

CHAPTER-3

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

3.1 Profile of Guwahati

The state of Assam is located in the North eastern region of India between the latitude 28 degree 18' and 24 degree N, and the longitudes 89 degree 46' and 97 degree 4E. The state Assam is classified on the basis of two big rivers i.e The Barak and The Brahmaputra, into two regions – the Brahmaputra valley and the Barak valley. Guwahati is situated on the bank of river Brahmaputra is also one of the ancient city. Guwahati is the city of Kamrup (Metro) District. The district is bounded by Darrang and Kamrup district in North, state boundary of Meghalaya and parts of kamrup district in South, Morigaon district in East and Kamrup Rural district in West. **The main rivers of the district are Brahmaputra, Kalang, Basistha, Bharalu etc.**

The Guwahati city is considered as the gateway to the North-East Region. The capital of the state Dispur is situated in the city. Guwahati is one of the fastest growing cities in India.

In the ancient times Guwahati was known as 'Pragjyotishpur'. Pragjyotishpur comprising of two words 'Prag' and 'Jyotishpur' where Prag means eastern and 'Jyotish' astronomy. Thus, Pragjyotishpur means the eastern city of astronomy (Gait). Another story with the modern name is that Guwahati is also comprising of two words 'Guwa' means areca nut and "haat" refers to market place.

3.2 Guwahati- Today's context:

3.2.1 Hub of Educational Institution:

In the recent times Guwahati city has been considered as educational hub for the north Eastern region. Guwahati is the host for national and regional reputed educational institution. These educational institutes are Gauhati University, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, Guwahati Medical College, Assam Science &

Technology University, National Law University and Judicial Academy Assam, Assam Engineering College, Cotton University etc. Some of the top colleges of the city are Gauhati Commerce College, College of Veterinary Science, Government Ayurvedic College, Arya Vidyapith College, B Barooah College, Handique Girls College, etc. are well . Apart from this some private universities are also coming up like Royal Global University, Assam Down Town University, Assam Donbosco University etc. The students from all over north eastern region are being studied in all these educational institute.

3.2.2 Transportation System:

The Guwahati city has got a good public transport system. Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) A state government agency and many private operators provide a considerably good city-bus system in the city . The city also has an international airport by the name Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport. The city is well connected with all the metro cities of India like Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, and Mumbai. Apart from that it is also connected to various destinations of North East like Imphal, Bagdogra, Agartala etc. In relation to Rail connectivity the North East Frontier Railways has connected the state with all the cities of the country. Guwahati is the gateway from transport point of view for all the north eastern states.

3.2.3 Centre of Healthcare:

Like education the Guwahati city has been able to build up its reputation in the region in relation to health care facilities. Many government and private specialty hospitals are available in the city. The most important are the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital, Appollo Hospital GNRC Hospital Down Town Hospital, B Baruah Cancer Institute, Sankardev Netrayalay, etc. Medical education and research are also important activities which have been are also carried alongwith the health care facilities. Recently Govt. has announced to establish another AIIMs in the outskirts of the city.

3.2.4 Sports Capital:

The City has been also growing as one of the capital of sports in the Region. Guwahati has got considerably good sports infrastructure. Recently the National Games 2007 was hosted at Guwahati at highly constructed sophisticated stadiums. The Nehru Stadium, Kanaklata Indoor Stadium, Sarusajai stadium, Borsajai Cricket Stadium, SAI centre of sports Paltan Bazaar etc provide facilities for various sports. Guwahati is also being able to host games of FIFA under-17 world cup matches, ISL matches alongwith with various international cricket matches.

3.2.5 Trade Centre:

Guwahati is also considered as centre for trade and commerce for the North Eastern region. One of the most popular trade centre known as Fancy Bazar is the hub for various wholesale products ranging from food and beverages, garments to hardware and building materials. In the recent times big supermarket or mall has been coming up to add some more to the trade and commerce. Some of them are Big Bazar, Reliance Market, Vishal Megamarket, Hub, Central Mall, Reliance Trends, FBB etc. apart from a large number of show rooms of various international reputed brands. After Fancy bazaar Gonexguri is a busy apart of the city with retail shopping areas. There is a traditional weekly fruits and vegetables market with historic importance located in Beltola.

Alongwith trade centre some 5-star hotels are also coming up in the city. Some of them are Vivanta by Taj Group of India, Redisson Blue, Novotel etc in the hotel business. Which have attracted the MNCs to open up their offices as well as to extend their business in the region.

3.2.6 Centre of Historical monuments and Tourism:

In the ancient times the Guwahati city known as Pragjyotishpur has its mentioned in the Mahabharata through participation of Bhagadutta in the Kurukhetra Yodha supporting Duryodhana.

Some of the most attractive place are Kamakhya Temple, situated atop the Nilaxhal Hills. People visiting Assam and Guwahati always try to visit to this temple. Lakhs of from all over the country as well as from neighbouring country Nepal etc visits, Kamakhya temple during Ambubachi mela.

Deepor Beel is a centre for migrated birds and is popular among the bird watchers, ecologists, etc. Some other attractions are Dighalipukhuri, Ugra Tara Temple, Navagraha Temple, Assam State Zoo, Srimanta SankarDeva Kalakhetra etc.

3.3 Unique Feature of the Guwahati City:

The unique feature of the Guwahati city are –

- (a) Guwahati is the one of the largest and fastest growing city in the NER,
- (b) It is also the hub of trade centre of the NER as well as a hub for transportation for the region
- (c) It is the House of the capital of Assam.
- (d) The city has its own historical records since the ancient time of Mahabharata. So it has got importance from archeological point of view.
- (e) The city Guwahati is also considered as one of the most beautiful cities in the country with the mighty Brahmaputra flowing nearby the city ,surrounded by green and blue hills, natural and man-made lakes and with full of vibrant culture etc.
- (f) The Guwahati is also rich in culture with the concentration of intelligentsia, media, fine arts, performing arts, etc.,
- (g) The Guwahati city also considered as gateway to the North Eastern region but also to the ASEAN countries. It has got importance as centre in implementation of Indias Act East Policy.

3.4 Boundaries of Gauhati City:

The Under Secretary to the Government of Assam, (1973) has notified the boundaries of Gauhati City as under:

North: The central line of Brahmaputra River from the western village Dehangiri to the eastern boundary of clearance Garden.

South: The southern boundary of Pachim Baragaon, Pub Baragaon, Dholbama, Betkuchi, Sarusajai, Barsajai, and thence along the western and south eastern boundaries of the Basistha Grant, South eastern boundaries of Maidangaon and thence along the southern boundary of Khanapara N.C.

East: Eastern and part of the northern Boundaries of Khanapara N.C. and thence along the eastern boundaries of Ghasarbar N.C. Bagharbari, Satgaon (excluding Cant area) and hence along the middle of the Kalita kuchi gaon (excluding the cantonment area) and the NEC along the eastern boundaries of the Birkuchi, Noonmati Garden and Clearance Garden.

West: From the point where the stream Khanajan meets the Brahmaputra River and thence along the Central line of the Khanajan and the western boundaries of Dehangirigaon, Kachari Garigaon, Pachim Jalukbari and thence along the southern boundaries of Dakhin Jalukabari and Tateligaon.

In reference to the discussion had with the Additional Commissioner, Guwahati Municipal Corporation, on 29.04.2011, the boundaries of the Guwahati City under the Municipal Corporation are:

North: Central line of the Brahmaputra River.

South: Meghalaya State Boarder along the Hills side.

East: Bonda, Satgaon to Khanapara including Narengi Army Cantonment.

West: Central Line of Khanajan from Khanajmukh to Deepar Beel.

North-Guwahati, Dharapur, Azara and Borjhar of western boundary and CRPF Cantonment at Amerigog of eastern boundary fall outside the notified Guwahati City Area.

On the basis of the approval of the Assam Government vide Govt. Order No. GDD.91/1997/395 dated 09/06/2009; the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority declared the areas under Greater Guwahati for New Master Plan and Zoning Regulation 2025 vide their Notification No. GMDA/MP/ 1/98/Part-I /103 dated, 7th July, 2009, as follows:

1. Approximate area: Existing Master Plan and Guwahati
2. Metropolitan Area- 262 Sq. Kms.
3. Approximate new Area: 66 Sq. Kms.
4. Approximate total Area: 328 Sq. Kms.

3.5 Area and Wards of Guwahati Metropolitan City:

In 1955-56, there was 10 numbers of wards in the then Gauhati Municipal Board and the wards numbers are gradually increased to 34 numbers along with the constitution of Corporation as Gauhati Municipal Corporation from 1974 and subsequently there were 60 Nos. of Wards till to December 2012, which had the are about 216.79 Sq. Kms. in 1991 and the Metropolitan Guwahati City covers the area of 262 Sq. Kms. in 2009. The Assam Remote Sensing Application Centre 1991 (2005) has identified an area of 313 Sq. Kms. (1990) and 354 Sq. Kms. (2002), and now the Allocation of Places in New Wards of 31 number of Guwahati City as follows :

Total 3.1 Entire Gauhati Municipal Corporation

Sl. No.	New Ward Number	Name of Places included in the New Ward
1	1	Jalukbari, Garigaon, Sadilapur, Tetelia, Gotanagar
2	2	Greater Pandu area
3	3	Pandu Rest Camp, Water Plant Temple Ghat Colony
4	4	Maligaon part, Adabari
5	5	Kamakhya town, Kalipur
6	6	Maligaon part, Gosala, Durga Sarobor, Santipur
7	7	Manbari, Jyotikuch, Betkuchi, Pachim Baragaon
8	8	Maligaon part, Gotanagar part, Pub Baragaon
9	9	Bhutnath, Kumarpara, Athgaon, Machkhowa
10	10	Chatribari, Tokobari, Fancy Bazar, Krishnanagar
11	11	Pnbazar, Lotasil, Ambari, Paltan Bazar, Lakhtokia
12	12	Uzan Bazar, Chenikuthi, Barowari, Kharghuli, Hydatpur
13	13	Nabagrah, Chandmari part, Milanpur, Nizarapar
14	14	Gandhibasti, Silpukhuri, Lachitnagar, South Sarania, Rajgarh
15	15	Rehabri, Billpar, Manipuri Basti, Solapara
16	16	Bishnupur, Natun Basti, Bimalanagar, Mahenda Nagar, Sankarpur
17	17	Fatasil, Bhaskar Nagar, Barasapara, Dhirenpara
18	18	Kahilipara Part, Latuma, Christian Bastee, Udalbakra, Jatia, Udayachal, Kachari Basti
19	19	Ulubari, Kachari Basti, Rupnagar, Birubari, Medical College area
20	20	Lachit Nagar, Sreemantapur, Ganeshguri, Bhangagarh
21	21	Ambikagiri Nagar part, Nabin Nagar, Anil Nagar, Tarun Nagar, Sundarpur, Manik Nagar, Japorigog, Kalyanpur,

22	22	Chandmari part, Milanpur, Bhashkar Nagar part, Narikol Basti.
23	23	Jyotinagar part, Sunsali, Ananda Nagar, Bapuji Nagar, Salabari, Knduguri
24	24	Jyoti Nagar part, Bamunimaidan, Sector No2, Jayanta Nagar,
25	25	Kushal Nagar, Gita Nagar, Mathghoria, Forest Gate, Kamala Bagan, Naregi, Birkuchi, Bonda
26	26	Hengerabari, Sarumataria, Satgaon
27	27	Rukminigaon, Bar Mataria, Capital Complex, Hatigaon part of Beltola, Basisthapur,
28	28	Dakshingaon, Bhetapara, Sarusajai, Barsajai, Saukuchi.
29	29	Kahilipara part, Hatigaon part, Sijubari, Natboma .
30	30	Khanapara, Barmatoria, Bakrapara, Basishtha part.
31	31	Hengerabari part, Dwarandha, Bagharbori, Khanapara part.

Source: As per Asomiya Pratidin (in Assamese vernacular) dated 18.06.2013. Dainik Asam (in Assamese vernacular), dated 28.05.2013 to 19.06.2013.

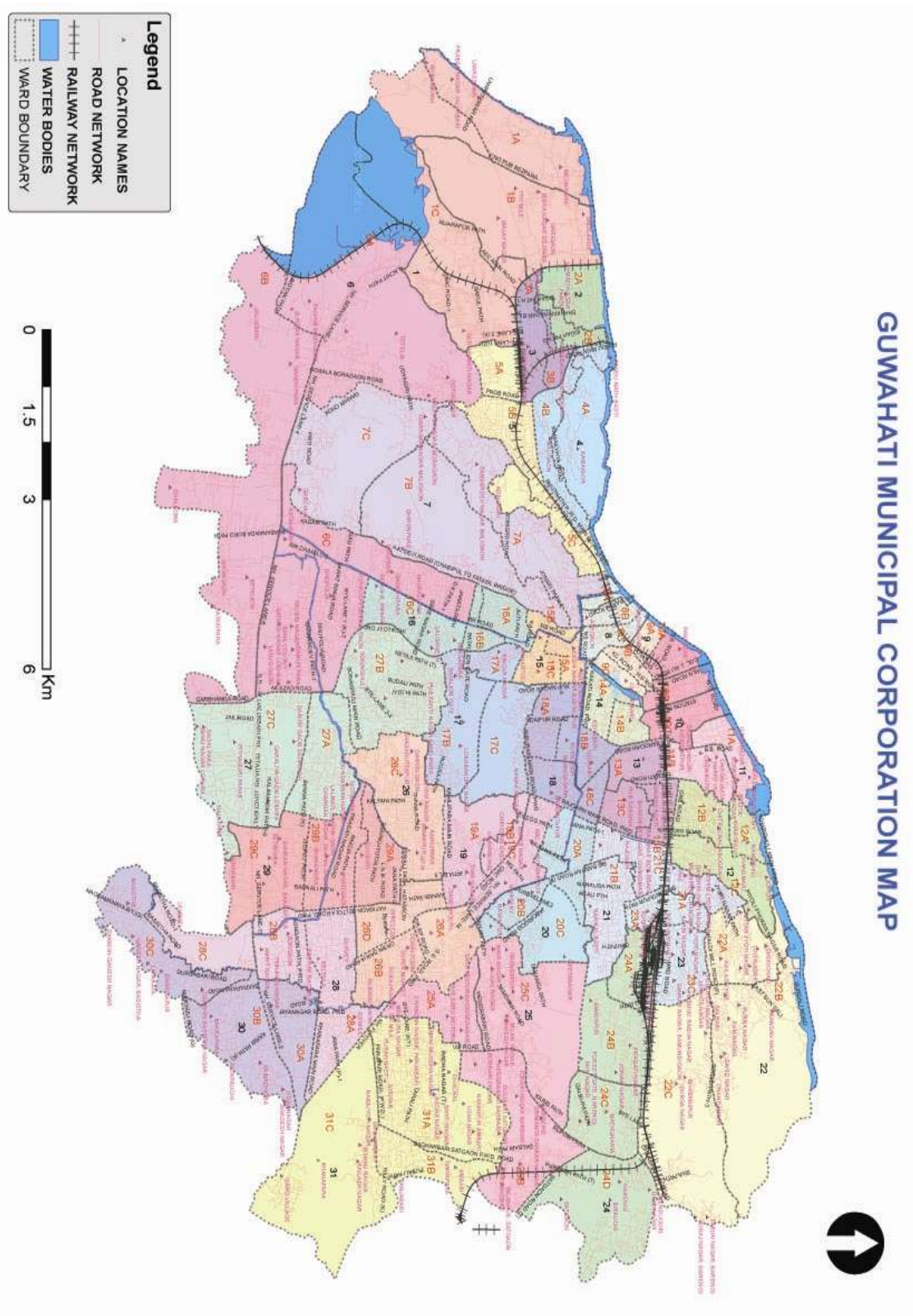


Fig.- 3

Table 3.2 Trend of Population Growth in Guwahati

Sl. No.	Census	Population	Growth (%)
1.	1901	11661	---
2.	1911	12481	7.03
3.	1921	16480	32.04
4.	1931	21797	32.26
5.	1941	29598	35.79
6.	1951	43615	47.36
7.	1961	100707	130.90
8.	1971	123783	22.91
9.	1981	268945	117.27
10.	1991	584342	117.27
11.	2001	809895	38.60
12.	2011	968549	19.69