

Assam Fact Sheet

Geography



Assam is a northeastern state of India located south of the Himalayas mountains with an area of 30,285 sq mi., roughly the size of Ireland or Austria.

Demographics

Population:
26,656,000 people

Languages:
Assamese, Bodo, Bengali and others

Religions:
Hinduism (64.9%),
Islam (30.9%)
Christianity (3.7%)
Sikhism, Animism, Buddhism (.5%)

Ethnically, Assamese are a hybrid of surrounding ethnicities and therefore distinct within India.



Agriculture



Assam Tea Garden

-kaushik's (wikipedia)

Tea, rice, rapeseed, mustard, jute, potato, sweet potato, banana, papaya, areca nut and turmeric. It is also a home of large varieties of citrus fruits, leaf vegetables, vegetables, useful grasses, herbs, spices, etc.

Tea is Assam's primary export product. A native variety, *Camellia sinensis assamica*, produces some of the world's best black teas. Most of the tea crop produced in Assam is destined for domestic (India) consumption.

Assam Fact Sheet (continued)

Festivals

Bihu, the most celebrated Assamese festival, is a series of three agricultural related festivals, RONGALI, KONGALI, and BHOGALI, is non-religious in nature and celebrated by all Assamese cultures.

RONGALI, celebrates the beginning of spring and of the sowing season; KONGALI, the barren season when the fields are lush but the barns are empty and BHOGALI, the harvest season.

Culture

Sattriya Dance of Assam

Sattriya, or Sattriya Nritya, is one of eight principal classical Indian dance traditions designed to teach traditionally Indian mythology. Initially, Sattriya was performed only by bhokots (male monks) as part of their daily rituals or to mark special festivals. Today Sattriya is performed by both men and women for traditional and modern interpretations.



Rhinoceros unicornis



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The Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) or the Great One-horned Rhinoceros, Unicorn rhinoceros or the Asian Rhinoceros is a large mammal found in Nepal, Bhutan, and Northern, India, especially Assam. It is confined to the tall grasslands and forests in the foothills of the Himalayas.

The Indian Rhinoceros weight ranges from 4500 pounds to over 7,000 pounds, can sprint at speeds of up to 25 mph (40 km/h) and is an excellent swimmer. It has well-developed sense of hearing and smell, but poor eyesight.

Asian Elephant



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The Asian elephant, one of only three extant elephant species, is found throughout Southeast and South Asia and is common in Assam, India. Slightly smaller than their African cousins, Asian elephants still reach an impressive 9 -12 feet in height and 6,000 to 11,000 pounds weight. They are, like their African counterparts, considered endangered.

Asian elephants have long been domesticated and are commonly used today by people in forestry and other industry where their great strength can be utilized. They are also considered sacred by many Hindus and used in religious ceremonies.