	1,68,436	2,93,219
1981	2,68,945	1,02,351	4,35,280
1991	5,84,342	61,827	6,46,169
2001	8,09,895	80,878	8,90,773
2011	9,63,429	85,998	9,68,549

Source: CUE Working Paper, 2014 Pp 4

GMCA-Guwahati Municipal Corporation Area, GMA-Guwahati Metropolitan Area (also known as Guwahati Urban agglomeration).

Guwahati witnessed a very high growth rate of population in the period 1971 to 1991(8.1%per annum). This is possible as the city became Assam's capital in 1972. Migration was obvious from other North-East states and rural areas. Since then the GMC area has registered a slowing down of the growth rate of population (only 1.8% per annum in the period 2001-11). The GMA area registered in fact a much slower rate than the GMCA. This indicates that migration rate to the city slowed down due to various reasons (decline in migration from other North east states and decline from cross border migration or both). GMA area comprises about 22 percent of the state's urban population and hence state's behavior cannot be taken as that of Guwahati city in the absence of data for Urban Guwahati.

Table 4.5 shows a decadal growth of urban units/towns in India as well as Assam, for the period of (2001 to 2011).

Table No. 4.5: Growth of Urban Units in India.

	2001	2011	Growth
Villages	6, 38,588	6,40,867	2, 279
Urban units/ towns	5, 161	7, 935	2, 774
Statutory Towns	3, 799	4, 041	242
Census towns	1, 362	3, 894	2, 532
Urban Agglomerations	384	475	91
Out growths	953	981	28
Growth of urban Units in Assam			
	2001	2011	
Villages		26, 395	
Urban Units/ Towns		214	
Statutory Towns		88	
Census Towns		126	
Urban Agglomerations			

Source: Census of India 2001 and Census of India 2011(Provisional population totals, Urban Agglomerations and cities), Office of the Registrar General and Census commissioner India, (No. of villages by States and Union Territories in 2001 and 1991 Censuses),Economic survey of Assam (2012-13) and (14-15)

<http://www.citypopulation.de/India-Assam.html>OutGrowths

As per Census, 2001, there were 6, 38,588 villages and 5,161 towns in India. This number of urban units (towns) increased from 5,161 in 2001 to 7,935 in 2011. It shows a growth of towns by 2,774. And the number of statutory towns was 3,799. These towns increased to 4,041 in number in 2011 with an increase by 242 statutory towns. However, the No. of Census towns was 1,362 which increased to 3,894 by an increase of 2,532 Census towns. The No. of Rural Units (villages) was 6, 38,588 which increased to 6, 40,867 in 2011. It shows an increase of villages by 2,279 in number. The towns increased by 2774 in number and the villages increased by 2 279 in number. It shows a rapid decadal growth of towns in the Nation by 498. In the context of Assam, there are 214 total numbers of towns with 126 Census towns and 88 statutory towns. This continuous increase in the size of towns is evident of urbanization and an overall increasing trend of rural urban migration.

For the details of the Constituents of Urban agglomerations in Assam, refer to *appendix, Annexure- 4*.

4.4 FEATURES OF GUWAHATI CITY

4.4.1 Demographic status of Guwahati city: In order to give a detailed description of the demographics of Guwahati city, the study incorporates the following indicators; (a)

growth in population, (b) literacy rate, (c) child population, (d) sex ratio, (e) child sex ratio, (f) age, (g) density of population, (h) caste and (i) religion.

Guwahati is one of the fastest growing cities in India. The cities' population grew from just about two lakh in 1971 to more than five lakh, in 1991 which grew to 808,021 in 2001 (Assam online portal). Guwahati city, situated in the state of Assam is governed by Guwahati Municipal Corporation and its urban agglomeration is Guwahati Metropolitan.

Table No. 4.6: Population Growth in Guwahati city from 1991 to 2011

District	City	Population Census 1991	Population Census 2001	Population Census 2011
Kamrup Metropolitan	Guwahati	584,342	809,895	957,352

Source: City Population 2011

<http://www.citypopulation.de/php/india-assam.php?cityid=1840607000>

According to the Population Census of 1991, the total volume of Guwahati's population is 554, 342 persons. The size of the population increased to 809, 895 persons as per The Population Census 2001 (with an increase by 255, 553 persons). The population further increased to 957,352 as per The Census 2011 (an increase by 147, 457 persons). This shows that the rate of increase in the volume of population declined after 2001.

Table No 4.6 (a): Demographic status of Guwahati City

Guwahati	Total	Male	Female	State (urban)	India (urban)
City population	957,352	495,362	461,990	4398542	377,106,125
Literates	793,360	423,122	370,238		
Average literacy (percentage)	91.47%	94.24%	88.50%	88.47%	84.11%
Children (0-6)	90, 029	46, 401	43, 628		
Sex ratio	933				
Child Sex Ratio	940				
Area in (Km ²)	219.06				
Density of population (person per km ²) =4370					
Scheduled caste(%)	5.82			9.22%	12.60%
Scheduled tribes (%)	4.52			4.98%	2.77%
Youth 15-24 years	18.55			19.01%	19.68%
Working Age –group (15-59 years) (%)	70.57			68.34%	65.27%
Slum population (%)	2.69%			13.05%	17.36%

Source: Same as Table No. 3.6 (b)

Table No. 4.6 (b): Demographic status of Guwahati Metropolitan (2011)

Guwahati Metropolitan: Guwahati MC + Out Growths	Total	Male	Female
Population	962, 334	498, 450	463, 884
Literates	797, 613	425, 837	371, 776
Average literacy %	91.50%	94.27%	88.52%
Children (0-6)	90, 636	46, 749	43, 887
Sex Ratio	931		
Child Sex Ratio	939		
Total number of Households	230769		
Scheduled caste Population	55, 896	28, 725	27, 171
Scheduled Tribe population	433 91	220 85	21 306

Source: Guwahati city census 2011, District Census Handbook, Census of India 2011
India Smart City Profile, 2011

<http://www.census2011.co.in/census/city/191-guwahati.html>

http://smartcities.gov.in/writereaddata/CitiesProfile/Assam_Guwahati.pdf

Table 4.6 (a):

- (a) shows that the population in Guwahati in 2011 is 957,352; of which the male population is 495,362 and the female population is 461,990 in number

- (b) Literacy rates: The total literates in Guwahati city as per The Census 2011 are 793,360 in number. Out of which 423,122 are males and 370, 238 are females. This shows that 52,884 number of male population is more literate than the females. The average literacy rate of Guwahati city is 91.47% of which 94.24% are males and 88.50% are females.
- (c) Child Population in Guwahati: The total number of children between the age group of (0-6) is 495,362 in number. Out of which 46401 are boys and 43,628 are girls. Children form 9.40% of the total population in Guwahati city.
- (d) Sex ratio (ratio of males to females in a population) of Guwahati city is 933 per thousand males and
- (e) Child sex ratio (the number of females per thousand males) is 940 per thousand boys.
- (f) Age distribution of the population: 18.55% of the total population is composed of the youth in the age group of 15 to 24 years. The city has a population of 70.57% in the age group of 15 to 59 years forming the working population of the city.
- (g) Density of population: Guwahati city covers an area of 219.06 Sq Kms. The density of population of the city as per The Census 2011 is 4370 persons per sq KM. The city has a slum population of 2.69%.
- (h) SC/ST population: Guwahati City has a population of 5.82% scheduled caste and 4.52% scheduled tribes as against 9.22% and 4.98% respectively at the state level.

TableNo.4.6 (b) shows the demographics of Guwahati Metropolitan that comprises Guwahati Municipal Corporation and it's 'out growths' (Narengi). The comparison of the two tables; Table No. 4.6 (a) and Table No. 4.6 (b) shows that the 'outgrowth' has a population size of 4,982 persons with 4,253 literates, where the no. of male literates is

2,715 and female literates are 1,538. The average literacy rate is 0.03% where the male average literacy rate is 0.03% and female average literacy rate is 0.02%. The number of children (0-6 years of age) in the outgrowth is 636 in number with 348 males and 259 females. Sex ratio (ratio of males to females in a population) is (- 2) and Child sex ratio (the number of females per thousand males) is (- 1)

(b) Distribution of population belonging to various religions in Guwahati: People belonging to different religions live in Guwahati. Table No. 4.7 below, gives a data set of the population belonging to different religions as per Census Data, 2011.

Table No. 4.7: Religion-wise Distribution of Population Guwahati city (2011)

Description	Total	Percentage
Hindu	815, 499	84.74%
Muslim	119, 825	12.45%
Jain	9, 193	0.96%
sChristian	8, 913	0.93%
Not stated	3, 813	0.40%
Sikh	3, 449	0.36%
Budhist	1, 495	0.16%
Others	147	0.02%

Source: Population Census data, 2011

As per the provisional Census 2011 it is evident from the table that the largest number of followers (84.74%) in Guwahati City is Hindus. The second largest group of followers

belong to the Muslim community making 12.45% of the total population followed by Jains (0.96%), Christians (0.93%), Sikhs (0.36%), Buddhist (0.16%), (0.02%) stated some other religion and approximately 0.40% stated that they were not aware of their religion and termed it 'no particular religion'.

4.4.2 Economic Profile of Guwahati City: Table. No.4.7 (a) given below incorporates the indicators like Per capita income, urban poverty ratio, unemployment rate, work participation rate, work status and sectoral distribution of labours to give a detailed description of the economic profile of the people in Guwahati city. Here the per capita income is calculated at 2004-05 constant prices. Urban poverty ratio is calculated as a percentage of the total urban population in the city. In order to know the work Force and its occupational pattern, the total work participation is divided into self-employed, regular/ salaried employees and casual labours. The sectoral composition of population is also been given to have a clear picture of the distribution of labours engaged in the primary, secondary and the tertiary sectors. In order to have a comparison of the city with the State as a whole and the nation at large, data corresponding to the given indicators are provided herewith.

The Per capita income of the City at 2004-2005 constant prices is Rs 43,278 which is higher than the State (urban) per capita income of Rs 23,019 and Rs. 35,947 at the all India level (urban). The urban poverty ratio is 13.7% at the urban India level, 20.6 % at the urban state level and 9.09 % in Guwahati city.

Table No. 4.7(a): Economic profile of Guwahati city

Indicators	City (municipal Corporation)	State (Urban)	India (Urban)
Per capita Income(Rs) at 2004-2005 constant prices ¹	43278	23019	Rs 35,947
Urban poverty ratio (% of urban Population) ²	9.09	20.6	13.7
Unemployment Rate ³ 2011-2012	4.32	5.6	3.4
Work participation rate 2011 -2012 ³	31.75	32.9	35.5
Work status ³ 2011-12 (%)			
Self employed	47.45	53.8	42.0
Regular/wage salaried employees	48.47	36.5	43.4
Casual labour	4.08	9.6	14.6
Sectoral Distribution of labours ³ 2011-12 (%)			
Primary	15.96	8.4	7.5
Secondary	18.59	17.8	34.2
Tertiary	65.45	73.8	58.3

Source:

1. Directorate of Economics and Statistics of respective State governments and for all India Central Statistics office
2. Unit Level Data on National Sample Survey Organization, Household Consumer expenditure in India 68th Round, 2011-2012
3. Unit Level Data on National Sample Survey Organization, Employment and Unemployment situation in India, 68th Round, 2011-2012.

The unemployment rate in Guwahati is 4.32%, which is higher than the unemployment rate at the urban all India level that is, 3.4%. However the unemployment rate in the city is less than the urban state level unemployment rate (5.6%) by 1.28%. This reflects the fact that employment opportunities are much higher in the city as compared to the other states of Assam and hence there is a continuous flow of people to the city in search of job opportunities. According to the NSS data on employment and unemployment situation in India, 47.45% of the labours in the city are self employed as compared to 53.8% at the urban state level and 42.0% at the urban all India level. It shows that the volume of self employed in the city is higher than the volume of self employed in urban India by 5.45%. This shows the possibility of diverse activities in the city and the state at large, encouraging inter-state migration. The regular/wage/salaried workers are 48.47% which is higher than the urban state level with 36.5% and urban all India level at 43.4%. However the casual labours form a small percentage of 4.08% in the city, 9.6% at the urban state level and 14.6% at the urban national level. As per NSS 2010-2011(68th Round), the sectoral distribution of labours reveals that the primary sector covers 15.96% in Guwahati city, 8.4% in urban Assam and 7.5% in urban India. The secondary sector covers a slightly higher proportion of the workers by 18.58% in the

city, 17.8% in the urban state level and 34.2% at the urban all India level. The tertiary sector incorporates a substantial proportion of the work force that is 65.45% in Guwahati, 73.8% in urban Assam and 58.3% in urban India. It shows the importance of the service (tertiary sector) in Assam and also reveals that the secondary sector needs a lot of attention.

Table no. 4.7 (b): Employment Indicators in Guwahati by distribution of population by sex (2001-2005)

Indicators	Male	Female
Primary sector Employment	12.5%	16.3%
Secondary Sector employment	24.1%	0.9%
Tertiary sector Employment	63.4%	82.8%
Self employment	36.8%	2.0%
Regular employment	50.4%	91.5%
Casual labour	12.8%	6.5%

Source: CUE Working Paper-24 (Aug 2014) Table-3, p.7

Note: Guwahati employment data are for Kamrup district, which is largely comprised of Guwahati city. Data below district is not available in the NSS surveys unless there is a metro city.

In Guwahati the percentage of female workers engaged in the primary sector (16.3%) is more than the male workers (12.5%) in 2004-2005. However, the engagement of the female workforce in the secondary sector is highly insignificant comprising only 0.9% as compared to the male workers forming 24.1% of the work force. The service sector

comprises of a huge female workforce with 82.8%. In fact the size is much bigger than the male counterparts (63.4%) in the tertiary sector. Females involved in regular employment are 91.5 % and only 6.5% of the labour force is comprised of female casual workers and 2.0% of females are self employed. The size of self employed females and casual labours is highly insignificant. However, 36.8% of males are self employed and 12.8% of males are casual labours.

4.5 INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY

4.5.1 Transportation in Guwahati city: The city has good linkages with the rest of the country through its rail, road, air and waterway linkages.

Roads: The public road transport is the most important means of communication for the movement of goods as well as passengers. Earlier, The Assam state Transport Corporation (ASTC) with its head quarters in Guwahati was providing services only on the nationalized routes. However, with the growing interest, both ASTC and the private bus services are providing transport services equally in the interest of the passengers. Now, ASTC also provides bus services within the city along with the private companies and also runs air conditioned Volvo buses. There are four P.W.D divisions of the state Govt. within the Guwahati Municipal area to maintain and develop the condition of roads. Roads play a very pivotal role in creating linkages with various places. There are 415 numbers of roads under these four divisions (N.B: there are 6 divisions in the city after its reconstruction in 2011). Guwahati city is well connected with roads with the rest of India. Total length of the surfaced road within the city is 218 Km. NH- 31 connects the city with Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand. NH-37 connects the city with most of the major cities in the state. Bus services connect the city with various adjoining regions. Rupnath Brahma Inter State Bus Terminus (ISBT), situated on NH-37, Betkuchi area is

the most significant bus terminal plus transit point. With the growing demands of the passengers, Govt. constructed two Inter-State -Bus-terminus (ISBT) to provide better amenities to the people. Guwahati hosts one of them. Two nodal points; Adabari and Paltan Bazar bus services within the city provide services to the people at large by connecting them to the adjoining areas. Many private companies run busses in the city as well. Above that the city's transport system is also supported by three wheelers and cabs on rental basis through travel agencies.

Rail: As per information from the (N.F Railway Headquarters, Maligaon, Guwahati), Assam has a total railway route length 2458.93 Km. This 2458.93 km constitutes 1470.06 Km under Broad Gauge and 988.87 Km. Meter Gauge. The proportion of Broad Gauge railway route length in the state is 59.78 percent; it shares only 2.63 percent of the country's total broad gauge railway route length. Taking into account of the total railway route length 65000 Kms. for the country, Assam shares only 3.8 percent of the total railway route length of the country till the end of March 2014. The North –East Frontier zone of the Indian railways connects Guwahati with the rest of the country. Guwahati Junction is the Headquarter of the zone. The major trains are Rajdhani Express, Poorvottar Sampark kranti, Saraighat Express, North-East Express, Guwahati- Bangalore Express Kamrup Express etc. The two minor stations are Kamakhya to the west and new Guwahati towards the east of the city. Guwahati is the major station.

Airways: Assam is well connected with the rest of the country with air transport. The state has the highest numbers of operational civil airports and they are located at Guwahati. In the Guwahati sector movement of both air traffic and passenger traffic (both domestic and international) has been increasing rapidly since 2004-2005. Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Airport is the only International Airport in the North-East India. It is

situated some 20 kms away from the city at Borjhar. The number of aircraft movements to and from this International Airport has increased many times during 2011-2012 and 2013-2014. During these years the number of traffic movements recorded 452,416 and 494 respectively (Economic Survey 2013-14). Accordingly, movements of passengers has also increased and calculated at 19.0 percent growth during 2013-2014 over the previous year. Helicopter services are also operated from Guwahati to Shillong. Airways play a major role connecting the city with the rest of the country as well as International airports.

Waterways: Inland water ways transport is accepted as the most effective mode of transportation from the point of energy consumption. It is also considered the cheapest mode of transportation as well. Assam is a riverine state and Guwahati a riverine port, Guwahati being on the banks of river Brahmaputra. It provides transportation facilities to the people at large. It is the oldest means of transportation. It is connected to National waterways No. 2 with a terminal at Pandu. It is used for movement of bulk and cargo, tourist vessels and passenger's vessels.

Communications: The Assam Postal Circle has a network of 4014 post offices (as on March 2014) There are 3 Night Post Offices in the state and one is situated in Guwahati. Communication is a very important requirement in a competitive world and Guwahati is well placed when it comes to postal and telecommunication. The head post office, 'Guwahati Post Office' is situated in PanBazar, Meghdoot Bhawan, which has various branches providing services to the people. The 'Central Telegraph office' is also situated in Panbazar. The Assam Postal Circle has also taken an initiative to start Core Banking Solution (CBS) in 12 selected post offices of Assam and Guwahati is one of them. Further, for mail transmission in the North-East Region, freighter aircraft service has

been used which is running in Kolkata-Guwahati-Imphal-Agartala Sector. Assam Telecom Circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is the largest telecom operator in Assam which was formed in 1987, providing comprehensive range of telecom services in the state. Along with this Government office, there are various private offices that provide services to the people in Guwahati. Many Private companies like Aircel, Airtel, Vodafone, Courier service offices are also a part of the private sector telecommunication measures. BSNL also provides Internet services that have made connectivity far more comfortable and easier. Apart from this there are various private sector companies like Airtel, Tata Indicom, Reliance, Satyam and Sify which are providing internet services to the people at large.

4.5.2. Urban Infrastructure of the city: In order to know the infrastructure of the city it is significant to look at a few indicators such as households availing tap water, electricity, toilets, waste water outlet, mode of ownership of the houses.

Table No. 4.8: Status of Urban Infrastructure in Guwahati city (2011)

Indicator	City (Municipal corporation)	State (Urban)	India (Urban)
% of Households availing tap water from treated source within premises	32.64	27.4	84.14
% of houses with access to electricity	92.94	84.08	92.68
% of houses with toilets within premises	85.04	71.04	72.57

% of households with access to waste water outlet connected to drainage	76.93	56.35	81.77
Ownership pattern of housing (%)			
Owned	54.14	69.3	69.16
Rented	41.15	64.02	27.55
No. of Hospitals per 1,00,000 people	1		
No. of schools per 1,00,000 people	27		
Primary	11		
Middle	15		
Secondary			
College	14		

Source: Tables of Houses, Household Amenities and Assets

Census of India 2011

32.64 Percent of the Households in Guwahati have an access to tap water from treated sources within premises against 27.4 percent in urban Assam and 84.14 percent in urban India. It is at an advantageous position by 5.24 percentage points than urban Assam. However, this area needs a lot of attention as it is the capital city of the state and is the lone class 1 city.

92.94 percent of houses have an access to electricity in Guwahati which is higher than 84.08 percent in urban Assam and 92.68 percent in urban India. This is a positive trait indicating development.

Guwahati city has 85.04 percent of houses with toilet facilities within premises which are in a better position than urban Assam with 71.04 percent in urban Assam and 72.57 percent in urban India.

76.93 percent of households in Guwahati city have an access to waste water outlet connected to drainage against 56.35 percent in urban Assam and 81.77 percent in urban India.

54.14 percent of the people in Guwahati possess own houses against 69.53 percent in urban Assam and 69.16 percent in urban India. And 41.45 percent people in the city live in rented accommodation against 64.02 percent in urban Assam and 69.16 percent in urban India. This is indicative of the increased asset prices in Guwahati.

Apart from these indicators the city is also known by other infrastructures such as;

Banking and Insurance: This is a very important sector as it builds relationship between the depositors and the borrowers. Guwahati has a good network of this sector. There are Govt. sector nationalized banks like Allahabad Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, State Bank of India, UCO Bank, Union Bank of India, UBI Vijaya Bank, Assam Co-operative Apex Bank, Dena Bank, Syndicate Bank, Indian Bank and Urban Bank. There also exists the NER branch of RBI in Panbazar, SIDBI, NABARD etc. There are various private sector banks too like; Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC Bank etc.

In respect of Insurance, the Government sector insurance corporations/ companies with several branches in the city are LIC and GIC. There are various private insurance companies too such as Max Life, Birla Sun Life, Bajaj Allianz etc. This indicates a good number of financial institutions operating in the city. (Source: www.justdial.com)

Social infrastructure: the social infrastructure in a place includes health facilities, Education facilities, sports and other recreational facilities like parks, cinema halls etc.

Guwahati is an important centre for hospitals that provide services not only to the people of Assam but also from other nearby North-Eastern States. There are many Govt. and private hospitals in Guwahati. To name a few; Guwahati Medical College and Hospital, Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital (MMC), Guwahati Neurological Research Centre (GNRC), B. Baruah Cancer Institute, Red Cross Hospital, Sankardev Netralaya, Chatribari Christian Hospital, Railway Hospital, Marwari Hospital, Marwari Maternity Hospital, Government Ayurvedic Hospital, T.B hospital, International Hospital, Down Town Hospital, North-East Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, Dispur Poly Clinic. Apart from the Govt. Hospitals, there are 51 numbers of Private Nursing Homes, 102 numbers of clinical Laboratories and Diagnostic Centres. There is 1 hospital per 1,00,000 people. (Census 2011)

Education: Guwahati is a very important point for academic facilities not only to the students from Assam but also to students from other parts of the North East Region. Way back in 1901, with the establishment of Cotton College, the educational scenario took a turning point. A trail of institutes followed after it. The Nabin Chandra Library was established in 1908. The Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies was also established. In the year 1948 Gauhati University was established which paved way for

higher studies within the state. The establishment of Assam Medical College, College of Veterinary Science, Assam Engineering College and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-G) played a very important role in absorbing students belonging to the technical background. There was a growth of many more colleges like Pragjyotish College, Handique Girls College, Gauhati Commerce College, Arya Vidyapeeth, B. Baruah College, Pandu college, Gauhati College, R.G Baruah College, K.C. Das Commerce College, Krishna Kanta Handique Sanskrit College and many more. There is a mushrooming of private colleges in the city as well, due to the increasing number of students in Guwahati. Apart from these colleges there are; The College for Fine Arts and Crafts, Sankardev Kalakshetra, Kumar Bhaskar Natya Mandir, Swahid Nyas Bhawan, Vivekananda Kendra, Planetarium, District Library etc. As per The Census 2011 there are 27 numbers of primary schools, 11 numbers of middle schools, 15 numbers of Secondary schools and 14 numbers of colleges per 1,00,000 people.

Sports: The infrastructure of sports in Guwahati city is worth mentioning. The old sports complexes of the city are; The Nehru Stadium, Kanaklata Indoor Stadium, N.F Sports stadium, Sports Authority of India Sports Complex (SAI), Ganesh Mandir Indoor Stadium, Rudra Singha Sports Complex, Dispur and Gauhati University Sports Stadium. There was a great development in the sports infrastructure in Guwahati for the 33rd National Games held in Assam. This includes; Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Dr. Zakir Hussain Aquatic Complex and Karmbir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi AC Indoor Hall, Other sports complexes are; Tarun Ram Phukan Indoor Stadium, Rajib Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

Other Recreational Facilities: Guwahati has a number of arrangements for the recreation of the people. There are many restaurants, Fast food joints, canteens, hotels, lodges, paying guests, hostels, marriage halls, cinema halls, club, parks, sweet shops, Beauty

parlours, Bakeries. This shows the growing diverse activities of the people in the city with growing infrastructural facilities.

Conclusion: This Chapter gives a detailed description of origin and development of Guwahati city situated in Assam in the North-Eastern region of India. The state has twenty seven districts including Kamrup (metro) district and four districts under the Bodoland council (BTC) areas. Kamrup district comprises two sub-divisions namely, Guwahati and Rangia. There are 8 revenue circles under Guwahati sub-division. The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), the city's local government administers an area of 216 square kilometers. Guwahati is one of the fastest growing cities in India. The cities' population grew from just about two lakh in 1971 to more than five lakh, in 1991 which grew to more than eight lakh in 2001 and more than nine lakh in 2011. The density of population in Guwahati also increased at a very high rate. Guwahati city is governed by Guwahati Municipal Corporation and its urban agglomeration is Guwahati Metropolitan. People belonging to different religions live in Guwahati. People belonging to the age group of 15 to 59 years make a larger percentage of the total population in the city than the other age groups. As for the city's economic profile is concerned, The Per capita income of the City at 2004-2005 constant prices is higher than the State (urban) per capita income. The city has good connectivity with the rest of the country through its rail, road, air and waterway linkages. The chapter also gives details of the urban infrastructure such as households availing tap water, electricity, toilets, waste water outlet, and mode of ownership of the houses. Drinking water however, needs a lot of attention as it is the capital city of the state and is the lone class 1 city. The chapter also gives a brief sketch of the social infrastructure of the city.

Chapter 5

EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF STATUS OF THE MIGRANTS IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN GUWAHATI CITY

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The overall status of migration has already been discussed in chapter 3. The magnitude, pattern and flow of migration have been analyzed on the basis of secondary data covering a decade from 1991 to 2001. However, this chapter (Chapter-5) is significant as it is analyzed on the basis of field survey conducted from the rural migrants from different parts of the state (Intra State) as well as different parts the country (Inter-State) in Guwahati city. The primary study is conducted to achieve the stated objectives with the help of recognized statistical tools. The migrants are enumerated from their stay since 1990 to 2015. This analysis is based on the enumeration of 384 migrants considered for the study.

5.2 PROFILE OF THE MIGRANTS BASED ON FIELD SURVEY

This chapter is an attempt to analyze the socio-economic profile of the migrants in Guwahati city. This analysis is purely based on field survey where a total sample of 450 is collected out of which a valid sample of 384 is considered. In the survey the intra-state migrants enumerated belong to nineteen districts of Assam and Inter-state migrants belong to Bihar, Bengal, Rajasthan and Meghalaya.