

STATE
SINCE
26 JAN 1950

STATE PROFILE · REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Assam

The Brahmaputra Valley state that grows over half of India's tea, once housed Asia's first oil refinery, and shelters roughly two-thirds of the world's greater one-horned rhinoceroses — all while rebuilding, redrawing and re-flooding almost every year.

3.12 Cr

POPULATION (2011 CENSUS)

50%+

SHARE OF INDIA'S TOTAL TEA PRODUCTION

35

DISTRICTS, 5 DIVISIONS

2,613

RHINOS IN KAZIRANGA — THE WORLD'S LARGEST POPULATION

Compiled August 2026 · Sources: Census of India, NITI Aayog, RBI, NFHS-5, Tea Board of India, Assam government records

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At a Glance

Assam is the Brahmaputra Valley state that grows more than half of India's tea, sits atop Asia's oldest continuously operating oil refinery, and hosts the world's largest population of the greater one-horned rhinoceros — all while managing near-annual flooding, a decades-long citizenship debate, and the aftermath of an insurgency that only formally ended in 2023.

**Dispur,
Guwahati**

CAPITAL & LARGEST CITY

26 Jan 1950

FULL STATEHOOD UNDER THE
INDIAN CONSTITUTION

78,438 km²

TOTAL AREA

₹6.43 lakh Cr

GSDP, 2024-25 (CURRENT
PRICES)

50.2%

SHARE OF INDIA'S TOTAL TEA
PRODUCTION, 2025

35 districts

5 DIVISIONS — DISTRICT COUNT
STILL EVOLVING

“Before 1963, Assam's borders held nearly all of India's Northeast. Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were each carved from what was, at independence, a single undivided Assam.

— North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971; Government of India records

Snapshot

Assam is governed as a standard Indian state with a unicameral 126-seat Legislative Assembly; BJP's Himanta Biswa Sarma won a second consecutive term as Chief Minister in May 2026. It is the historic seat of the Ahom dynasty, which ruled the Brahmaputra Valley for roughly 600 years and twice repelled Mughal invasions; the birthplace of India's modern tea industry, discovered in 1823 and now the world's largest single tea-growing region; and, more recently, the site of Tata Electronics' new semiconductor assembly plant, a bet on diversifying an economy long dependent on tea and crude oil. It also carries some of India's most persistent structural challenges: near-annual Brahmaputra flooding, a shrinking Majuli river island, and an unresolved citizenship-registration debate dating to the 1985 Assam Accord.

History

Assam's history runs from a Neolithic settlement in the Dima Hasao hills, through a 600-year Ahom dynasty that handed the Mughals their most decisive northeastern defeat, to a 1826 British annexation, a tea industry born almost by accident, and a post-independence unraveling that carved four entire states out of what was once a single undivided Assam.

● c. 700 BCE

Daojali Hading (Dima Hasao district), excavated by Gauhati University in 1962-63, yields Neolithic tools and cord-marked pottery over 2,700 years old — the first evidence in India of an "Eastern Asiatic Neolithic complex," alongside early iron-smelting furnace remains.

● c. 350-650 CE

The **Varman dynasty**, founded by Pushyavarman, rules the ancient **Kamarupa kingdom** from Pragjyotishpura near modern Guwahati; king Bhaskaravarman's alliance with Emperor Harshavardhana marks Kamarupa's political high point.

● 1228

Sukaphaa, a Tai/Shan prince from Mong Mao, crosses the Patkai hills with roughly 9,000 followers and founds the **Ahom kingdom** in the Brahmaputra Valley — the start of a dynasty that will rule for nearly 600 years, introducing wet-rice cultivation and gradually assimilating local tribes.

● 18 Jun 1671

The **Battle of Saraighat**: Ahom general **Lachit Borphukan** defeats a much larger Mughal fleet on the Brahmaputra using small, maneuverable boats — the Mughals' last serious attempt to conquer Assam, and still the defining episode of Ahom military memory.

● 1707-1765

Sivasagar (then Rangpur) becomes the Ahom capital under Rudra Singha; the **Rang Ghar** royal pavilion (1746) and seven-storey **Talatal Ghar** palace-fortress (1765) are built, among the largest surviving Tai-Ahom monuments.

● 1769-1805

The **Moamoria Rebellion**, a revolt against Ahom royal authority, devastates the kingdom — roughly half the population is estimated to have died amid famine and conflict, fatally weakening the Ahoms just before the Burmese invasions.

1817-1826

Three **Burmese invasions** devastate Assam and install a puppet Ahom king; Burmese expansion toward Bengal triggers the First Anglo-Burmese War, ending in the **Treaty of Yandabo (24 February 1826)**, under which Burma cedes Assam to the British East India Company — ending independent Ahom rule.

1823-1841

British officer **Robert Bruce** is shown indigenous wild tea plants by Singpho chief Bessa Gam; experimental cultivation begins at Chabua in 1835, and the first Indian tea auction is held in **March 1841** — the origin of what is now the world's largest single tea-growing region.

11 Dec 1901

The **Digboi Refinery** is commissioned by the Assam Oil Company, following an 1889 discovery during railway construction — **Asia's first oil refinery**, still operating today.

1963-1987

Undivided Assam is progressively broken up: **Nagaland** becomes a state in 1963, **Meghalaya** is carved out in 1972, and both **Mizoram** and **Arunachal Pradesh** attain statehood in 1987 — together accounting for most of what is now considered India's Northeast.

1979-1985

The **Assam Movement**, led by the All Assam Students Union, agitates for six years against illegal immigration, at a cost of roughly 855 lives, ending in the **Assam Accord (1985)** — which fixes 24 March 1971 as the cutoff date for citizenship determination, a line still governing Assam's politics four decades later.

31 Aug 2019

The final updated **National Register of Citizens (NRC)**, ordered by the Supreme Court in 2013, is published: of 3.3 crore applicants, roughly **19 lakh are excluded**. The Supreme Court upholds the constitutional validity of the Accord's Section 6A in October 2024; a re-verification petition remains before the Court as of 2026.

29 Dec 2023

The pro-talks faction of **ULFA** (United Liberation Front of Asom, founded 1979) signs a tripartite peace accord with the Union and state governments, disbanding and renouncing violence — though the breakaway ULFA-Independent faction remains active outside any settlement into 2026.

“The Ahoms ruled the Brahmaputra Valley for nearly 600 years — longer than the Mughal Empire itself lasted — and never once fell to a Mughal army, a distinction shared by almost no other kingdom the Mughals attempted to conquer.

— Battle of Saraighat historiography; rajras.in-style regional histories

Government, Politics & Administration

Assam runs a fourth layer of government most Indian states don't need: three Sixth Schedule autonomous councils governing its hill and Bodo-majority districts under their own legislative and tax powers.

126 (28 reserved)

ASSEMBLY SEATS — 19 ST + 9 SC

14 + 7

LOK SABHA + RAJYA SABHA SEATS

24 sanctioned

GAUHATI HIGH COURT JUDGE STRENGTH (GUWAHATI)

3 councils

SIXTH SCHEDULE AUTONOMOUS COUNCILS

Assam's unicameral Legislative Assembly has 126 seats, with 19 reserved for Scheduled Tribes and 9 for Scheduled Castes following a recent delimitation exercise. The state sends 14 members to the Lok Sabha and holds 7 Rajya Sabha seats. In the 2026 Assembly election, the BJP-led NDA won a third straight term, with BJP alone taking 82 seats; **Himanta Biswa Sarma** was sworn in for a second consecutive term as Chief Minister on 12 May 2026 — the first non-Congress leader in Assam's history to serve consecutive terms.

Judiciary: the Gauhati High Court was established 5 April 1948, initially sitting at Shillong before moving to its permanent seat at Guwahati on 14 August 1948. It has jurisdiction over Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, with outlying benches at Kohima (1972), Aizawl (1990) and Itanagar (2000); its sanctioned strength is 24 judges.

Sixth Schedule autonomous councils: unlike most Indian states, three of Assam's districts or district groups are governed under the Constitution's Sixth Schedule, with their own elected councils exercising legislative, judicial and taxation powers over local matters. The **Bodoland Territorial Council** (created 2003, covering Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri districts) was upgraded to the **Bodoland Territorial Region** under the Third Bodo Accord (2020), which also expanded its council from 40 to 60 seats. The **Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council** and the **Dima Hasao Autonomous Council** (originally constituted in 1951-52) hold parallel powers over their respective hill districts. Below this, Assam's panchayati raj system runs a standard three-tier structure — 21 Zilla Parishads, 185 Anchalik Panchayats and 2,201 Gaon Panchayats — under the Assam Panchayat Act, 1994.

“The Third Bodo Accord of 2020 didn't just end a 48-year statehood demand — it triggered the surrender of 1,615 armed cadres in a single day, one of the largest mass disarmaments in any Indian insurgency's resolution.

— MP-IDSA; Third Bodo Accord documentation

Geography & Districts

Assam is built around a single dominant feature — the Brahmaputra, a river that in places widens to nearly 20 km across — and its district map has been in near-constant flux, growing from 27 districts to 35 over the past decade with more reorganisation likely still to come.

78,438 km²

TOTAL AREA

~20 km

BRAHMAPUTRA'S WIDTH AT ITS
BROADEST, IN MONSOON
SEASON

2 valleys

BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY
(ASSAMESE-SPEAKING) & BARAK
VALLEY (BENGALI-SPEAKING)

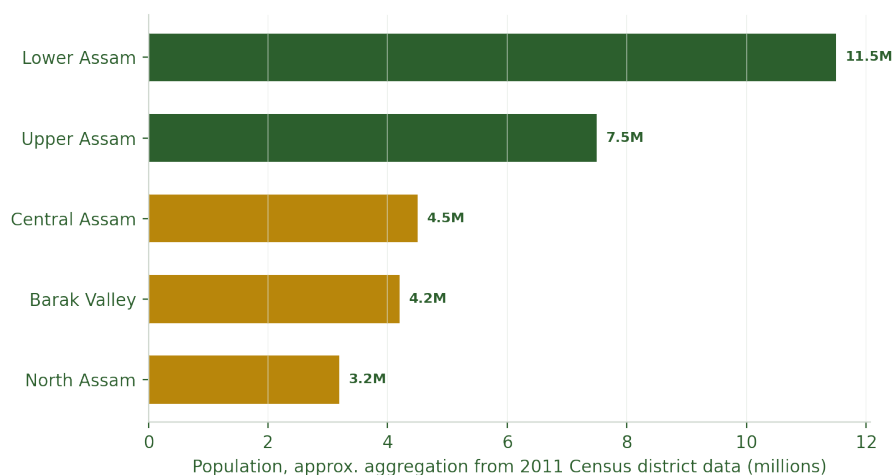
35 districts

ACROSS 5 DIVISIONS, PLUS 49 NEWER "CO-DISTRICTS"

Assam is dominated by the **Brahmaputra Valley**, a braided river floodplain 80-100 km wide and roughly 1,000 km long, carrying some of the most fertile alluvial soil on Earth — and, during monsoon, expanding to nearly 20 km across in places, an extraordinary width for an inland river. Southern Assam's **Barak Valley** (Cachar, Hailakandi, Sribhumi districts) is drained by the Barak River, which continues into Bangladesh as the Surma; the valley is predominantly Bengali-speaking and culturally distinct from the Assamese-speaking Brahmaputra Valley, a divide that has occasionally been a source of friction, including the 1961 Bengali Language Movement. The **Karbi Anglong Plateau**, an eastward extension of the Meghalaya Plateau, is considered the oldest landform in Assam. The climate is humid subtropical, with over 3,000mm of annual rainfall in the Brahmaputra Valley from the southwest monsoon.

Administrative Structure: A District Map Still Being Redrawn

Assam's district count has grown steadily: 27 districts as of 2015, 32 after a batch of new districts that August, 33 with Majuli's creation in 2016 (India's first river-island district), 34 with Bajali in 2020, and 35 with Tamulpur in January 2022. Four of these newer districts were briefly merged back into their parent districts in December 2022 ahead of a delimitation exercise, then recreated in 2023-24, restoring the total to the current **35 districts across 5 divisions** (Lower Assam, North Assam, Upper Assam, Central Assam, Barak Valley). In November 2024, Karimganj district and its headquarters town were renamed **Sribhumi**. Rather than continuing to add full districts, Assam has more recently rolled out a "co-district" system aligned to assembly constituencies — 49 co-districts as of August 2025, with a long-term goal of 78 — providing localised administration without the overhead of full district status.



Population by division, approximate aggregation from 2011 Census district data. Lower Assam, anchored by Guwahati, is the most populous.

District (2011 baseline)	Headquarters	Population (2011)
Nagaon	Nagaon	2,823,768
Sonitpur	Tezpur	1,924,110
Cachar	Silchar	1,736,319
Barpeta	Barpeta	1,693,622
Kamrup	Amingaon	1,517,542
Dhubri	Dhubri	1,394,144
Tinsukia	Tinsukia	1,327,929
Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	1,326,335
Kamrup Metropolitan	Guwahati	1,253,938
Sribhumi (Karimganj)	Sribhumi	1,228,686
Sivasagar	Sivasagar	1,151,050
Jorhat	Jorhat	1,092,256
Golaghat	Golaghat	1,066,888
Karbi Anglong	Diphu	956,313
Dima Hasao	Haflong	214,102
Majuli	Garamur	167,304

Figures reflect the 2011 Census under earlier district boundaries. Districts created after 2011 (Bajali, Biswanath, Charaideo, Hojai, Tamulpur, South Salmara-Mankachar, West Karbi Anglong and others) were carved from the districts above and are not independently enumerated in the 2011 Census; Karbi Anglong's 2011 figure here reflects its undivided pre-split area.

All 35 Districts by Division

Lower Assam Division (HQ Guwahati)

Kamrup Metropolitan Guwahati and Dispur; Assam's economic capital and the administrative "Gateway to Northeast India."	Kamrup Home to Sualkuchi, the "Manchester of Assam" for Muga, Pat and Eri silk weaving.	Barpeta The "Land of Satras"; centre of the 16th-century Vaishnavite reform movement led by Srimanta Sankardev.
Dhubri Assam's westernmost district on the Bangladesh border; among the worst-hit by Brahmaputra flooding.	Bongaigaon Home to one of Assam's key public-sector oil refineries.	Goalpara Historic river-port town on the Brahmaputra, an early British administrative centre.
Kokrajhar Seat of the Bodoland Territorial Region, formed under the Bodo Accords of 2003 and 2020.	Chirang One of the four core Bodoland Territorial Region districts.	Baksa A core Bodoland Territorial Region district on the Bhutan border foothills.
Nalbari Densely populated agricultural district on the Brahmaputra's north bank.	Bajali Created 2020, retained through the 2022-24 reorganisation; carved from Barpeta.	South Salmara-Mankachar Created 2015; Assam's smallest district by area, on the Bangladesh border.
Tamulpur Created 2022, part of the Bodoland Territorial Region; recreated in 2023-24 after a brief merger.		

Upper Assam Division (HQ Jorhat)

Dibrugarh The "Tea City of India"; roughly 178 tea gardens; Assam's second municipal-corporation city (2024).	Tinsukia Home to Digboi, site of Asia's first oil refinery (1901), and the Ledo/Margherita coal belt.	Jorhat The "Tea Capital of Assam"; last capital of the Ahom Kingdom; home to Tocklai Tea Research Institute.
Sivasagar The historic Ahom capital "Rangpur"; Rang Ghar and Talatal Ghar monuments.	Golaghat Main gateway to Kaziranga National Park, the world's largest greater one-horned rhino habitat.	Majuli The world's largest river island; India's first island district (2016); Vaishnavite sattra culture.
Lakhimpur North-bank district near the Arunachal Pradesh border, on the Bogibeel Bridge corridor.	Dhemaji Assam's northeasternmost district, chronically flood-affected each monsoon.	Charaideo Created 2015; site of the Ahom dynasty's original capital and royal burial mounds (maidams).

Central Assam Division (HQ Nagaon)

Nagaon

Historically Assam's most populous district; a significant share of Kaziranga National Park lies within it.

Morigaon

Site of Tata Electronics' new semiconductor assembly and test plant at Jagiroad.

Hojai

Created 2015; carved from Nagaon.

Karbi Anglong

Assam's largest district; governed by the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council under the Sixth Schedule.

West Karbi Anglong

Created 2015 by splitting Karbi Anglong; also under Sixth Schedule autonomous governance.

Dima Hasao

Hill district governed by the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council; site of the Daojali Hading Neolithic settlement.

North Assam Division (HQ Tezpur)

Sonitpur

Home to Tezpur, one of Assam's oldest towns, with 4th-century settlement evidence.

Darrang

Agricultural north-bank district bordering Bhutan's foothills.

Udalguri

A core Bodoland Territorial Region district on the Bhutan border.

Biswanath

Created 2015; carved from Sonitpur; home to Biswanath Ghat's riverside temples.

Barak Valley Division (HQ Silchar)

Cachar

Silchar, the Barak Valley's main city and Assam's second-largest urban centre; ~92% Bengali-speaking.

Sribhumi (Karimganj)

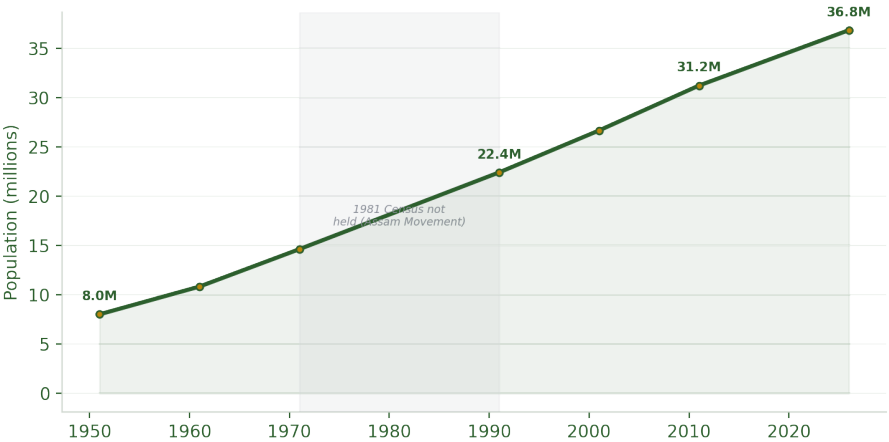
Renamed from Karimganj in November 2024; borders Bangladesh and Tripura.

Hailakandi

Assam's southernmost district; part of the culturally distinct, Bengali-speaking Barak Valley.

Population & Demographics

Assam's population data carries a genuine historical gap — the 1981 Census was never conducted here, a direct casualty of the same anti-immigration agitation that still shapes the state's politics four decades later.



Population growth, 1951–2026. The 1981 Census was not held in Assam due to the Assam Movement; the shaded band marks that data gap.

398/km²

POPULATION DENSITY (VS. 382 NATIONAL)

958

SEX RATIO (2011) — ABOVE THE 943 NATIONAL AVERAGE

72.19%

LITERACY (MALE 77.85%, FEMALE 66.27%)

14.1% / 85.9%

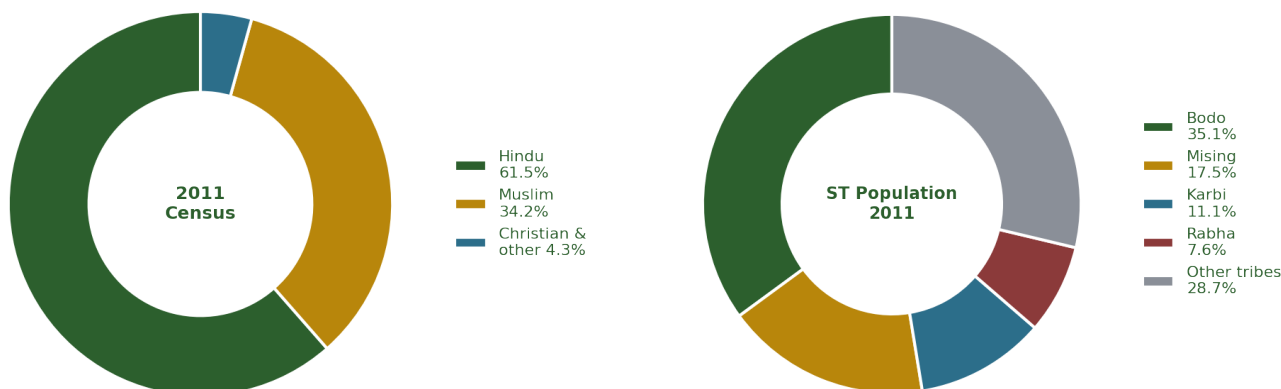
URBAN / RURAL SPLIT — ONE OF INDIA'S LEAST URBANISED STATES

12.44%

SCHEDULED TRIBE SHARE OF POPULATION

~5-7 million

"TEA TRIBE" COMMUNITY — DESCENDANTS OF COLONIAL-ERA INDENTURED LABOUR



Religion, 2011 Census. Assam's Muslim population share is among the highest of any Indian state, and has grown steadily since 1901.

Scheduled Tribe composition, 2011 Census. Bodo is by far the largest of Assam's many tribal communities.

Assam's 2011 population was 61.47% Hindu and 34.22% Muslim — among the highest Muslim population shares of any Indian state, and one that has risen steadily from 15.1% in 1901 to 24.7% by 1951 and 34.22% by 2011, a trend rooted in colonial-era migration from Bengal and, later, from what became Bangladesh. Language is similarly layered: Assamese is spoken by 48.38% of the population (a declining share), Bengali by 29.91% (rising), and Bodo by 4.53%, with the Bengali-speaking Barak Valley culturally and linguistically distinct from the Assamese-speaking Brahmaputra Valley. Scheduled Tribes make up 12.44% of the population, dominated by the Bodo (35.06% of the ST population, and Assam's largest single tribal community), followed by Mising/Miri (17.52%) and Karbi (11.08%). A further 5-7 million people belong to Assam's distinct "tea tribe" communities — descendants of tea-garden labourers brought from the Chhotanagpur plateau and elsewhere from 1837 onward, who hold no Scheduled Tribe status in Assam despite many of their home communities holding ST status in their states of origin, an ongoing identity and rights debate.

The migration and citizenship debate: in-migration into Assam from the Bengal region intensified after the 1905 Partition of Bengal and again around the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, when an estimated 10 million refugees crossed into India. This history underpins the Assam Movement (1979-85) and the Assam Accord's 24 March 1971 citizenship cutoff — still the operative legal line today, most recently reaffirmed when the Supreme Court upheld the Accord's Section 6A in October 2024.

“Assam's contraceptive prevalence rate rose from 52.4% to 60.8% between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5, yet child wasting worsened from 17% to 21.7% over the same period — a reminder that fertility-control progress and child-nutrition progress don't always move together.

— National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 2019-21

Culture, Festivals & Cuisine

Assam celebrates three separate new-year-adjacent harvest festivals a year, gave India its ninth classical dance form from a network of river-island monasteries, and produces a golden silk found commercially nowhere else on Earth.

The Three Bihus

Rongali (Bohag) Bihu, in mid-April, marks the Assamese New Year and the start of the sowing season — the most important of the three, with days of Bihu dance performances. **Kati (Kongali) Bihu**, in mid-October, is the somber, austere Bihu of a lean agricultural period, marked by lighting earthen lamps near paddy fields and tulsi plants. **Magh (Bhogali) Bihu**, in mid-January, is the harvest festival, celebrated with community feasts (Uruka), bonfires (Meji) and games. Bihu dance — performed by men, women and children in energetic circular formations — is accompanied by the dhol (barrel drum), pepa (buffalo-horn hornpipe) and gogona (bamboo jaw harp).

Ambubachi Mela & Sattriya Dance

The **Ambubachi Mela**, held every June at Guwahati's Kamakhya Temple — one of Hinduism's 51 Shakti Peethas, built on Nilachal Hill without an idol, centred on a yoni-shaped stone bathed by a natural spring — draws one of India's largest gatherings of Tantric practitioners over four days. **Sattriya**, recognised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi as one of India's classical dance forms on 15 November 2000, originated in the 15th-16th century sattras (Vaishnavite monasteries) established by saint-reformer Srimanta Sankardev; Majuli island alone still hosts around 65 of these sattras, functioning as Assam's living cultural cradle for five centuries.

Silk & Craft

Assam produces three distinct silk varieties: **Muga**, a naturally golden silk from the *Antheraea assamensis* moth found only in Assam's ecological niche and GI-tagged in 2007 (accounting for roughly 95-96% of world production, at a modest global scale of about 270 tonnes a year); **Pat**, a white mulberry silk; and **Eri**, a "peace silk" produced without killing the silkworm. **Sualkuchi village**, the "Manchester of Assam," is the world's largest Muga-weaving cluster, with over 13,000 active handlooms, more than half operated by women.

Cuisine

Khar, an alkaline dish made by filtering water through dried banana-peel ash, traditionally opens an Assamese meal, which then closes with **tenga**, a sour dish — classically masor tenga, a tangy fish curry made with tomato or elephant apple. **Pitha**, rice cakes often stuffed with coconut or jaggery, are central to Bihu celebrations, prepared communally by women in the days before. **Tamul paan** — areca nut and betel leaf offered on a brass plate called a bota — is an enduring symbol of hospitality reinforced during Ahom rule. And Assam's tea-drinking culture is, unsurprisingly, inseparable from its identity as the world's largest single tea-growing region.

“Sattriya dance survived for five centuries almost entirely inside the sattras of a single river island before the Sangeet Natak Akademi recognised it as one of India's classical dance forms in 2000 — Majuli functioned as its sole living archive for 500 years.

— Sangeet Natak Akademi; sattriyakristi.com

Education & Research Institutions

Assam's education network runs from the Northeast's oldest university to the region's only top-10-nationally-ranked engineering school, and is about to gain its own IIM after decades of sending management students to neighbouring Meghalaya.

72.19%

LITERACY (MALE 77.85%,
FEMALE 66.27%)

1948

GAUHATI UNIVERSITY FOUNDED
— OLDEST IN NORTHEAST INDIA

1994

IIT GUWAHATI ESTABLISHED

Rank 8

IIT GUWAHATI'S NIRF 2025 ENGINEERING RANK — NE INDIA'S ONLY TOP-10 INSTITUTE

Gauhati University, established 26 January 1948 under an Act of the Assam Legislative Assembly, is the oldest university in Northeast India; its first Vice-Chancellor was K.K. Handique. **Cotton College**, founded 1901 and long a constituent college of Gauhati University, became the independent **Cotton University** in 2017, completing 125 years in 2025. **IIT Guwahati**, established 1994 as the 6th IIT on a 285-hectare Brahmaputra-bank campus, is Northeast India's only institute ranked in NIRF's national engineering top 10 (8th in 2025). **NIT Silchar**, upgraded from a Regional Engineering College in 2002, rounds out the state's federally-designated technical institutes, alongside **Assam Agricultural University** (Jorhat, 1969), the Northeast's premier agricultural research and education institution.

A new IIM: Assam is set to gain its own Indian Institute of Management as the 22nd IIM nationally, with its first academic batch admitted via CAT 2025 for the 2026 session — distinct from IIM Shillong, in neighbouring Meghalaya, which had long served as the region's nearest IIM. The Assam Institute of Management, established 1988 in Guwahati, has offered management education locally in the interim, upgrading its PGDM to a full MBA degree from the 2018-20 batch.

“ IIT Guwahati is the only technical institute from all of Northeast India to rank among NIRF's national engineering top 10 — a distinction it has held consistently even as most of the region's other institutes rank well outside the top 50.

— NIRF 2025 rankings; IIT Guwahati institutional data

Cities & Urban Areas

Assam is one of India's least urbanised states, but its handful of cities carry outsized weight — one is the entire Northeast's logistics gateway, another quietly bankrolled colonial India's tea fortune, and a third was, for six decades, an Ahom royal capital.

GU Guwahati / Dispur — Capital Region

City population 957,352 (2011), metro estimate approaching 2.4 million by 2026. Assam's official administrative capital is Dispur, a locality within Guwahati, since 1973 (when Shillong went to newly-created Meghalaya). Home to the Kamakhya Temple, one of Hinduism's 51 Shakti Peethas, and the Gauhati High Court; described as the "Gateway to Northeast India" for its role as the region's principal transport, logistics and administrative hub.

DI Dibrugarh — Tea City of India

Population 154,296 (2011), Assam's third-largest city and the largest in Upper Assam; became Assam's second Municipal Corporation city in March 2024. Its surrounding gardens account for roughly half of Assam's tea crop. Also a key oil town, with Oil India Limited's field headquarters at nearby Duliajan and Asia's first oil refinery at Digboi, 80 km further on.

JO Jorhat — Tea Capital & Cultural Capital

District population 1,092,256 (2011); the last capital of the Ahom Kingdom. Home to the Tocklai Tea Research Institute (1911), the world's oldest and largest tea research centre, and the Asam Sahitya Sabha, Assam's premier literary institution founded in 1926. Also seat of Assam Agricultural University.

SI Sivasagar — Historic Ahom Capital

Population 283,190 (2011 city). Known as Rangpur under Ahom rule, it served as the dynasty's capital from 1699 to 1788. Home to the Rang Ghar royal sports pavilion (1746, often called Asia's oldest amphitheatre) and the seven-storey Talatal Ghar palace-fortress (1765).

SL Silchar — Barak Valley's Main City

Population 178,865 (2011), Assam's second-largest city. The Barak Valley's commercial and administrative centre, roughly 92% Bengali-speaking, and the site of the 1961 Bengali Language Movement — linguistically and culturally distinct from the Assamese-speaking Brahmaputra Valley.

TE Tezpur

Population 102,505 (2011). One of Assam's oldest towns, with archaeological evidence of settlement dating to the 4th century CE; associated with the Varman-dynasty king Bhaskaravarman and documented by the Chinese traveller Xuanzang; later a Pala-dynasty regional capital.

MA Majuli

Population approximately 160,000 across roughly 144 villages. The world's largest inhabited river island and India's first island district (2016); home to nearly 65 surviving Vaishnavite sattras, the living centre of Assamese Neo-Vaishnavite culture for five centuries.

The Economy

Assam's economy still runs disproportionately on agriculture for an Indian state of its size — and its biggest recent bet is a semiconductor plant built, symbolically, on the site of a shuttered paper mill.

₹6.43 lakh cr
GSDP, 2024-25 (CURRENT PRICES), UP 12.74%

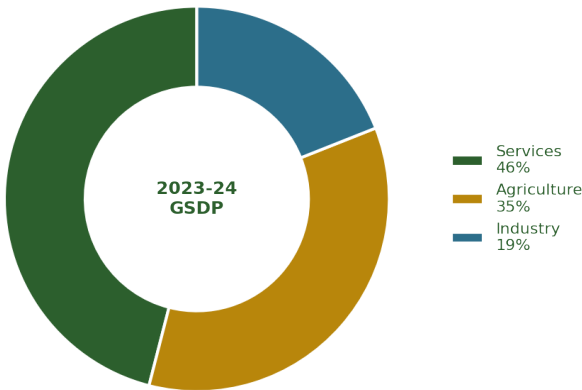
₹1,54,222
PER-CAPITA INCOME, 2024-25 — UP 10.3%

~23%
BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE PER-CAPITA INCOME

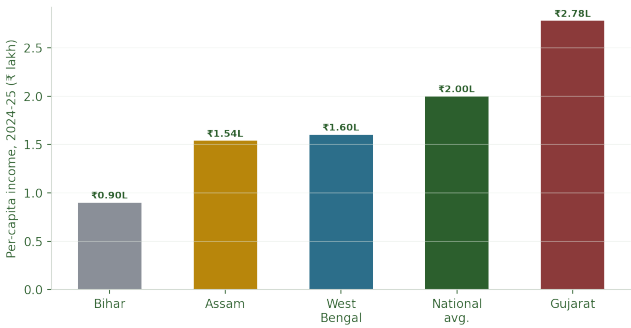
3.9%
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 2023-24 — ABOVE THE 3.2% NATIONAL AVERAGE

3.7%
FISCAL DEFICIT TARGET, 2025-26 — IMPROVED FROM 5.7% IN 2024-25

66.9%
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE — ABOVE THE 60.1% NATIONAL AVERAGE



GSDP by sector, 2023-24. Agriculture's 35% share is unusually large for a state of Assam's size — roughly double the national agricultural share of GDP.



Per-capita income: Assam vs. national average and peer states, 2024-25 (illustrative comparison figures).

Assam's GSDP grew at a compound annual rate of roughly 12.5% between FY16 and FY26, reaching ₹6.43 lakh crore in 2024-25. Its sectoral composition remains unusually agriculture-heavy for a state its size: agriculture and allied activities account for around 35% of GSDP (against roughly 19% nationally), services 46%, and industry just 19%. Per-capita income reached ₹1,54,222 in 2024-25, up 10.3% year-on-year, though it remains about 23% below the national average — a long-run reversal from 1950-51, when Assam's per-capita income was actually 4% above the national figure, before falling as much as 41% below it by the late 1990s.

Fiscal position and new investment: Assam's fiscal deficit is targeted at 3.7% of GSDP for 2025-26 (₹27,398 crore), a marked improvement from 5.7% the prior year, with the state budgeting toward a balanced revenue account. The February 2025 "Advantage Assam 2.0" investment summit in Guwahati drew commitments of roughly ₹4.91 lakh crore — nearly five times the 2018 edition — including ₹50,000 crore pledges each from Reliance Industries and the Adani Group. The centrepiece of the state's diversification push is Tata Electronics' roughly ₹27,000 crore semiconductor assembly and test facility at Jagiroad, Morigaon district — built on the site of a defunct paper mill and expected to begin chip production in 2026, with around 15,000 direct jobs.

“In 1950-51, Assam's per-capita income was 4% above India's national average. By the late 1990s it had fallen as much as 41% below it — one of the steepest relative economic declines of any Indian state in the post-independence era.

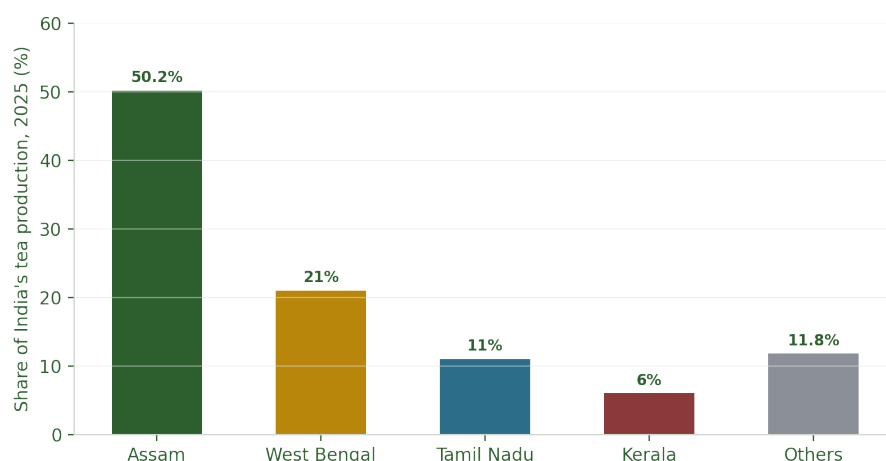
— EAC-PM Working Paper; Statista historical per-capita income series

Industries & What Drives Them

Assam's industrial identity was built on two commodities discovered almost by accident within a few decades of each other — tea in 1823, oil in 1867 — and its newest bet, semiconductors, is trying to add a third pillar entirely.

1 Tea Agriculture

Assam produced roughly 687.76 million kg of tea in 2025 — 50.2% of India's total national production — from nearly 800 large estates and over 1,150 small tea gardens, plus more than 122,000 registered small growers across 28 districts. The sector supports over 1.2 million direct jobs. Discovery traces to 1823, when Robert Bruce was shown indigenous wild tea plants by Singpho chief Bessa Gam near Sivasagar; commercial cultivation began at Chabua in 1835.



Share of India's total tea production, 2025. Assam alone produces more tea than every other Indian state combined.

2 Oil & Natural Gas Energy

Oil was discovered accidentally in 1867 during railway construction near Digboi; the Digboi Refinery, commissioned 1901, remains Asia's oldest continuously operating oil refinery. Oil India Limited (field HQ at Duliajan) and ONGC both operate extensively in Assam, though production from the maturing Upper Assam basin has recently run below annual targets, a sign of an ageing hydrocarbon province.

3 Muga Silk Handicraft/Export

A naturally golden silk from a wild silkworm species found only in Assam's ecological niche, GI-tagged in 2007; Assam supplies roughly 95-96% of world Muga production. Sualkuchi village hosts over 13,000 active handlooms, Japan its leading export market.

4 Petrochemicals & Refining Industry

Downstream value-addition on Assam's own crude and gas feedstock: the Numaligarh Refinery (Golaghat district) is undergoing a ₹28,026 crore expansion to triple capacity from 3 to 9 MMTPA; the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer plant near Dibrugarh (a 1985 Assam Accord commitment) and Assam Petro-Chemicals at Namrup round out the state's petrochemical base.

5 Semiconductor Assembly (New) Advanced Manufacturing

Tata Electronics' roughly ₹27,000 crore Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test facility at Jagiroad, Morigaon district, designed for up to 48 million chips a day, is Assam's first major bet on high-tech manufacturing beyond its traditional tea/oil base, with chip production targeted for 2026 and around 15,000 direct jobs.

6 Areca Nut Agriculture

Assam is India's third-largest areca (betel) nut producer, contributing roughly 20% of national output behind Karnataka and Kerala, grown widely across the Brahmaputra Valley and tightly woven into everyday tamul-paan hospitality culture.

7 Cane & Bamboo Handicrafts Handicraft

Built on Assam's abundant bamboo forests and household-level craft traditions; around 480 registered units across 26 districts, plus 500-plus self-help-group clusters, produce baskets, furniture and mats, mostly as a subsidiary occupation for cultivators.

8 Rice Agriculture

Rice, grown across three cropping seasons (Sali, Ahu, Boro) on the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys' fertile alluvial soil, remains Assam's staple food crop and central to rural food security, though the state is not among India's top national rice producers by volume.

Transport & Connectivity

Before 1962, no bridge crossed the Brahmaputra anywhere in Assam — every journey between the north and south banks meant a ferry. Even today, only a handful of bridges span its entire 900 km run through the state.

4.94 km

BOGIBEEL BRIDGE — INDIA'S LONGEST RAIL-CUM-ROAD BRIDGE

6.57m

GUWAHATI AIRPORT PASSENGERS, FY2024-25

1962

SARAIGHAT BRIDGE — THE FIRST BRIDGE EVER BUILT OVER THE BRAHMAPUTRA

~4

BRIDGES SPANNING THE BRAHMAPUTRA'S ENTIRE 900 KM RUN THROUGH ASSAM

Rail: railways first reached Assam in 1881, when a metre-gauge line was built purely to move Makum-colliery coal and Dibrugarh tea; the historic Guwahati-Lumding broad-gauge line opened in 1900. The Northeast Frontier Railway zone, formed 1958 and headquartered at Maligaon near Guwahati, still runs the region's rail network from there, following a major 2014-16 metre-to-broad-gauge conversion that unified the region's tracks.

Bridging the Brahmaputra: for over a century after railways arrived, no bridge crossed the Brahmaputra in Assam at all. The **Saraighat Bridge** at Guwahati, first conceived in 1910 but delayed by the Second World War and catastrophic 1942-43 floods, finally opened in 1962 as Assam's first-ever Brahmaputra crossing. The **Kolia Bhomora Setu** (Tezpur-Nagaon, 1987) and **Naranarayan Setu** (Jogighopa-Pancharatna, 1998) followed. The **Bogibeel Bridge**, opened 2018, is India's longest rail-cum-road bridge at 4.94 km, connecting Dibrugarh district to Dhemaji district on the way to Arunachal Pradesh, engineered to withstand magnitude-7 earthquakes. Even now, a river that reaches nearly 20 km wide in monsoon season is spanned by only a handful of bridges across its entire 900 km course through the state — a gap the under-construction Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge (targeting 2028, over 19 km, India's second-longest bridge over water) and a newly-approved underwater Brahmaputra road-cum-rail tunnel (Gohpur-Numaligarh, cutting a 240 km journey to 34 km) are both meant to close.

Air: Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati, handled 6.57 million passengers in FY2024-25 (up 7.67%), and opened a new ₹4,000 crore integrated terminal in December 2025 with 13.1 million-passenger annual capacity — consolidating its role as Northeast India's principal air gateway.

Environment, Wildlife & Biodiversity

Assam's Kaziranga National Park went from losing 27 rhinos a year to poachers to two consecutive poaching-free years — one of Indian conservation's clearest success stories, even as the state's forest cover keeps shrinking and Majuli keeps washing away.

36.10%

FOREST COVER OF
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA (ISFR
2023) — DECLINING

2,613

RHINOS IN KAZIRANGA, 2022
CENSUS — THE WORLD'S
LARGEST POPULATION

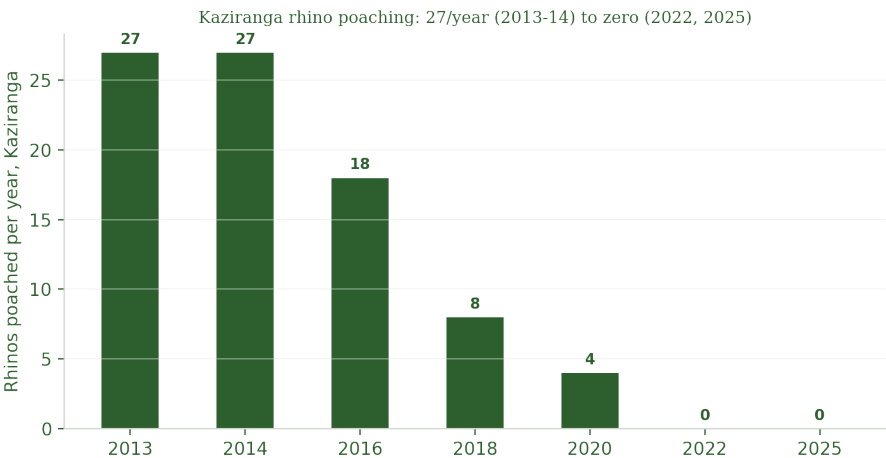
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RHINOS POACHED IN ASSAM IN
2022 AND 2025

~50%

OF MAJULI ISLAND'S LANDMASS LOST TO EROSION SINCE 1971

Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985, covers roughly 430 sq km at its core (with an associated tiger reserve of 1,056 sq km), and holds around 2,613 greater one-horned rhinoceroses per the 2022 census — adding Orang National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary brings Assam's statewide total to roughly 2,845, easily the largest population of the species anywhere on Earth. Poaching once ran as high as 27 rhinos killed per year (2013-14); coordinated measures — 253 anti-poaching camps, drone surveillance, all-women "Van Durga" patrol units, and "Operation Falcon" — cut poaching 86% between 2016 and 2024, and Assam recorded its first fully poaching-free year since 1977 in 2022, repeating the feat in 2025.



Rhinos poached per year in Kaziranga: from 27 (2013-14) to zero in both 2022 and 2025.

Manas National Park, a 391 sq km UNESCO World Heritage Site on the Bhutan border since 1985, was placed on UNESCO's "World Heritage in Danger" list in 1992 after militancy-linked poaching devastated its tiger and rhino populations — and was removed from that list in 2011, a recovery closely tied to the stabilisation of the Bodo peace process in the surrounding districts.

Majuli's erosion crisis: the world's largest river island has shrunk from roughly 1,256 sq km in 1971 to around 500 sq km today — losing close to half its landmass, and swallowing 67 entire revenue villages in the process. Mitigation efforts (geo-bags, porcupine screens, boulder spurs) have had limited, contested success; a new ₹1,400 crore bridge connecting Majuli to the mainland is targeted for completion in December 2027.

“Assam went from losing 27 rhinos a year to poachers in 2013-14 to a fully poaching-free year in 2022 — its first since 1977 — and repeated that zero in 2025.

— Assam Forest Department; The Print ground reporting

Problems Facing Assam

Assam's defining problems share a single upstream cause — the Brahmaputra — but its most politically charged issue, the decades-old citizenship debate, has nothing to do with the river at all.

1 Annual Flooding

The 2024 monsoon affected 2.45 million people across 30 districts, with roughly 14 lakh affected at peak across 2,545 villages; of 423 embankments built along the Brahmaputra since the 1950s, 295 have outlived their intended lifespan, causing recurring breaches almost every year.

2 River-Bank Erosion

Majuli has lost roughly half its landmass since 1971, and erosion continues at multiple points along the Brahmaputra's braided channel system statewide, worsened by upstream deforestation and the region's high seismicity.

3 ULFA-I Insurgency (Unresolved)

While ULFA's pro-talks faction signed a peace accord in December 2023, the breakaway ULFA-Independent faction under Paresh Baruah remains active from bases reportedly near the Myanmar border; a March 2026 grenade-and-gunfire attack on a police commando camp in Tinsukia district underscored that the insurgency, while diminished, is not fully resolved.

4 The NRC & Citizenship Debate

The August 2019 final National Register of Citizens excluded roughly 19 lakh applicants; the Supreme Court upheld the Assam Accord's Section 6A citizenship provision in October 2024, but a petition seeking full re-verification of the NRC remains pending, and detention/"transit camp" practices for those declared foreigners have drawn continued Supreme Court scrutiny into 2025.

5 Tea Garden Worker Welfare

A 2024 CAG report found tea-worker wages "meagre" and welfare-scheme implementation poor; Barak Valley workers are paid at least 10% less than their Brahmaputra Valley counterparts, and statutory housing, healthcare and education obligations under the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 have historically been unevenly enforced.

6 Declining Forest Cover

Assam's forest cover fell by roughly 84-87 sq km between the 2021 and 2023 India State of Forest Reports — the third-largest such decline of any Indian state in that period, even as canopy density degraded across nearly 1,700 sq km of recorded forest area.

7 A Golden Triangle Drug Corridor

Assam, and Guwahati in particular, functions as a key transit corridor for narcotics moving from the Golden Triangle via Myanmar and Manipur toward the rest of India and Bangladesh; the wider Northeast region recorded drug seizures worth ₹2,919 crore and over 23,000 arrests across a recent five-year span.

Solutions & Policy Responses

Assam has a genuine template for resolving an insurgency through negotiated disarmament — it used one on the Bodo movement in 2020. Whether the same approach can eventually reach ULFA-I is the state's biggest unresolved policy question.

1 Embankments & the Brahmaputra Board

The central Brahmaputra Board, established 1980, surveys the Brahmaputra and Barak basins and prepares flood/erosion-control masterplans; implementation has been repeatedly criticised as inadequate given that 295 of 423 existing embankments have already outlived their design life, and the Board has recently signed a research partnership with IIT Guwahati to improve flood and erosion modelling.

2 Third Bodo Accord (2020)

Ended a 48-year Bodoland statehood demand: all four NDFB insurgent factions became party to the accord, and 1,615 cadres surrendered arms in a single day (30 January 2020) — converting the Bodoland Territorial Council into the more empowered Bodoland Territorial Region, with its council expanded from 40 to 60 seats.

3 ULFA Peace Accord (2023) & Continued Outreach to ULFA-I

The pro-talks ULFA faction signed a tripartite peace accord with the Centre and state government on 29 December 2023, disbanding and renouncing violence. The state continues intermittent outreach to the holdout ULFA-Independent faction through intermediaries, offering safe passage, even as sporadic attacks (including a March 2026 Tinsukia camp assault) continue.

4 Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025

Replaced older foreigners-related legislation, giving Foreigners' Tribunals enhanced, judicial-magistrate-equivalent powers — part of the state's continued legal and administrative effort to operationalise the Assam Accord's citizenship framework, alongside the Supreme Court's October 2024 affirmation of Section 6A's constitutional validity.

5 Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Prakalpa & Wage Reform

Launched 2017-18, this direct-benefit-transfer scheme has pushed cash payments (₹2,500-3,000 per tranche) to over 7 lakh tea-garden bank accounts across 26 districts to improve financial inclusion; more directly, the state approved an interim ₹30 daily wage hike in April 2026, lifting tea-worker wages to ₹280 (Brahmaputra Valley) and ₹258 (Barak Valley).

6 Kaziranga's "Operation Falcon"

A coordinated anti-poaching effort combining the Forest Department, Assam Police and Revenue Department — alongside 253 dedicated anti-poaching camps, drone surveillance and all-women "Van Durga" units — cut rhino poaching 86% between 2016 and 2024 and delivered two fully poaching-free years (2022, 2025).

What Assam Can Learn From Other States & Regions

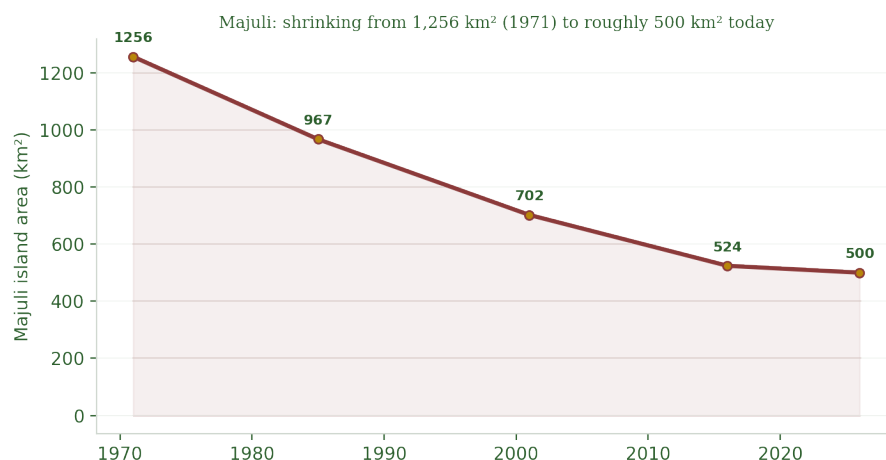
Assam's specific combination of chronic river flooding, an island literally dissolving into its own river, and an insurgency that ended in some places but not others has close analogues elsewhere — several with genuinely transferable, quantified lessons.

1 The Netherlands — Delta Works & "Room for the River"

Built after the catastrophic 1953 North Sea flood, the Netherlands' Delta Works (sluices, dikes, storm-surge barriers) protect a country where 26% of land sits below sea level; its complementary "Room for the River" programme deliberately gives rivers more floodplain space rather than just building higher embankments, restoring wetlands while cutting flood risk. *Lesson for Assam: pairing new embankment construction with deliberate floodplain-restoration zones, rather than relying on embankments alone, could reduce the 70% embankment-failure problem documented in Chapter 13.*

2 Bangladesh — Char-Land Community Adaptation

Studies of Jamuna/Brahmaputra char-land communities in Sirajganj, Kurigram and Tangail districts found that farmers organised into Community-Based Organisations adopted nearly four times as many flood-adaptation strategies as unorganised farmers, even where formal institutional support was thin. *Lesson for Assam: formalising community-based adaptation networks on Majuli and other erosion-affected river islands could meaningfully improve resilience even where large infrastructure funding lags.*



Majuli's shrinking landmass, 1971 to today — the scale of the erosion challenge any comparative lesson has to address.

3 Mizoram Peace Accord (1986) — The Region's Own Success Story

Ending roughly 20 years of insurgency, the 1986 accord led directly to Mizoram's 1987 statehood and is widely cited as the only fully successful insurgency-resolution accord in India's history; Mizoram today has literacy second only to Kerala and per-capita GDP roughly twice Uttar

Pradesh's. *Lesson for Assam: Mizoram shows that a complete, durable insurgency resolution is achievable within the region itself — the Bodo Accord's 2020 disarmament already follows a similar template, and could offer a roadmap for eventually resolving ULFA-I as well.*

4 Punjab — The Risk of Peace Without Follow-Through

Punjab's post-militancy "normalcy" since the early 1990s has been undermined by economic stagnation, drug-trade resurgence and persistent unemployment, showing that a security accord alone does not guarantee lasting

prosperity. *Lesson for Assam: the state's own tea-belt drug-transit problem (Chapter 13) suggests economic follow-through — not just security settlements — will determine whether post-ULFA Assam avoids Punjab's cautionary pattern.*

5 Colombia — FARC Demobilisation (2016)

Colombia's 2016 peace agreement demobilised thousands of fighters and saw 100% of FARC's weapons handed to a UN monitoring mission by mid-2017, using purpose-built demobilisation zones and a formal reintegration architecture. *Lesson for Assam: a similarly formal, internationally-*

monitored disarmament framework — rather than the current informal intermediary-based outreach — could give any eventual ULFA-I talks a more credible structure to build on.

6 Sri Lanka & Kenya — Tea-Worker Wage Reform

Sri Lanka's 2021 Wages Board reform raised minimum daily tea-worker pay, while Kenyan tea estates have piloted productivity-linked HR practices to improve both worker outcomes and yields — though child labour and job insecurity remain documented problems in both. *Lesson for Assam: pairing its 2026 wage hike with productivity-linked incentive structures, rather than flat wage increases alone, could improve both worker welfare and garden output simultaneously.*

7 Vietnam & the Gulf States — Planned Economic Diversification

Vietnam's Đổi Mới reforms (from 1986) and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 both show that successful diversification away from a dominant commodity requires sustained, multi-decade policy commitment, workforce skilling and credit access — not a single flagship project. *Lesson for Assam: the Tata semiconductor plant is a promising start, but the World Bank/IMF evidence suggests it will only reduce tea-and-oil dependency if paired with sustained skilling and follow-on investment over the next decade, not treated as a one-off.*

Future Growth & Potential

Assam's next decade rests on a genuinely new bet: converting its position as India's gateway to Southeast Asia into an advanced-manufacturing and energy-transition story, rather than remaining defined solely by tea and crude oil.

₹4.91 lakh cr

INVESTMENT COMMITMENTS,
ADVANTAGE ASSAM 2.0 (FEB
2025)

₹27,000 cr

TATA ELECTRONICS
SEMICONDUCTOR PLANT,
JAGIROAD

~14 GW

ESTIMATED RENEWABLE-ENERGY
POTENTIAL (SOLAR, HYDRO, BIO)

3.68 Cr

PROJECTED 2026 POPULATION

Act East gateway: Assam sits at the centre of India's Act East Policy, bordering Bhutan and Bangladesh and positioned near Myanmar, and is frequently described as the policy's "pivot." Projects like the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project are meant to stitch Assam into a wider ASEAN-India economic corridor, a role Advantage Assam 2.0 (February 2025) explicitly marketed to the 62 foreign missions that attended.

Growth sectors: the Tata Electronics semiconductor assembly and test plant at Jagiroad, targeting chip production in 2026 with around 15,000 direct jobs, is Assam's clearest bet on diversifying beyond tea and oil, symbolically built on the site of a defunct paper mill. Renewable energy is a second growth lane: Assam's current energy mix is over 70% coal/gas and only around 9% renewable, against an estimated 14 GW of solar, hydro and bioenergy potential and a state target of 3,500 MW of solar capacity by 2030; a Tata Power MoU alone covers up to 5 GW of future renewable projects. The infrastructure pipeline — the Guwahati Ring Road, the under-construction Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge, the approved underwater Brahmaputra tunnel, and continued Asom Mala road expansion — is designed to support both.

Demographic dividend — and its risk: Assam's population, projected to reach roughly 3.68 crore by 2026, remains young relative to much of India, and its labour force participation rate (66.9%) already exceeds the national average. But that dividend depends on absorbing workers into higher-productivity jobs than tea and subsistence agriculture currently offer — the semiconductor plant and renewable-energy build-out could together generate well over 150,000 new jobs, a meaningful but still partial answer to a workforce this size, especially if the state's youth unemployment and drug-transit problems (Chapter 13) are not addressed in parallel.

Notable Facts

A closing set of facts that capture Assam's particular mix of river-defined geography and outsized global commodity influence.

- ✦ Assam alone produces more tea than every other Indian state combined — 50.2% of India's national output in 2025.
- ✦ The Digboi Refinery, commissioned in 1901, is Asia's oldest continuously operating oil refinery.
- ✦ No bridge crossed the Brahmaputra anywhere in Assam until 1962 — every north-south crossing before then was by ferry.
- ✦ Kaziranga National Park holds roughly 2,613 greater one-horned rhinoceroses, the largest population of the species anywhere on Earth, and Assam recorded zero rhino poaching in both 2022 and 2025.
- ✦ Majuli, the world's largest river island, has lost close to half its landmass to erosion since 1971 — swallowing 67 entire villages.
- ✦ Before 1963, undivided Assam contained nearly all of what is now considered India's Northeast; Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were each carved from its territory between 1963 and 1987.
- ✦ The Ahom dynasty ruled the Brahmaputra Valley for almost 600 years and was never conquered by the Mughals, who made their last serious attempt at the 1671 Battle of Saraighat.
- ✦ Sattriya, recognised as an Indian classical dance form in 2000, survived for five centuries almost entirely within the Vaishnavite monasteries of a single river island, Majuli.
- ✦ Assam supplies roughly 95-96% of the world's Muga silk, a naturally golden silk produced commercially nowhere else on Earth.
- ✦ The 1981 Census was never conducted in Assam, a direct casualty of the Assam Movement against illegal immigration — a genuine gap in the state's demographic record.
- ✦ Assam's newest industrial landmark, a Tata Electronics semiconductor plant at Jagiroad, is being built on the site of a shuttered paper mill.

Sources consulted for this report include the Census of India (2011, with subsequent projections), Assam's state Economic Survey and budget documents, NITI Aayog and RBI/EAC-PM data releases, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4 and NFHS-5), India State of Forest Report (ISFR 2023), PRS Legislative Research budget analyses, Gauhati High Court and Assam Legislative Assembly

records, UNESCO documentation, Tea Board of India data, and cross-checked Wikipedia and reputable news coverage (including of the 2023-24 district reorganisation, the 2023 ULFA peace accord, and the 2024 NRC/Section 6A Supreme Court ruling). Figures marked "approx." or "estimated" reflect the most recent publicly available data at time of writing (2025-26) and may be revised as newer official data is released; where sources disagreed (for example on exact rhino poaching figures or investment-summit MoU totals), the most recent or most authoritative figure was used and the discrepancy is noted in text.