Chapter III

PROFILE OF KAMRUP

Situated between latitudes 25°43' North and 26°53' North and longitudes 90°39' East and 92°11' East, the district is one of the important district of Assam. It has an area of 9,863 KM². Its ancient name was Pragjyotishpur. The district is bounded by Bhutan in the North, by the Meghalaya Plateau in the South, by Darrang and Nogong district of Assam in the East and undivided Goalpara district in the West. This district is located in the lower part of the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam. The mighty Brahmaputra flows through the district dividing the district into a larger northern part and a smaller southern part. The northern part forms two-thirds of the whole area with the name of North Kamrup and South Kamrup stands for the remaining part.

Previously, the district had only two sub-divisions namely - Guwahati and Barpeta, but it had been sub-divided into three sub-divisions - Guwahati, Barpeta and Nalbari. Present Kamrup district comprises of three sub-divisions - Guwahati, Pragjyotishpur and Rangia.

Present Kamrup district covers an area of 4,738 KM². The total population of this district according to Census is 19,87,661 which is the highest amongst the districts of Assam. The number of Scheduled Castes population of this district is 150,743 and its percentage is 7.18 of the total population. This district was very famous...
Assam's past history and also in pre-historic myths and legends. The capital of the ancient Kamrup was known as Pragjyotishpura, the present Guwahati where astrology was extensively studied and hence the name Pragjyotishpura.

Guwahati of this district is the only city of the North-East region saw the rise and fall of many kingdoms. It was a capital city in the past. Dispur, the present capital of Assam is situated near this city located in the South bank of Brahmaputra, the town is known 'Pancha Tirtha', because of five famous ancient temples abounding this town. They are Kamakhya, Umananda, Navagraha, Vasisthashram and Guhagiri temple.

Besides being a centre of religion, art and culture, it is also an important centre of learning for the entire East region. The district is proud of possessing the State first University, the first Law College and the first girls college. Cotton College is the premier-most college in the State. Besides these there are colleges of different types including an Engineering College, a Veterinary College, Agricultural College, Homoeopathic College etc. There are Degree Colleges and 48 Higher Secondary Schools in Kamrup. The literacy rate of this district is 65.04 percent which is highest among the districts of the State.

Guwahati is linked with the North bank by the Sadan Setu bridge, which serves as the vital road and rail link.
region with the rest of the country. Rangia, a sub-division in this district is a big railway junction. Hajo, which is situated at a distance of 20 kilometres from Guwahati, is a holy place for Hindus and Muslims because the famous Madhava temple of the Hindus and Poa-Mecca of the Muslims is situated here. The Buddhists also regarded this place as they believe that Lord Buddha had his Nirvana here.

The district of Barpeta which was previously a part of undivided Kamrup district covers an area of 3,307.3 sq.kms. and shelters a population of 13,82,715. Barpeta and Bajrangi are the two sub-divisions of the district. It is located 14 km. from Guwahati. It is a famous centre of Vaishnavite culture. Three Vaishnavite temples 'Barpeta Satra', 'Patrai Satra' and 'Sundaridia Satra', are situated here. The district has several educational institutions including the 'Barpeta College', which is the State's third college established in 1939. The total SC population of this district is 89,194 which is 6.54 percent of total population. According to the Census the literacy rate of general population is 77.8 percent whereas the literacy rate of SC population is 74.1 percent. There are 24 colleges and 30 Higher Secondary schools in the district.

Present Nalbari district was also a part of undivided Kamrup district. It covers an area of 1999.0 sq.kms. and has a population of 10,12,608. The SC population of this district is 89,194 which is 8.78 percent to total population.
connected with Guwahati by road and rail.

Nalbari has been famous as a seat of Sanskrit learning from the ancient times. It was known as the 'Navadwi' of Assam in the past. The Sanskrit College and numerous other educational institutions spread all over the district bear testimony to this fact even today. Most of the population of this district are agriculturists. The literacy rate is also very high, with 55.99 percent in case of total population and 50.54 percent in case of SC population. There are 23 Colleges and 17 High Secondary Schools in the district.

The Scheduled Castes living in Kamrup district are Kaivarta, Namasudra, Bania, Hira, Jalkeot, Mali, Dhoba etc.

This district is not only historically famous, but still flourishing fast as a centre of art, culture and learning. It is also the main industrial centre of the North Eastern region, attracts the industrialists to establish industries here. As result of industrialisation population is also increasing very fast. In the political scene of the State, also the district has a great influence.

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