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A Note on the Reorganization of the Lakhimpur District

On October 2, 1971 the erstwhile Lakhimpur district was reorganized into two separate districts: (i) The district of Lakhimpur lying to the north of the Brahmaputra and (ii) The district of Dibrugarh lying to the south.

The northern district comprises of an approximate area of 5,755 sq. kilometres as against 7,226 sq. kilometres of the Dibrugarh district in the south. The main reason for reorganization was the communication hurdle which came seriously on the way of development of the northern portion with headquarters of the undivided district located at Dibrugarh on the south bank. One has to see the fury of the Brahmaputra in spate battering against the dykes and stone spurs of Dibrugarh town to be able to realise what a great dividing line this river can be. The wide stretch of water spreading almost upto the foot of the far off hills and the swirling current washing vegetation and driftwood down the river at terrifying speed makes crossing extremely hazardous and the very expanse of the river which is formed by the Dihang, the Dibang and the Lohit hardly 60 kilometres upstreams of Dibrugarh town completely eliminate any idea of a bridge at this point. Thus, from the geographical
point of view it is natural that the erstwhile Dibrugarh
sub-division makes a separate regional unit while the rest
of the erstwhile Lakhimpur district completely cut off from
the southern counterpart makes another distinguished regional
unit. Looking into the following table giving a study in
contrast of various socio-economic aspects of the two units,
it would further be realised that these two units have
undoubtedly positive and logical claims to be identified
as two separate districts.

The Two New Districts*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dibrugarh</th>
<th>Lakhimpur</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>7,226 sq.Km.</td>
<td>5,755 sq.Km.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>1,409,414</td>
<td>708,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Provisional 1971)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
<td>1522,600,000</td>
<td>329,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at factor cost at current prices in 1969-70 (in rupees)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita income</td>
<td>Rs. 979/-</td>
<td>Rs. 474/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes etc. paid to the Central Govt., 1970 (in rupees)</td>
<td>307,200,000</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes etc. paid to the State Govt., 1970 (in rupees)</td>
<td>135,800,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Tea Estates</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production of Tea (Tonnes, 1969)</td>
<td>80,294</td>
<td>2,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Important Industrial establishments</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of workers in industry</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It may be recalled here that the present author while defining and delimiting his region "Dibrugarh and its environs" had as early as 1967 eliminated the northern part of the Lakhimpur district based on both qualitative and quantitative analyses, which have been discussed in chapter I of the present work. The author completed his work in early 1971 and by the time the reorganization of the Lakhimpur district was taken up, most of the present work had been typed. Hence, the Lakhimpur district mentioned in the work refers to the undivided old Lakhimpur district where the new Dibrugarh district was a sub-division. Similarly, the Dibrugarh sub-division mentioned in the thesis refers to the old administrative set-up which has now become the new district of Dibrugarh. However, there is no effect of the reorganization of the Lakhimpur district on the present work, since the region "Dibrugarh and its environs" completely lies within the limits of the new Dibrugarh district with very little link to the north. This was sensed by the author much in advance and the reorganization has rather endorsed the authenticity of the views expressed by the author in delimiting the region for analysis of urban landscape.