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Leveraging the Strategic Location Advantage

The Strategic location of Assam, in proximity to the growing ASEAN economies, provides easy access to a market of over 800 million consumers. All the major cities of ASEAN are located geographically closer to Assam, when compared to other major cities of India. Being contiguous to all the NE states other than Sikkim, Assam is the heart of Northeast. Thus, the demand from all the neighbouring NE states can easily be addressed from Assam.

A significant stretch (in North East) of the ongoing Trans Asian Highway, AH-1/ AH-2 project, passes through key districts of Assam. Some of the major projects being executed in the Region include Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project. Upon completion of these projects, the trade with ASEAN countries is destined to grow. Similarly, a part of the proposed Trans Asian Rail network, passes through key districts of Assam. All these infrastructural projects are set to boost trade with ASEAN and neighbouring countries. Hence Assam is set to be the destination of choice for setting up business ties with the ASEAN and neighbouring economies. The businesses operating out of Assam shall have logistical cost advantage over their competitors.
Assam in Facts and Figures
Snapshot of Assam

Geographical Location
24° N - 28° N latitude,
90° E to 96° E longitude

Area
78438 Sq. Km
(17th largest state in India)

Capital
Dispur
(contiguous with Guwahati,
Kamrup Metropolitan)

Administrative Districts
33

Population (Census 2011)
• 31.21 million
  (15.27 million females)
• Urban population = ~14 per cent

Population density
(as per 2011 census)
398 per Sq. Km

Language
Assamese, Bengali, Bodo,
Hindi & English

GSDP (2016-17)
USD 34.08 Bn
Key geographical divisions

- the Barail and Southern Hill ranges
- The Brahmaputra Valley (800 km long and 80-90 km wide)
- The Karbi Plateau
- The Barak/Surma Valley or Cachar Plains

Forest Cover
18,55,165 hectare i.e. 23.65 per cent of the total geographical area (7843800 hectare)

Flora & Fauna
- 4273 species of vascular plants, i.e. 25 per cent of India’s floristic wealth
- Assam has conserved the one-horned Indian rhinoceros from near extinction, along with the pygmy hog, tiger and various species of birds. It provides one of the last wild habitats for the Asian elephant
- Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park are registered as world-heritage sites
- The river systems and associated wetlands offer an ideal habitat for fresh water fish diversity
Assam in Facts and Figures

THE ECONOMY

- Assam’s GSDP at current prices during 2014-15 was approx. USD 28.28 billion (approx. USD 918.74 per capita) and grew at 13 per cent CAGR from 2004-05 to 2014-15.
- During the period 2004-05 to 2015-16, the state’s tertiary sector grew at a CAGR of 15.07 percent, driven by trade, hotels, real estate, finance, insurance, transport, communications and other services. The primary sector grew at a CAGR of 11.62 percent, while the secondary sector grew at 10.31 per cent during the same period.
- Assam aims to maintain an overall GSDP growth rate of over 10 percent, with industrial growth at over 9 per cent and growth in services at over 13 per cent over the next 5 years.

Sectoral GSDP Composition

![Sectoral GSDP Composition Chart]

Assam GSDP Growth Trend
Base Year 2004-05

![Assam GSDP Growth Trend Chart]
Physical Infrastructure

Roads & Highways

Assam has an extensive network of roads and highways which is constantly being augmented.

National Highways 3834 km
State Highways 2530 km
Major District Roads 4413 km
Rural Roads 36544 km

The East West Corridor which starts from Porbandar in Gujarat ends at Silchar in Assam. Before reaching Silchar, it travels a distance 670 Km in the State. In Assam, the highway starts from Assam/West Bengal Border (km 0 of NH-31C) at Srirampur and ends at Silchar (km 306.25 of NH-54). The highway passes through major districts of the State covering important places like Silchar, Maibong, Lumding, Daboka, Nagaon, Sonapur, Guwahati, Nalbari, Bijnai and Bongaigaon.

Assam is also a part of the two Trans Asian Highway (AH-1 & AH-2). Of which AH-1 starts from Tokyo, Japan (connected by ferry) and runs through Seoul, Beijing, Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh to Mae Sot, Yangon, Mandalay & Tamu, before entering India through Moreh, in Manipur. In the North Eastern States of India both AH-1 & AH-2 passes through Imphal, Kohima, Dimapur, Nagaon, Jorabat (Guwahati), Shillong, and Dawki before entering Bangladesh. After Sylhet & Dhaka, the highway again runs through Indian cities i.e, Kolkata, Kanpur & New Delhi. The highway leaves India through Attari, and runs through Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Kabul, Istanbul till the border of Bulgaria.

Similarly AH-2 Starts from the Indonesian capital city of Denpasar to Jakarta, Singapore (connected by ferry), Bangkok, Mandalay, Tamu, Moreh, Imphal, Kohima, Dimapur, Nagaon, Jorabat (Guwahati), Shillong, Dawki, Sylhet, Dhaka, Siliguri, Kakarbhitta, Mahendranagar, New Delhi, Attari, Lahore, Quetta and Salafchegan (Tehran).

The Asian Highways (AH-1 & AH-2) overlaps the East-West corridor stretch between Jorbat (near Guwahati) to Kathiatoli in Nagaon district of Assam.
Railways

Assam has a 2091.81 km railway network on broad gauge. A focused mission to firstly interconnect all states in the NER on one hand, and of gauge conversion on the other is underway. Recent reports suggest that the Government of India has undertaken several measures, such as starting 25 new trains, expediting the implementation of 20 projects for improving the region’s rail connectivity and sanctioning of another 24 new projects since 2014. INR 13,500 crore has been allocated for the NER’s railways development, including an elevated rail track project from Kamakhya to New Guwahati at a cost of INR 3,062 crore.

Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) operates an Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Amingaon, 10 km from Guwahati. The depot has two bonded warehouses of CONCOR along with a private warehouse (total area of 6,400 sq.m) It also has one Reach Stacker of 50 MT capacity and two sling cranes of 35 MT capacity.
REFERENCE:
1. EXISTING RAILWAY LINES
2. WORKS IN PROGRESS
   A. NEW LINE
   B. GAUGE CONVERSION
   C. DOUBLING
3. SURVEYS
4. SUGGESTED RLY. LINE
5. ELECTRIFICATION
6. OTHERS RLY.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
DRAWING OFFICE/PLANNING DIRECTORATE
Assam has six operational airstrips, viz. Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Lilabari, Silchar and Tezpur. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) plans to develop Guwahati as an inter-regional hub. The Union Civil Aviation Ministry, in order to boost its Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) agenda, has intended to launch a new Airline based out of Guwahati which would connect all state capitals in the North East Region.

The Government of Assam recently signed a MoU with the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation and AAI under the RCS. Under the RCS, Central Government shall provide 90% share of VGF (Viability Gap Funding) to Assam. In addition, Central Government shall provide concessions on Service Tax on tickets. The State Government shall reduce VAT to 1% or less on ATF at RCS Airports and for RCS flights from other airports located within the state. It shall also provide minimum land, if required, free of cost for development and expansion of RCS Airports and also provide multi-modal hinterland connectivity (road, rail, metro, waterways etc.) as required. Security and fire services shall be provided free of cost at RCS Airports and electricity, water, other utility services shall be provided at substantially concessional rates.

The state government has proposed enhancing the frequency of flights connecting the NER state capitals, and extension of the RCS purview to cover routes connecting the region to Kunming, Yangon, Mandalay and Dhaka, while initiating flights from Dibrugarh to Bangkok and Singapore, and resuming the Silchar – Delhi route.
Inland Waterways Transport (IWT)

15 of the recently declared 111 National Waterways promise to interconnect the NER. Assam houses the 891 km long NW-2 stretch of the Brahmaputra River and 121 km long NW-16 stretch of the Barak River. The envisioned Integrated National Waterways Transportation Grid (NTG) promises to add 821 km navigable water route length to the existing route length.

Assam’s linear area profile, from upper (Tinsukia) to lower Brahmaputra (Dhubri, via Guwahati), with almost the entire state’s geographical territory being included in the zone of the mighty river’s catchment, makes it the ideal destination to ramp up inland waterways logistics and transport, through diverse models of projects. Road transport can potentially be reduced to relevance only in terms of connecting the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys.

The Directorate of Inland Water Transport (IWT) and Central Inland Waterways Corporation of Assam operate water transport services along the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers on a commercial basis. These services are used to transport passengers and goods across the state and to West Bengal. The chief goods that are transported include jute, coal, fertilisers, cement, machinery, and forest and agricultural products. The present cargo handling capacity of the fleet is nearly 10,000 metric tonnes.
Power

As of March 2017, Assam had a total installed power generation capacity of 1,599.65 MW, of which 364.7 MW is produced by State Utility. The present handling capacity of the Assam Electricity Grid Corporation is approximately 1650 MW.

Assam has an identified potential of generating 14000 MW of Solar Power.
Digital Connectivity

As of March, 2017, Assam had a tele-density of 66.9 per cent – 19 million wireless subscribers, and approximately 6.5 million internet subscribers.

To provide last mile connectivity to the rural local self-government (Panchayat) level, NIC, DIT and BSNL are implementing the BharatNet National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN). Assam has a total of 1955 km of pipe laid, housing 1753 km of optic fibre cable, which connected 682 village panchayats to the NOFN.
Urban Infrastructure

The state has launched Assam Urban Infrastructure Investment Program (AUIIP), funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve water supply, sewerage and urban transport systems in Guwahati and Dibrugarh. The program also includes storm water drainage and solid waste management system in Dibrugarh. The Project-I of AUIIP is being implemented at an estimated cost of USD 115.5 million.

The Guwahati Smart City project aims to transform the city of just under one million people into a global business hub for the state in particular and the region in general.

Besides Guwahati, the cities of Dibrugarh, Nagaon and Silchar have been identified for Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) that focuses on water supply, sewerage and urban transport, and thereby enhance the standards of urban life.

In the state budget 2017-18, big infrastructure projects in the 6 cities with lakhs plus population - Silchar, Tinsukia, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Nagaon and Tezpur, have been accorded high priority and critical infrastructure projects will be taken up in these six big cities at a total outlay of INR 1200 crore over a period of four years under a new scheme called City Infrastructure Development Fund (CIDF).
INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE
Over 4000 acres of land bank is available for allotment to Industries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industrial Infrastructure in Assam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industrial Growth Centres</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industrial Infrastructure Development Centres (I IDC)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) | Location: Amingaon (Kamrup District)  
Constituents: 47 industrial units producing diverse export quality products |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Other Industrial Infrastructure   | • Food Park at Chaygaon in Kamrup District  
• North East Mega Food Park in Nalbari District  
• Software Technology Park (under STPI), Guwahati  
• Biotech Park, Guwahati  
• Plastic Park, Gelapukhuri (Tinsukia)  
• Bamboo Technology Park, Chaygaon  
• Multi Sector Industrial Park, |
| Industrial Estates                | 20 Industrial Estates, 08 Mini Industrial Estates, 17 Industrial Areas and 12 Growth Centres in the state within which 722 industrial units are functioning |
| Border Trading Centres           | • Sutarkandi (Karimganj – with Bangladesh)  
• Darranga (Baksa - with Bhutan)  
• Golokganj and Mankachar (Dhubri – with Bangladesh) |

### Other Key Infrastructure (Proposed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the project</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Area (in acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multi Sector Industrial Park</td>
<td>Bongaigaon</td>
<td>Bongaigaon</td>
<td>733</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi Sector Industrial Park</td>
<td>Tinsukia</td>
<td>Tinsukia</td>
<td>433</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi Sector Industrial Park</td>
<td>Jagiroad</td>
<td>Morigaon</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Sector Industrial Park</td>
<td>Katimari Pathar, Nagaon</td>
<td>Nagaon</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Sector Industrial Park</td>
<td>Bonda, Guwahati,</td>
<td>Kamrup (M)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Sector Industrial Park</td>
<td>Bijni</td>
<td>Chirang</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi Sector Industrial Park</td>
<td>Karimganj</td>
<td>Karimganj</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi Sector Industrial Park</td>
<td>Dhing, Nagaon</td>
<td>Nagaon</td>
<td>151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi Sector Industrial Park</td>
<td>Nagarbera</td>
<td>Kamrup (R)</td>
<td>608</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi Sector Industrial Park</td>
<td>Goalpara</td>
<td>Goalpara</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Sector Industrial Park</td>
<td>Sadya</td>
<td>Tinsukia</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Park for Sugar Mills</td>
<td>Dergaon</td>
<td>Golaghat</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dergaon</td>
<td>Golaghat</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kampur, Nagaon</td>
<td>Nagaon</td>
<td>531</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also, one Textile Park at Sipajhar and one Tea Park at Chaygaon is under construction.
Key Resources

Assam is the single largest tea producing region globally and contributes over 50 per cent (6,52,950 MT in 2015-16) of India’s total tea production (1.23 Million MT Jan in 2015-16). The state houses over 765 tea gardens across Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat, Nagaon and Sonitpur. The Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) is amongst the largest CTC tea auction centres of the world. The government has secured a Geographical Indication (GI) for the tea produced in the state. As a result ‘Assam Tea’ is known as ‘Assam Orthodox Tea’.
The state is the third largest on-shore producer of Crude Oil and highest producer of natural gas in the country. Major state refineries are located at Digboi, Guwahati, Bongaigaon and Numaligarh, with a total refining capacity of 7.00 MMTPA. The Assam-Arakan Basin in Northeast India is an important oil-producing region and contains more than 15% of the country’s reserves. As on 31.3.2017, Assam has over 1.6 billion tonnes of Crude Oil and 158.87 billion cubic meters of Natural Gas reserves.
Coal mined from Assam has high sulphur content and is mainly utilised by local railways, thermal power stations and steamers. Coal occurs mainly in the upper Assam districts of Tinsukia and Dibrugarh in the Makum and Dilli – Jeypore coalfields. Small coal deposits occur sporadically in the central Assam districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. The proven reserve of coal in this belt is about 340 million tonnes.
Good quality cement-grade limestone is found in central Assam districts of Dima Hasao Hills and Karbi Anglong, where a total reserve of about 670 million tonnes is available. The China clay of Karbi-Anglong district is a vital input for the ceramic industries.
Assam enjoys global monopoly in terms of Muga or golden silk production. The state accounts for around 95% of global Muga production. Moreover, Assam is the country’s major Eri silk producer (accounts for 65% of the country’s Eri silk production). Raw silk production in the state during 2015-16 was recorded to be 3,325 MT whereas during 2016-17 (up to May 2016), raw silk production in the state stood at 1,137 MT. Seneh Jori, an Assam Silk Outreach Mission, aims to produce 1 million kg of Muga silk and 10 million kg of Eri Silk by 2025.
Assam is the 3rd largest **jute producing** state in the country. Jute production in Assam has grown at CAGR of 5% between period 2010-11 and 2015-16. The State produced 148.14 Million Ton of Jute in 2015-16. Major jute producing districts of the State include Darranga, Barpeta, Goalpara, Dhuburi, Nagaon & Morigaon. Currently, there are 7 operational jute mills in the State of various capacities. These mills have a cumulative average requirement of 72 Metric Ton raw jute per day. Annual requirement is about 26280 Metric Ton. The availability of adequate raw material, local demand and the proximity of the State to the markets of North East and the ASEAN region, makes Assam a suitable location for setting up jute processing industries in the State.
Assam is the second largest rubber producer next to Tripura in North East. Assam recorded rubber production of 16,418.43 tonne in 2015-16. The state comes under the non-traditional area for rubber cultivation. Major rubber producing districts of the state are Goalpara, Karbi Anglong and Karimganj. The state accounts for around 40 percent of rubber planted area in the NE and area for rubber cultivation stood at 55,989.68 hectares in the 2015-16. The state being a gateway to the sister States provides strategic location advantage in terms of connectivity and proximity to the rubber producing districts within Assam and neighbouring states. Assam also shares its border with Bhutan and Bangladesh. This strategic location of Assam provides ample opportunity for meeting the demands of neighbouring and ASEAN countries.
Assam has a huge untapped potential for agro and food processing industries. Total production of horticulture crops in 2015-16 stood at 77 lakh metric tonnes (MT). In 2015-16, total production of rice was recorded to be 5,123 thousand MT. Similarly, the production of pulses and oilseeds reached 195 thousand MT and 13 thousand MT during 2015-16, respectively. Pineapple, banana, cauliflower, Broccoli, rose and Bougainvillea are among high yielding varieties of horticulture crops in Assam, besides traditional fruits like Carambola, Letuku, Paniyal Thekera, Au tenga etc. The juicy Tezpur litchi and Karbi Anglong’s ginger of Assam have received geographical indication (GI) tags, making these items an incontrovertible proof of their origins in the state.
Assam houses 300 types of **medicinal herbs and plants**, with the Brahmaputra valley alone having 150 varieties of herbs and plants of commercial value. An estimated 5-10% of the plants and herbs have been commercially exploited, offering vast potential for further investments. Assam is one of the largest producer of Citronella & Lemon grass oil and Agar oil.
Since the NER has the highest concentration of bamboo, which accounts for around 60.0% of the total bamboo of the country, Assam has ample scope for **bamboo-based industries** such as paper manufacturing. The objective of the Government of Assam is to promote bamboo as a substitute for wood and make it the timber of the 21st century. Assam has rich forests covering nearly a third of its land area. The forests in the state act as a reserve for commercially useful products such as timber, bamboo, stone, and cane.
Key industries in the state’s major districts are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bongaigaon</td>
<td>Petroleum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dibrugarh</td>
<td>Fertilizer, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jorhat</td>
<td>Tea, Aluminium and Food Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karimganj</td>
<td>Cement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dima Hasao</td>
<td>Cement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sivasagar</td>
<td>Tea, Oil and Natural gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tinsukia</td>
<td>Tea, Coal, Oil and Natural gas, FMCG, Plastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamrup (Undivided)</td>
<td>Cement, textiles, Pharmaceuticals, FMCG, Plastic and Food Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonitpur</td>
<td>FMCG, Food Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goalpara</td>
<td>FMCG, Food Processing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The strategic location of Assam, progressive economy, presence of ancillary industries in the state, existing market demand within the state, adjoining states and neighbouring countries provides conducive opportunity for setting up of industries in myriad sectors. However, the State believes that, the following sectors need immediate attention for investment.

**Focus Sectors for Investment**
Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment
Plastics and Petrochemicals
Power
Inland Waterways, Port Township and Logistics
IT & ITeS
Handloom, Textiles and Handicraft
Tourism, Hospitality & Wellness
Agri-Horticulture, Food Processing Including Organic Cultivation and Bamboo
Petroleum and Natural Gas
Civil Aviation
1. Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment
Indian Pharmaceuticals Industry:

- Expected to grow over 15 per cent per annum between 2015 and 2020 to reach US$ 55 billion.
- Cost of production is significantly lower than that of the USA and half of that of Europe.
- 100% FDI allowed under the automatic route for Greenfield pharma.
- India’s Generic drugs account for 20% of global exports.

**Leveraging Assam Ecosystem:**

- USD 142 mn investment by 9 pharmaceutical units within last 1 year.
- Proximity to ‘Import oriented’ pharmaceutical market in ASEAN economies
- Ample source of Water, Power and Manpower
- Home to more than ten Biotech and Pharmacy related institutes.
- Blessed with more than 952 species of plants used in medical practices.

**Key Infrastructure in Assam:**

- Pharmaceuticals Hub at Balipara, Assam -35 acres
- Guwahati Biotech Park
- Proposed Pharmaceutical Park at Chaygaon, Kamrup -120 acres

**Growth Drivers:**

Some of the existing Pharmaceutical players:
2. Plastics and Petrochemicals

Leveraging Assam Ecosystem:

- With annual production of 4.203 Million Metric Tonne of crude oil and 8.56 MMSCMD of Natural Gas, Assam contributes over 13% of India’s total crude oil output and 9.8% of India’s total Natural Gas production.
- Proximity to BBN & ASEAN Countries which accounts of approx. 10% of total Plastic exports of India.
- Ample source of Water, Power and Manpower.
- 187 industrial units engaged in manufacturing of plastic products with annual installed capacity 320000 MT.
- Home to 20 Engineering related institutes including CIPET, IIT, Plastic Waste Management Centre to provide highly skilled and trained manpower.

Brahmaputra Crackers and Polymers, the largest source of Raw Materials for Plastics and downstream petrochemical Industry

Located near Dibrugarh, Assam, BCPL produces High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) totalling 2, 20,000 Tonnes per Annum (TPA) and 60,000 TPA of Poly-Propylene (PP).

Key Infrastructure in Assam for Plastics Manufacturing:

Plastic Park at Tinsukia with present allocable area of 4,80,000 sqm.

Key Players in Plastics Sector in Assam:
3. Power

**Power sector in Assam:**
- Assam has a total installed power generation capacity of 1,599.65 MW, of which 331.2 MW is produced by APGCL.
- 2318 villages covering 27.5 Lakh rural households have been electrified, as on July 2017.

**Leveraging Assam’s Ecosystem:**
- Assam amongst North eastern states has the highest potential for solar energy with estimated potential of 14 GW solar energy.
- Assam has a capacity to produce 680 MW of hydro power.
- Power Projects under construction in the state - 259 MW
- Power Projects in pipeline in the state - 1836.5 MW

**Growth Drivers:**
- Increase in economic activity and rapid urbanisation
- Ample availability of renewable energy sources
- Active investments in modernisation and capacity building of existing infrastructure
4. Inland Waterways, Port Townships and Logistics

Why Inland Waterways:
Cost of transport 1 tonne of freight over 1 km

- Rs. 1.41 for Railways
  - 85 tonnes by Rail in 1 liter fuel

- Rs. 2.28 for Highways
  - 24 tonnes by Road in 1 liter fuel

- Rs. 1.19 for Waterways
  - 105 tonnes by Water in 1 liter fuel

Capability of 1 liter fuel in Freight transport

Indian IWT Scenario:
- India has nearly 14,500 km of navigable inland waterways
- Inland Waterways carries less than 0.5% of India’s freight traffic.
- 111 water bodies / sections throughout the country declared as National Waterways.
- IWT identified as one of its focus areas of development. Govt is undertaking several policy initiatives to develop the sector.
- Major projects such as Jal Marg Pariyojana and Integrated National Waterways Transportation Grid

Leveraging Assam’s Ecosystem:
- With 15 National Waterways (NW), Assam has nearly 10% of cumulative navigable length of all 111 NWs in India.
- IWT caters to about 4 per cent of the total freight tonnage movement to and from the state.
- 24-hour Night navigation facilities are put in place by IWA from Dhubri up to Dibrugarh.
- Ro-Ro terminal is operational at Dhubri
- Govt. of Assam has identified four ports which will be used as immigration checkpoints, namely; Silghat, Pandu, Karimganj and Dhubri
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) undertakes dredging to maintain a fairway of 45 m width with Least Assured Depth (LAD).

World Bank assisted program for improvement of inland water transport scenario:
To modernize and transform Inland Water Transport in Assam, the World Bank is assisting Government of Assam through a phase wise project which includes up gradation ferry infrastructure and last mile connectivity, Fleet Modernization, institutional capacity development etc.

Investment Opportunities in Assam:
- Development of IWT Terminals
- Development of Port Townships
- Operation of River Taxis
- River Front Development
5. IT and ITeS

Indian IT & ESDM Industry:
- India is 3rd largest start-up community in the world.
- IT Market size expected to reach US$ 350 billion by FY 2025
- High demand in terms of IT service, BPM, software & hardware. BPM industry itself is expected to reach USD 54 bn 2025.
- 100% FDI allowed under the automatic route for ESDM.
- Electronics product market is projected to grow at 24.4% between 2012 and 2020.

Leveraging Assam Ecosystem:
- A large domestic and regional market share yet to be tapped.
- Proximity to BBN & ASEAN markets
- 10 Gbps international internet gateway in neighbouring state of Tripura. (India’s third IIIG after Mumbai and Chennai)
- Home to 20 Engineering related institutes including IIT, IIIT, NIT to provide highly skilled and trained manpower

Policy Initiatives:
- North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS)
- Assam Electronics and IT Innovation Scheme, 2015

Proposed IT Infrastructure in Assam:
- IT Park – Guwahati
- IT Park - Dibrugarh
- IT Park - Silchar
- ESDM Cluster – Guwahati
- Rural BPOs – 15 Locations in Assam

Opportunity for Investors:
- Development of IT Parks, IOT, e-health, GIS based decision support system, skill development & BPO
- ESDM: Solar panel manufacturing, LED, CPE, photonics, opto-electronics/power electronics
Growth Drivers:

Conducive demography; substantial share of youth resides in towns & Cities and is e-skilled, not only e-literate

Business potential: a large domestic and regional market remains to be tapped for generic and niche services and products

Institutions offering quality technical education, e.g. IIT Guwahati, IIIT Guwahati, NIT Silchar and other colleges / universities

Policy Support: Competitive incentives across the digital and electronics industry spectrum; robust institutional support led by AMTRON;

Positive service sector outlook: Assam’s tertiary sector dominated by finance and communication grew at CAGR of over 15 per cent since 2004-05
6. Handloom, Textiles and Handicrafts

**Industry Scenario:**
- Industry size currently estimated at around US$ 108 billion, is expected to reach US$ 223 billion by 2021.
- Domestic textile industry contributes about 14% to India’s industrial production, 5% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 27% to the country’s foreign exchange inflows.
- 100% FDI in Textiles sector through automatic route.

**Leveraging Assam’s Ecosystem:**
- Assam ranks 3rd amongst raw silk producing states in India.
- Over 80% of Muga silk and over 60% of Eri silk produced in India, comes from Assam.
- Assam houses more than 13 lakh looms out of the total 28 lakh looms in the country.
- Sualkuchi in Assam is known as the Manchester of the East
- 98 Weavers Extension units and 20 Handloom Production Centres produced 65.3 thousand metres of handloom fabrics.
- Amongst the top most Bamboo and Cane growing states.

**Administrative Support:**
- North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme
- National Handloom Development Program
- Integrated Handloom Development Scheme
- Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna
- Integrated Handloom Development Scheme
- Mega Handloom Cluster at Sivasagar
- Weavers Mudra scheme

**Investment Opportunities in Assam:**
- Setting up of Handloom Production Units
- Apparel & Garment Making Centre
- Silk Value Chain based Cluster Development
- Manufacturing of Bamboo Mat Board, Bamboo Mat Corrugated Sheets & Bamboo Flooring Board
Key Infrastructure:
- Assam Textile Institute.
- Indian Institute of Handloom Technology.
- Weavers Service Centre.
- Sualkuchi Institute of Fashion Technology (SIFT)
- Pragjyotish Textile Park at Sipajhar (under construction).

Growth Drivers:
Strong base in Handloom and Textile of the State

01
11,11,577 numbers of looms

02
24,099 numbers of commercial looms, 2,63,068 numbers of semi-commercial looms and 6,91,105 numbers of domestic looms

03
12,40,817 numbers of weaver households

04
6,95,060 numbers of full time weavers
7. Tourism, Hospitality & Wellness

**Indian Tourism, Hospitality & Wellness Industry:**

- 40th (among 136 economies across the world in 2017) rank in Tourism & Travel Competitive Index (TTCI) released by the WEF

- Between 2000-2014, foreign tourist arrivals in India increased at an annual growth rate of 10.2%, which is significantly higher than the world average of 4.4%

- This sector has 36 mn jobs (23 mn direct jobs)

**Leveraging Assam’s Ecosystem:**

- History & Heritage
- Ethnicity & Culture
- Wildlife & Eco-tourism
- Spiritual & Pilgrimage
- River Tourism
- Adventure Tourism
- Tea & Golf Tourism
- Medical & Health Tourism

**Advantage Assam: Tourism Sector**

- Unique Locational Advantage
- Skilled & Competent Manpower
- Diverse & Attractive Tourism opportunities
- Rich Natural Resources
- Enabling Business Environment
Key Facts of Assam Tourism:

- Contribution to Assam's GDP is around 5.5 per cent
- Provides approximately 10.5 per cent of the total employment in the state.
- Tourist arrivals in the state increased by a whopping 16% during 2015–16

Growth Drivers:

Key Players in Tourism Sector in Assam:

- Vivanta
- Radisson Blu
- Landmark
- Novotel
- The Lily

Key Players in Healthcare Sectors in Assam:

- Apollo Hospitals
- Nemcare Hospital
- Hayat Hospital
- NH Narayana Health
- GTB Hospital
- GNRC
8. Agri-Horticulture, Food Processing Including Organic Cultivation and Bamboo

**Industry Scenario:**

- Food Processing constitutes about 10 per cent of India’s manufacturing sector GDP.
- The sector is estimated to grow to USD 482 billion in 2020, from USD 258 billion in 2015.
- India permits 100 per cent FDI in the food processing sector through the automatic route.

**Leveraging Assam’s Ecosystem:**

- Assam has a net cultivable area of 28.11 lakh hectares, out of which 88 percent of the total land is available for cultivation.
- Russia and the CIS region, UAE and the Middle East, UK, Germany, USA, Pakistan and Bangladesh constitute the major export markets for Indian tea.
- About 28% of the total bamboo growing area and 66% of the growing stock of the country is located in the North-East including Assam.

**Key Infrastructure:**

- 12 Soil Testing Laboratories including one under private sector
- Cold chain with IQF facility at Khetri and Changsari
- Tissue Culture Laboratory in Silchar
- 26 Cold Storage Units
- 18 packaging rooms, 42 drying platforms and 15 processing units
- 126 godowns with a combined storage capacity of 5,59,455 MT
- Bamboo Technology Park at Chaygaon
- Cane & Bamboo Technology at Byrnihat
Shift towards Organic Cultivation:

741 acres of land have already been brought under organic cultivation and 20015 acres of land is being converted to organic production under Parampragat Krishi Vikash Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain development in North Eastern Region (MOVCD NER) involving 11923 nos. of farmers in different districts.

Growth Drivers:

6 stable agro-climatic zones and abundant perennial water
A global tea hub contributing 50% of the country’s total tea production
Substantial land being converted to organic cultivation in a phased manner
More than 100 species of Bamboo are naturally available in this region
216 fish species, out of which 150 species have ornamental importance and 50 species have overseas ornamental value.
Fruits and spices like Pineapple, Jackfruit, Oranges, and varieties of Lemon & Lime, Ginger and Turmeric.
9. Potential Heavy Industries in Assam

- Power Equipment Manufacturing
- Automobile and Auto Components
- Defence Manufacturing
- Railway Equipment Manufacturing
- Ship Building & Repair
- Aviation & MRO
- Rubber Products Manufacturing
- Sugar Industry
- Jute Industry
DOING BUSINESS IN ASSAM

The Assam Ease of Doing Business Act 2016

This Act governs the administrative framework. Investors can utilise an integrated online portal easeofdoingbusinessinassam.in to submit and track their proposals while simultaneously acquiring all relevant information on the state’s industrial ecology, developments, opportunities and procedures involved.

Other Sectoral Policies

Government of Assam has the following sector specific policies to incentivise investments:

- Industrial & Investment Policy of Assam, 2014
- Information Technology and Electronic Policy Assam, 2017
- Biotechnology Policy for the state of Assam, 2018-2022
- Tourism Policy of Assam, 2017
- Handloom Policy of Assam, 2017
- The Sugar Policy of Assam, 2017
- Startup Policy of Assam, 2017
Culture

The state is amongst the most socio-culturally diverse regions in India, which has cultivated several traditional fine and performing art forms. The state is rich in folk music; different styles include regional folk music, ethnic folk music and bihu songs, among others. There are diversified important traditional festivals in Assam. Bihu is the most significant and is commonly celebrated all over Assam.

The state also has a rich tradition of performing arts. Ankiya Nat (Onkeeya Naat) is a traditional dance-drama (bhaona) form, popular since the 15th century AD. The Bihu dance, Kushan Nritya, Sattriya and Banjar Kekan are some of the popular dance forms of Assam. The culture has a variety of traditional musical instruments including several types of drums, string instruments, flutes, cymbals, and pipes. Sattriya or Sattriya Nritya, is a major Indian classical dance-drama performance art with origins in the Krishna-centered Vaishnavism monasteries of Assam, and attributed to the 15th century Bhakti movement scholar and saint named Srimanta Sankardev.
The Assam State Museum is one of the biggest multi-purpose museums in the country. Instituted in 1940, the museum has some of the most authentic prehistoric sculptures, metal, ivory paintings, woodwork and costumes. The museum has organised several cultural events and reflects the legacy of the entire Northeast region.

Guwahati is the major centre for sporting facilities. The sports infrastructure in the city includes the Nehru Stadium and the Kanaklata Indoor Stadium. Additional sports infrastructure has been constructed in the city, keeping in mind the prospect of the state and the region to host National and International Games. This includes a large stadium at Sarusajai (Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium), the Dr Zakir Hussain Aquatic Complex and the Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi AC Indoor Hall. Other new sports structures in the city include the Maulana Md. Tayabullah Hockey Stadium, the Deshbhakta Tarun Ram Phookan Indoor Stadium, Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Amingaon and the Chachal Tennis Complex in Guwahati.

The XII edition of South Asian Games was being hosted by Guwahati along with Shillong in 2016. Over 2,500 athletes from 8 SAARC nations viz. India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives are participated in it.

Guwahati recently hosted the FIFA U-17 World Cup India, 2017 as the fifth Indian city after Kochi, Navi Mumbai, Goa and New Delhi. The Barsapara cricket stadium in Guwahati is under construction and going to be one of the prominent cricket stadium in India for hosting of National & International cricket matches.
Tourism

Assam received 24,720 foreign tourists in 2015-16, ranking 24th among India’s states. In order to boost the state’s tourism and hospitality sector, the state government has brought out a Tourism Policy of Assam 2017. Assam offers numerous tourist circuits, besides several opportunities in niche tourism activities, such as wildlife and ecotourism, spiritual tourism, adventure tourism, wellness and medical tourism, festival and cultural tourism, etc. The total rooms of 3, 4 and 5 Star hotels in the State is approximately 3000.
Social Infrastructure

Education
Assam has a thriving network of educational institutions, totalling to 53,744 schools and several reputed higher education and research. The state has nine universities including Central & Private Sector Universities, one specialized Agriculture University including one Open University. 590 colleges offer courses at graduate level for studies in arts, science, commerce, law, and classical languages, both Indic and global.

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<td>Diploma in Paramedical Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma in Rural Health Care and Medicine</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Intake Capacity of students at various level in Technical & Medical courses

Source: Industries & Commerce Department
Healthcare

The state’s public sector institutional infrastructure comprises 37 district hospitals, 19 sub-divisional civil hospitals, 1,434 primary health centres (PHCs), 261 dispensaries, 5,732 sub-centres and 217 community health centres (CHCs). There are 6 Medical College Hospitals in Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Tezpur, Jorhat & Barpeta, 1 Regional Dental College in Guwahati, 3 Nursing Colleges, 3 Pharmacy Institutes and 4 Paramedical Science Institute in Assam. A 750-bedded All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is coming up at Changsari, Assam.

Several private sector multispecialty healthcare and diagnostics centres are present in Assam. Some of them are:

► Healthcare:
  • Apollo Hospital, Guwahati
  • GNRC Hospitals: three facilities (North Guwahati, Dispur, Six mile)
  • Narayana Super speciality Hospital, Guwahati
  • Rahman Hospitals Pvt Ltd., Guwahati
  • Hayat Hospital, Guwahati
  • Ayursundra, Guwahati
  • Excel Care Hospital, Guwahati
  • Pratiksha Hospitals: Guwahati and Dibrugarh
  • Dispur Hospitals & School of Nursing
  • Downtown Hospitals, Guwahati
  • Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute
  • North East Cancer Hospital & Research Institute (NECHRI)

► Diagnostics:
  • Alcare Diagnostics & Research Center Pvt. Ltd.: Guwahati, Barpeta
  • Sun Diagnostics: Dispur, Dibrugarh
  • APACE Imaging & Diagnostic Centre Pvt. Ltd.

Key Organisations for Industrial Development

Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC): It implements state government led industrial development projects, promotes and operates schemes for industrial development and aids and assists public and private undertakings in their projects with credit and other means and resources.

Assam Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (AIIDC): It facilitates investors through creation of industrial infrastructure and to provide all facilities for setting up of industries, and allots land and sheds under its control to prospective entrepreneurs.

Assam Small Industries Development Corporation (ASIDC): It is the nodal agency for micro and small scale investors and entrepreneurs and offers them marketing assistance, represents consortia in government procurement tenders, allots lands and sheds to them, and develops industrial infrastructure.
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