PREFACE

An ancient place of immense historical importance, Hajo is a living example of social and religious integration. Being the confluence of three major religious orders of the world - Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism, people considers Hajo as a sacred complex irrespective of their religious beliefs. Popularly known as Panchatirtha, i.e. meeting place of five religious shrines including Hayagriva Madhava temple, Kedaresvar temple, Kamalesvar temple, Kamesvar temple and Ganesa temple has enrich the society with socio-economic contribution. Poa-Macca mosque, a holy shrine for muslim community also contributes a lot to the society.

Social life of Hajo is inextricably linked with these religious centres. The entire social fabric of the society is interlinked with the centres in some way or other and attracted the attention of the royal powers of Koches, Ahoms and Mughals. Hence a study of the religious centres with socio-economic aspects is very much relevant in present day situation and the study is carried out in this context. The whole study has been organized into six chapters:

The first chapter begins with the introduction of the area, geographical and historical background, objectives of the study and review of relevant works.

Chapter second includes the history of the religious centres including the political history of the region. Nature and character of the centres is also studied in particular.
II

The third chapter deals with the royal patronage received by the religious centres at different period of times by different royal authorities.

Chapter fourth includes the study of the society of Hajo at large. The religious centres and its implication has been studied including the rites and rituals and fairs and festivals of the centres.

The fifth chapter is deals with the economic activities of Hajo and the religious centres. In this chapter the cottage industries of Hajo which has direct relations with the religious centres has been dealt specifically.

Finally in the sixth chapter the observation of entire study has been presented systematically with major findings and suggestions.

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