LOCATION AND PHYSIOGRAPHY

Lakhimpur district (undivided) extends roughly from 26 43' to 27 57' and 93 42' to 95 27' E and is bounded on the North, North East and North West by Arunachal Pradesh; on the South the mighty river Brahmaputra and its branch "Luit Kherkatia" along with the formation of largest river Island of the world - The Majuli; on the West Sonitpur district and on the East - Dibrugarh district (MAP-1).

Lakhimpur district (undivided) was reorganised in 1971 which was a subdivision of erstwhile Lakhimpur district of Assam. While initiating the study of the District Flora in 1986, Lakhimpur district was with 3 sub-divisions viz. namely North Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Jonai. During the recent reorganisation of the sub-divisions some of them have been elevated to the District level and accordingly North Lakhimpur subdivision has been given the status as Lakhimpur district and Dhemaji and Jonai sub-divisions into Dhemaji district (cf. Assam Status Report 1991). Floristic survey has been undertaken in its past Political form and included 3 subdivisions stated above and referred here as Lakhimpur district (undivided) which covers an area of 6646.4 sq. km.

The district consists entirely of a new alluvial plain lying to North west and Norht of mighty Brahmaputra river.
and its branch "Luit Kherkatia". The district is completely separated from Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat districts by the river Brahmaputra which flows throughout the south from the south eastern parts of the district. The Northern part of the district is the continuation of Eastern Himalayan hill ranges flanked by low hills and can be circumscribed as the foot hills of Arunachal Pradesh. The elevation of this zone ranges from 30m to 300 m. The southern part of the district have builtup extensive flood plains by Brahmaputra and its tributaries including Subansiri, where as the western part of the district lying on the west of Subansiri river there is relatively high builtup zone of North Lakhimpur subdivision with altitudinal variation ranging from 30 m to 300 m, where human settlement is dense. To the east of Subansiri that is, Dhemaji and Jonai subdivisions there is no built up zone which merges with flood plain. In these subdivisions, therefore, scattered extensive swamps and marshes are the main topographic features. The tributaries of Brahmaputra viz. Dikrang, Subansiri, Ranga, Ghagor, Sissi, Kahara and Tangari etc. flow through the heart of the district and all originated from Arunachal Pradesh, while tributaries of Subansiri viz., Charikuria, Kunatiya and Jiyadhal along with "Ghanasuti" - a branch of Subansiri meeting once again to that river, flowing well within the district. "Morkoksalek Chapori" was a part of Paba Forest Reserve now seperated by the
river Brahmaputra changing its course during the great Earth Quake taken place on 15th August 1950 in Jonai subdivision.

The flood plains are annually inundated during the rainy season extending from June to September and large patches of them retain standing water for about 8 to 9 months. The tributaries of Brahmaputra and also of Subansiri, large or small, flow sluggishly through tortuous courses, where there are formation of Ox-Bow-Lakes occupying larger areas including abundant river courses in the flood plain.