Chapter III

LOCALE OF THE STUDY

3. Assam

Assam with its present capital at Guwahati is a state of geographic, cultural, economic and political significance situated in the North East region of India. The state of Assam is lying between the latitudes 24°N to 28° N and longitudes 90° E to 96° E situated in the North Eastern Region of India. The State is quite isolated from the rest of the country bordering two foreign countries Bhutan and Bangladesh. A narrow strip of about 25 kilometers has linked the State with West Bengal.

The whole Assam can be classified into 3 distinct natural regions namely- 1) The Brahmaputra Valley comprising of twenty two plain districts with a total area of 56194 sq.km. 2) The Hills Districts consisting of Karbi Anglong district and N.C. Hills district with a total area of 15322 sq. km. and 3) The Barak Valley covering three districts with a total area of 6922 sq.km. The districts (27) are further subdivided into 56 sub-divisions and 145 revenue circles for the convenience of administration and revenue collection.

The Brahmaputra river which is the most revered and honoured in the whole of North east originated in Tibet as the Tsang-po, it travels east wards for hundreds of kilometers before breaking through the Himalayas as the Siang, it traverses three hundred kilometers of the forested hills of Arunachal before it is met by the Lohit, a river with deep associations for the Assamese people, through this union The Brahmaputra ‘The Son of God’ is born. It now travels a passage of almost eight hundred kilometers in Assam sweeping south wards beyond Dhubri, it enters Bangladesh, moving towards the Bay of Bengal.

Each flood season it renounces its earlier channels to out a new wrap through the soil. Some of these island are very large and the annually enriched soil which has attracted cultivation and semi-permanent settlement. Amongst the largest is Majuli Island almost a thousand square kilometers in area.
Climatic Conditions

There is a distinct monsoon season which is preceded by the two months of cyclonic activity, in which a large part of the annual rainfall is concentrated and there are rainfalls at other times of the year as well. The topography, the warm and the humid climate are contributing to the luxurious growth of plant and vegetation in Assam which is the abode of 51 forest and sub-forest types and the confluence of varied patterns of vegetation. The rainy season in Assam begins from the month of June to October. The rainfall diminishes after September. October to February is usually the driest month of the year, again march to June is summer season.

“The climate is soft and temperate. The manners of the people are soft and honest. The men are of small stature and their complexion a dark yellow. Their nature is very impetuous and wild, their memories are retentive and they are earnest in study. The King is fond of learning and the people are so like-wise in imitation of him. Men of high talent from distant regions, seeking after office, visit his dominions.” – Hiuen Sung, Chinese Traveller, Seventh century.

History of Assam:

The migration of people from South East Asia and from southern China to Assam in fact predates the movement of Aryan people. As cited in Vedic literature, Assam is the land of Kirates and the kingdom of Pragjyotisha which when the epic battles of the Mahabarata were fought in the plains of Northern India extended to the Bay of Bengal. In various puranas the land of Kamrupa is mentioned which can be evidenced from the mention of The Kamakya Temple at Guwahati in the Vishnu Purana, the mention of the territory of the Kamrupa which included not only the Brahmaputra valley but also Bhutan, Rangpur, Koch Bihar, Mymensingh and the Garo Hills in the Kalika Puran and the Jogi Tantra. According to Hiuen Tsang’s description in the seventh century the Kamrupa country was about 17,000 miles in circuit.
The base of the present day Assam attributes to a very significant migration from the east by the Tai Ahoms in the 13th century under the leadership of the renowned general Sukapha who led an Ahom army across the Patkai range into the Brahmaputra valley, to establish an empire that would eventually extend throughout the valley. The Ahoms brought new technology, stability, peace in Assam and resisted Mughal invasion. Mughals established integrative and assimilative systems of governance reaching out to the settled communities of the valley and to the tribes of the adjacent hills. In the early years of the 19th century, the edifice of the Ahom Empire crumbled due to internal discord and rebellion and by a Burmese invasion. The British entered Assam and continued to develop commercial interest in tea, oil, coal and timber. The map of North East has been drawn and redrawn couples of time to suit the interest of administration, commerce and empire.

At the end of 18th century the Ahom Kingdom collapsed and the Burmese got the control over Assam thus invoking British intervention to subdue the Burmese. After a conflict between the Burmese and the English, peace was restored by the treaty of Yandaboo in 1826. But the British continued to remain in power until 1947. During independence the province of Assam braced almost the entire North east region; this was modified in succeeding decades as hill states. After the Independence of India, in 194, Assam witnessed several separation of territories. In 1948, Arunachal Pradesh were separated. In 1963 Nagaland was separated followed by Meghalaya in 1972 and Mizoram in 1987.

**Assam –The People and its Land (Demographic Profile)**

Assam is surrounded by six States namely- Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura and two countries- Bangladesh and Bhutan. The State was reorganized with the formation of separate States viz. Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

Assam constitutes about 2.4 percent of the country’s total geographical area. The total population of Assam (according to the 2011 census report) is 31, 169,272 people, of which 15,954,927 are men and 15,954,927 are women which accounts for only 2.58% of India’s population and an increase of 16.93 percent from the past decade. Assam ranks 14th position
amongst all the states of India in terms of density of population. The current density per sq. km in Assam is 397 per Sq.km which stand above than national average density of India currently being at 382 per Sq.km. Assam according to 2001 census covers an area of 78,438 sq. km. with a population of 2,66,38,407. The percentage shares of area and population of the State to that of the country are 2.4 and 2.6 respectively.

The districts vary considerably in size and population. According to the 1991 Census, 12.82 percent of the populations of Assam are classified as Scheduled Tribes and 7.40 percent as Scheduled Castes. Most people (67.13 percent) profess the Hindu religion. While 28.43 percent are Muslims and 3.32 percent is Christian. There are also adherents of other religions – amongst them Buddhists (0.29 percent), Jains (0.09 percent) and Sikh (0.07 percent).

**Sex Ratio**

At the beginning of the 20th century, the sex ratio of Assam was decidedly adverse. There are now 954 women for every 1000 men in the State, compared to 933 per 1,000 for the country as a whole. The sex ratio in Assam is substantially lower than the sex ratio in most other seven states of North East. Significantly, the improvement in Assam has come when the sex ratio for the country as whole has been declining. This is an extremely positive development.

The percentage of woman in Assam is more or less similar to the percentage at the national level, just over 48 percent. The proportion of girl children in the age group 0-6 years is more equitable in Assam than in the country as a whole which shows positive sign for the sex ratio in the future.

**Economy**

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people. Rice is the staple diet of the people and cultivation of rice is the main occupation of those engaged in agriculture. Different pulses, jute, tea and fruit cultivation are the other agricultural crops. Sugarcane, potatoes, sweet potato, turmeric, cotton, different oil seeds such as rapeseed, mustard seed, then papaya,
banana, coconut and areca nut cultivation is also practiced on a substantial scale apart from the horticulture. It is also a home of large varieties of citrus fruits, leaf vegetables, vegetables, useful grasses, herbs, spices, etc. Assam’s agriculture is yet to experience modernisation in real sense.

Assam is an important producer of silk of different kinds such as: eri, muga and pat and known for weaving of silk products into saris and various fabrics. Assam's biggest contribution to the world is tea. It produces some of the finest and expensive teas and has its own variety *Camellia assamica*.

Assam is a major producer of crude oil and it accounts for about 15% of India's crude output, exploited by the Assam Oil Company Ltd.. Asia’s first successful mechanically drilled oil well was drilled in Makum (Assam) way back in 1867. Most of the oilfields are located in the Upper Assam region. Asia's first refinery was set up at Digboi. Assam has four oil refineries located in Guwahati, Digboi, Golaghat (Numaligarh) and Bongaigaon with a total capacity of 7 million metric tonnes (7.7 million short tons) per annum.

**Table: 3.1 Main workers as the percentage of total population of Assam in 2001**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>26.59</td>
<td>42.35</td>
<td>9.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>30.55</td>
<td>45.35</td>
<td>14.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Assam Human Development Report 2003)

From the above table, it is clear that the overall female main workers are very low in Assam as well as in India. Assam female main workers are comparatively lower than India in both rural and urban areas. Thus Assam needs to boost up its female main workers to increase its per capita income for the overall economic development of Assam.

**Employment**
In terms of employment generation, the State has witnessed 9% growth in the number of persons employed in organised economic activity, comprising both private and public sectors during 2000 over 1999. While the total number of persons employed in various organised sectors in the State was 10,81,412 during 1999, it rose to 11,78,793 till the end of September, 2000, showing generation of 97,381 new jobs in just nine months. According to a report ("Assam's Economy-A Fresh Perspective" -by Federation of Industries and Commerce of North Eastern Region) the biggest rise in employment was in the large private sector establishments. Altogether 86,627 persons found employment in 2000. However, this figure does not include newly self-employed agricultural entrepreneurs, which according to the All Assam Small Tea Growers' Association is 30,017, apart from 95,535 laborers and 5087 other employees as on December 31, 2000.(Directorate of Employment and Craftsman Training, Govt. of Assam)

3.1 Brahmaputra Valley

The Brahmaputra Valley is situated between two parallel hill ranges the eastern Himalayan ranges of Arunachal Pradesh, with Bhutan to the north, and the northeastern hill ranges of Meghalaya, north Cachar and Nagaland to the south. The valley that falls in Assam can be divided into three regions the western Brahmaputra valley covering the districts of Goalpara and Kamrup; the central Brahmaputra valley region covering Darang and Nowgong districts; and, the eastern Brahmaputra valley covering the districts of Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh and Sibsagar. Parts of the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal also drain into the Brahmaputra through the river Teesta.

3.2 Hills Districts

The Hills Districts consists of Karbi Anglong district and North Cachar (N.C.) Hills district. Assam gave birth to new district i.e. the United Mikir and North Cachar hills District on 17th Nov., 1951. The new district was formally created with some parts of the districts of Sivsagar (now Golaghat), Nagaon, Cachar and United Khasi and Jayantia hills districts of present Meghalaya for all round development of the tribal folk of central Assam.
This was followed by the bifurcation of the erstwhile districts of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills districts into two separate districts under banner as ‘Mikir Hills’ and ‘North Cachar Hills’ district in the year 1970. The Mikir Hill District was further rechristened as ‘Karbi Anglong District’ on 14th October, 1976. It is the largest district in Assam. The Karbi Anglong district is situated in the central part of Assam. It is bounded by Golaghat district in the east, Meghalaya and Morigaon district in the west, Nagaon and Golaghat district in the north and N.C. hills district and Nagaland in the south. The district with the dense populated forests covered hills and flat plains, situated in between 25° 33’ N to 26° 35’ N latitude and 92°10’ to 93°50’ E longitude. The population of the district is mainly tribal.

Dima Hasao District was formally known as North Cachar hills. Dima Hasao District Council was inaugurated on 19 April 1952. The Dima Hasao Autonomous District Council (D.H.A.C.) was constituted under the provisions of the sixth schedule to the Constitution of India to administer this autonomous district in 2 February 1970. North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council has three wings of administration, viz., Legislature, Judiciary, and Executive. North Cachar comprises of two sub-divisions viz Haflong and Maibang. There are two Revenue Circles (Tehsils), viz – Haflong and Maibang. In order to provide better developmental facilities, the district has been divided into five Community Development Blocks – Jatinga Valley Development Block, Mahur, Diyung Valley Development Block, Maibang, Harangajao ITD Block, Harangajao, Dyingebra ITD Block, Diyungmukh, New Sangbar Development Block, Sangbar. As census 2011 it is the least populous district of Assam.

3.3 Barak Valley

**Barak Valley** is situated in the southern part of the Indian state of Assam. The main city of the valley is Silchar. The place is named after the Barak River. Barak valley mainly consists of three districts namely Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi. Karimganj, the district headquarters of Karimganj district, is the second largest town in valley. The valley has a rich tradition of art, literature, culture and education. It has contributed a large number of eminent personalities to the nation in the fields of science, education, arts and many others. According to the *Census 2011 report*, as shown in table 3.2 and table 3.3, its total
population is 3,612,581 persons, the total male population is 1,846,104 persons and total female population is 1,766,477 persons, while the density of population is 543 persons per Sq. Km and the sex ratio of the district is 955 female per 1000 males and the literacy rate is 78.45 %, the literacy rate of male is 84.39 % and that of female is 72.22 %. The decadal growth of population is 20.78 percent. Thus, with regard to density of population, sex ratio, literacy rate and decadal growth, Barak Valley is in higher position than the whole of Assam.

3.3.1 Hailakandi Districts

The Hailakandi district is also bounded by the state of Tripura, Mizoram sister district Cachar and Karimganj and neighbour country Bangladesh. The district covers an area of 1327 per Sq. Km. According to the Census 2011 report, as shown in table 3.2 and table 3.3, its total population is 659,260 persons, the total male population is 338,766 persons and total female population is 320,494 persons, while the density of population is 497 persons per Sq. Km and the sex ratio of the district is 946 female per 1000 males and the literacy rate is 75.26 %. Thus, district wise in regard to sex ratio and literacy rate Hailakandi is in lower position. The Hailakandi District has 7 Community Development Block (as on 31.03.07), 4 Revenue Circles (as per 2001 Census), 62 Gaon Panchayats, 3 towns and 4 police station. (Economic Survey Assam, 2007-08: Statistical Handbook, Assam 2007). The district has 3 colleges (Srikishan Sardar College, B.Ed College & Sanskrit College), 48 High and Higher Secondary Schools.

3.3.2 Karimganj District

The district is situated between 92°15’ Longitude and 92°35’ east and between Latitude 24°15’ and 25°54’ north. The district covers 1809 area per sq. km. Karimganj is the extreme South Western Dist. of Assam. It is bounded by river Kushiara and Bangladesh in the North, Tripura and Mizoram in the South, Hailakandi district in the East and Bangladesh, Tripura in the west. The district along with rest of south Assam is geographically isolated from the main land of Assam with a poor connectivity by road through Meghalaya State. It is also
connected through Meter gauge line starting from Lumding. Though the economy of the district is predominantly agricultural a forest based, there has been some development in industries.

According to the *Census 2011 report* as shown in table 3.2 and table 3.3, its total population is 1,217,002 persons, the total male population is 620,722 persons and total female population is 596,280 persons, while the density of population is 673 persons per Sq. Km and the sex ratio of the district is 961 female per 1000 males thus district wise sex ratio, Karimganj is in better position while and the literacy rate is 79.72 %. The district has 5 police stations (Karimganj, Badarpur, Ramkrishna Nagar, Patharkandi, Ratabari), 3 Towns, 7 C.D Blocks, 5 Circle/Tehsils, 96 goan Panchayat and 7 Anchalik Panchayat (*Economic Survey Assam: 2007-08; Statistical Handbook of Assam:2007*).

### 3.3.3 Cachar District

The District of Cachar is located in the Southern most part of the state of Assam. It is bounded in the North by the Barail and Jayantia hill ranges and North-Cachar hill district, on the East by the Manipur and its neighbouring districts Hailakandi and Karimganj, south by Mizoram and on the west by the Sylhet district of Bangladesh and Tripura. It is located in the Longitude 92 Degree 24’ E and 93 Degree 15’ E and latitude 24 Degree 22’ N and 25 Degree 8’ N. The main river of the district is Barak. The name Cachar derives its name from Kachari kingdom. Cachar was a part of the greater Kachari kingdom which also included the adjoining Hailakandi and Karimganj districts. The district was created in 1830 after annexation of Kachari Kingdom by British. In 1854, North Cachar was annexed and tagged to the district. In 1951 erstwhile North Cachar Sub-Division was made a separate district and taken out of Cachar. In 1983 erstwhile Karimganj Sub-Division and in 1989, Hailakandi Sub-Division was made a separate District.

The total area of the Cachar District is 3,786 sq. km. According to the *Census 2011 report* as shown in table 3.2 and table 3.3, its total population is 1,736,319 persons, the total male population is 886,616 persons and total female population is 849,703 persons, while the density of population is 459 persons per Sq. Km and the sex ratio of the district is 948
female per 1000 males and the percentage of literacy rate is 80.36 \% which is the highest among all the districts in Barak Valley. Silchar is the headquarter of the district. The major religions are Hindus 886,761, Muslims 522,051 (36.13\%), Christians 31,306. The Cachar district has 8 police stations, 15 development blocks, 5 revenue circles, 163 gaon Panchayat (as on 31.03.07). The major tribes of the district are Hmar, Dimacha, Kookie and Naga. (Mazumder, Acharjee and Bhattacharjee: 1998; Economic Survey Assam: 2007-08; Statistical Handbook of Assam: 2007).

Table 3.2. Total Population, Sex ratio, Population Density and Decadal Growth Rate of Assam and the three districts of Barak Valley, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Total Persons</th>
<th>Total Males</th>
<th>Total Females</th>
<th>Sex ratio (Females per 1000 males)</th>
<th>Population Density(per Sq Km)</th>
<th>Decadal Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam (Total)</td>
<td>31,169,272</td>
<td>15,954,927</td>
<td>15,214,345</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>16.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barak Valley (Total)</td>
<td>3,612,581</td>
<td>1,846,104</td>
<td>1,766,477</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>20.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cachar</td>
<td>1,736,319</td>
<td>886,616</td>
<td>849,703</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>20.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hailakandi</td>
<td>659,260</td>
<td>338,766</td>
<td>320,494</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>21.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karimganj</td>
<td>1,217,002</td>
<td>620,722</td>
<td>596,280</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>20.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India, 2011

Table 3.3. Total Literates and Literacy rates of Assam and the three districts of Barak Valley, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Literate Persons</th>
<th>Total Male</th>
<th>Total Female</th>
<th>Literacy Rate (Persons (%))</th>
<th>Literacy Rate Males (%)</th>
<th>Literacy Rate Females (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam (Total)</td>
<td>19,507,017</td>
<td>10,756,937</td>
<td>8,750,080</td>
<td>73.18</td>
<td>78.81</td>
<td>67.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barak Valley (Total)</td>
<td>2,418,762</td>
<td>1,326,441</td>
<td>1,092,321</td>
<td>78.45</td>
<td>84.39</td>
<td>72.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cachar</td>
<td>1,196,892</td>
<td>652,827</td>
<td>544,065</td>
<td>80.36</td>
<td>85.85</td>
<td>74.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hailakandi</td>
<td>413,705</td>
<td>230,567</td>
<td>183,138</td>
<td>75.26</td>
<td>81.61</td>
<td>68.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karimganj</td>
<td>808,165</td>
<td>443,047</td>
<td>365,118</td>
<td>79.72</td>
<td>85.70</td>
<td>73.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India, 2011
3.3.4 Silchar

Total population of Silchar Municipal board area was 1,43,003 (2001, census report). Most of the people in Silchar speak Sylhetti a dialect of the Bengali.

Economy

It is largely agrarian economy and some extent of service and business is done. Tea, oil, bamboo, cane, rice and natural gas are the major contributors to Silchar’s economy.

There are no heavy industries in Silchar town, but there are about 61 registered small and medium size industries like, small scale candle, Hume pipe, Dalmut, Match stick and Brick industries.

Administrative setup

In Silchar Municipality board, there are 28 wards. In each ward, a commissioner is elected directly. In the Municipality board, all the commissioners elect one chairman and one vice chairman.

Transport and Communication

Silchar is connected by road, rail and air communication. It is connected to the other states – Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura by road. State transport buses and private buses ply between all these places. The Assam Bengal Railway brought Silchar into the railway map in 1899. The railway entered into Cachar near Badarpur Junction across Sylhet. A branch line from Badarpur through south bank of Barak was used upto Silchar pass Katakhal, Salchapra and Gagra. The N.F. Railway touches the different towns like Karimganj, Dharamnagar and Jiribam connecting the state of Manipur with Silchar which will be transformed into a broad gauge in the coming years. The Indian Airlines connecting Silchar with Calcutta and Imphal. The Kumbhirgram aerodrome is located at a distance of about 29 kms from Silchar.
Media: The All India Radio, Silchar is serving for the people of Barak Valley by imparting education, information and entertainment for last 27 years. The programmes are broadcast in Bengali, Manipuri and Dimasa. Silchar Doordarshan Kendra was starts in 1995.

Education: As far as education is concerned the male literacy rates goes to 88.1% and female literacy 78.2% and the total figure comes at 83.8% as per 2001 census. There are number of primary schools, higher secondary schools, colleges, etc. there is also a significant growth of English medium and Hindi medium schools. In Silchar there is a polytechnic, a NIT, a medical college and many Hospitals, even a cancer hospital is there. A Central University namely, Assam University, Silchar was established in 1994 by an act of Parliament of 1989 (Act no.XIII). The University came into existence on 15th of January 1994 through a notification of the Govt. of India. It is a teaching cum affiliating university. All the colleges of five districts of South Assam- Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong stand affiliated to this university. This includes 3 law colleges, 5 B.Ed. Colleges and one Medical College and one Engineering College.

3.3.5 Assam University Silchar

Assam University came into existence in 1994 through Assam (Central) University Act, 1989 (Act. No. XIII). It is situated in South Assam Dargakona, about 20 kilometers away from Silchar. The campus spreads over an area of 600 acres surrounded by lakes and mountains. Drawing its 300 plus faculty from many disciplines, from all over the country, the university sustains a multidisciplinary approach to higher education. The University has 16 Schools on major disciplines. There are 35 Departments under these sixteen Schools. The five districts under the jurisdiction of Assam University have as many as 53 Colleges.

Status of Media in Assam

Print Media: The publications of Assam are published in different languages, especially in Assamese, English, Hindi, and Bengali languages. At present there are several dailies which are published in these languages and have huge competitions among themselves. The Assam
Tribune and Eastern Chronicle are the major English dailies while the Asomiya Pratidin, Dainik Agradoot, Asomiya Khorob, Dainik Asom, Amar Asom, Dainik Janasadharan, Aji, Dainik batori, Ajir Asom, Adinor Sangbad, etc are widely circulated Assamese dailies. Dainik Purvoday, Purbanchal Prahari and Pratah Khorob are widely circulated Hindi dailies. Among the Bengali dailies are Dainik Jugasankha, Samayik Prasanga, Dainik Prantojyoti, Dainik Jonokontho, etc. Dainik Jugasankha is the largest circulated Bengali daily in Assam.

National newspapers like The Telegraph, The Hindustan Times and The Times of India made their way to Assam and the Northeast market with the launch of its Guwahati editions. The Hindustan Times, which was the first among the national daily to launch Guwahati editions ceased publications owing to operational losses. Guwahati has more than 20 morning dailies; half of these are in the Assamese language. Most of the dailies are published from more than one centre, whereas three Assamese daily newspapers claim to enjoy around 1,00,000 circulation. Then there are various Magazines such as: Angana, Bismo [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assam - cite_note-55, Gariyashi, Maya, Priyo Sakhi, Rahasya, Trishnatur Nandini, Sishinfak, Eleclectic, Prantik, Saha Parivar, etc.

Audio-visual Media: Among the regional audio-visual media, there are six Satellite Television Channels- NE TV (launched in 16th March 2004), News Live (launched in January 2008) and DY 365 (launched in 2008) are the news channel which are in Guwahati, and a couple more are in the process of being launched. Other entertainment satellite channels are: DD North-East, RANG, NE HIFI.

The NE TV or Northeast Television, is the first private satellite channel of northeastern India which covers all the eight states of the region and is also the first earth station and teleport of the northeast. Equipped with three state-of-the-art studios with uplink facility from Guwahati, NETV has already become the undisputed leader of top-notch entertainment and news in this region. It presently is tied up with Asomiya Pratidin – the largest circulated Assamese daily of Assam.

There are 5 radio stations in Assam located in Guwahati, they are: All India Radio, Big FM 92.7, Gup shup 94.3, Radio-oolala, 93.5 S FM.
The table shows that, Assamese dailies have witnessed a decline in average issue readership (AIR) numbers in Assam. English dailies have more attracted the readers in Assam. Assam Tribune has a growth rate of 11.50 percent in one year from 2010 to 2011, while ‘Any English’ Daily in comparison to Assam Tribune has a growth rate of 2.62 percent. Even The Telegraph saw a decline in its readership from 97,000 readers last year to 65,000 in recent IRS 2011 Q1.

The Bengali Daily Dainik Jugasankha has shown increase in AIR by 3.64 percent. Besides all the other newspapers have recorded decline in their all India readership 2011.

Excluding Dainik Janambhumi which has a growth rate of 3.11 percent, all major Assamese publications saw negative trends in IRS 2011 Q1 results among the top ten dailies in the state. The top three Assamese dailies in the state – Asomiya Pratidin, Asomiya Khabar and Dainik Agradoot which saw a decline in their AIR numbers in one year.