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History of Growth and Development of Dibrugarh City of Assam: An Overview

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Abstract-- Dibrugarh, the head quarter of the Dibrugarh district of Assam is one of the major cities of North East India. Dibrugarh city is well known as the 'Tea City of India'. According to historians before the coming of the Ahoms, upper Brahmaputra valley including the present Dibrugarh city was a wild area sparsely inhabited by the local tribal people like Moran, Borahi, Chutia and Kacharis. At the time of the advent of the Ahoms in the early part of thirteenth century AD, the area of the present Dibrugarh city was under the Chutia kingdom. During the reign of Ahom king Suhungmung in 1523 AD, Chutia kingdom was annexed to the Ahom kingdom and an officer was appointed to administer the whole Chutia kingdom including present day Dibrugarh. Later, the Ahom ruler erected a rampart on the north of Dibru river, a tributary of the mighty river Brahmaputra and formed a new administrative unit called Diburu Rajya by covering the area around the rampart of Dibru river. In 1805, Dibrugarh became a part of Matak kingdom. In 1826, according to the treaty of Yandaboo, the British occupied Assam. They gradually annexed all the states of north eastern part of India. In 1839, Motibar Senapati, the ruler of the Matak Rajya died leaving the question of succession unsettled. The British took the opportunity and annexed his kingdom. Thus, from November, 1839, the Matak kingdom including Dibrugarh became a part of British India. In 1842, Dibrugarh became the administrative head quarter of the Lakhimpur district. After independence Dibrugarh became educational and industrial hub of Assam. Due to the growth of different industries like- tea industry, oil industry and coal industry in and nearby areas of Dibrugarh town, the population of the town increased enormously. In 1971, Dibrugarh was bifurcated from Lakhimpur district and declared as a separate district with Dibrugarh town as head quarter. The main objective of the study is to explore the history of growth and development of Dibrugarh city of Assam in colonial and post colonial period. The findings of the study revealed that grown as a small fort in the medieval period and small military and administrative camp in the first half of the 19th century, Dibrugarh became one of the major cities of north east India. The city area now covers an area of 391 square kilometers (as per master plan of Dibrugarh city) and it is also famous as the 'Tea City of India'

Keywords-- Growth, Development, Dibrugarh City, Colonial Period, Post Colonial Period.

I. INTRODUCTION

Dibrugarh, the head quarter of the Dibrugarh district of Assam is one of the major cities of northeast India. Located between 27.28' N latitude and 94.35' E longitude, Dibrugarh city is well known as the 'Tea City of India'. Encompassed by a circular range of distantly located mountains and being situated by the mighty river Brahmaputra, the climate of the Dibrugarh town is moist and comfortable for human habitation. Famous for 'Assam Medical College' and the 'Dibrugarh University' Dibrugarh town has the world's largest town area under tea garden. The city area of Dibrugarh is eye-catching also from the view point of its natural beauty being situated on the river Brahmaputra and interspersed frequently met tea gardens. Grown as a small military and administrative camp in the first half of the 19th century, the city area of Dibrugarh now covers 391 square kilometers according to its master plan.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of the study is to explore the history of growth and development of Dibrugarh city of Assam. This objective is divided in the following sub objectives-

- a) To study the growth and development of Dibrugarh city of Assam in the Colonial Period.
- b) To study the growth and development of Dibrugarh city of Assam in the Post-Colonial Period.

III. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The method of this research study is historical and analytical. For the purpose of the study both Primary and Secondary sources of data were consulted. The Primary sources of information were gathered from the Assamese Chronicles (*Buranjis*), Report of various British Officials, British Records, Epigraphic and Archeological sources etc. Secondary sources in the form of articles published by different authors in different books, newspapers, periodicals, magazines, souvenir etc. were also consulted to supplement the Primary sources.



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In order to find out the clear picture of the growth and development of the Dibrugarh city of Assam not only the available sources are scrutinized carefully, but attempt has also been made to see things as objectively as possible.

IV. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

According to historians before the coming of the Ahoms upper Brahmaputra valley including the present Dibrugarh city was a wild area sparsely inhabited by the local tribal people like Moran, Borahi, Chutia and Kacharis. At the time of the advent of the Ahoms in the early part of thirteenth century AD, the area of the present Dibrugarh city was under the Chutia kingdom. During the reign of Ahom king Suhungmung (1497-1539AD), in 1523 AD, Chutia kingdom was annexed to the Ahom kingdom and an officer was appointed to administer the whole Chutia kingdom including present day Dibrugarh. Later, the Ahom ruler erected a rampart on the north of Dibru river, a tributary of the mighty river Brahmaputra and formed a new administrative unit called *Diburu Rajya* by covering the area around the rampart of Dibru river and put this area under the charge of prince Tyaolung Suleng (Bhuyan, 1932). Ahom king Pratap Singha (1603-1641 AD) created two new offices Barbaruah and Barphukan. Barbaruah was the Chief Executive Officer of Upper Assam while Barphukan was the Chief Executive Officer of Lower Assam. After creation of these offices the upper Brahmaputra valley region including *Diburu Rajya* came under Barbaruah. According to a historian, "During the Ahom-Chutia clash the Ahom commander Phrasengmung Borgohain had built a rampart in the year 1523 on the mouth of the Dibru river to fight the Chutia forces successfully. This rampart called '*garh*' in Assamese language not only remained the second most important shield of defense of the Ahom state - the first and the most important being at Sadiya- against the numerous indomitable hill and plain tribes of this region since then. As a result, one finds frequent references to this '*garh*' in the Assamese chronicles which mention it as '*Dibrumukhar garh*' i.e. rampart built on the mouth of the river Dibru. Consequently, the area represented by this rampart began to be applied to the place also either as *Dibru*, *Dibaru* or *Diburu*, or Dibrugarh. Thus '*Dibrumukhar garh*' was shortened to Dibrugarh to mean both the rampart and the place. Since then Dibrugarh remained an important post of defense of the Ahom kingdom against the onslaughts of the neighbouring frontier tribes as its location was so convenient for maintain communication and trade activities that its importance was realized as almost equal to that of Sadiya (Nath, 2001).

The reign of Ahom king Lakshmi Singha (1769-1780 AD) witnessed the first challenge to the Ahom monarchy organized by a group of disciples of the Mayamara Satra, a branch of *Kala Samhati* order of Neo-Vaishnavism of Assam, which had been a long seating under the oppression of the Ahom government. "Starting on a religious pretext, the movement soon assumed great political dimensions and swayed the whole Brahmaputra valley, bringing forth dormant elements into action everywhere." (Baruah, 1985). Since the first *Moamariya* (disciples of the *Mayamara Satra*) rebellion of 1769, the Ahom kingdom was being rapidly immersed in a series of civil war which continued for about a half century (1769-1805AD). Though Lakshmi Singha and his two successors Gaurinath Singha (1780-1795 AD) and Kamaleswar Singha (1795-1810 AD) tried to suppress the Moamariya rebellion but could not suppress them. In fact the *Maoamariyas* grew stronger from every attempt to crush them and continued their struggle till they got an autonomous kingdom called '*Matak Rajya*' recognized by the Ahom government in 1805. In the year 1805 the Ahom state recognized Motibar, the son of late *Moamariyas* self-styled king Sarbananda Singha as an autonomous ruler within the Ahom state, and conceded to him the title of '*Barsenapati*', i.e. the great general. Motibar's territory is known as '*Matak Rajya*' or Matak kingdom. "His territory constituted the Dihing-Brahmaputra triangle that formed the territory bounded by the Dihing-Brahmaputra juncture in the west, the river Noa-Dihing in the east, the Brahmaputra in the north and the Dihing river in the south. Its centre of administration was at Rangagara (present Tinsukia). Naturally Dibrugarh became a part of Motibar's territory according to that treaty of understanding." (Nath, 2001)

Thus from the year 1805, Dibrugarh became a part of Matak kingdom. In 1826, according to the treaty of Yandaboo, the British occupied Assam. They gradually annexed all the states of north eastern part of India. In 1839, Motibar Senapati, the ruler of the *Matak Rajya* died leaving the question of succession unsettled. The British took the opportunity and annexed his kingdom. Thus, from November, 1839, the Matak kingdom including Dibrugarh became a part of British India.

"Being situated on the bank of the Brahmaputra, Dibrugarh has the awkward experience of erosion from both the Brahmaputra and the Dibru rivers since almost inception of its township, more particularly, since the great earthquakes of 1897 and 1950.



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The Gazetteer of 1901-1903, has recorded the sad event of its erosion after the 1897 earthquake when the Marwari traders of the town had to shift to newer places. It records, 'Of recent years, the Dibru river has been cutting away the bank on which the bazaar is situated, and Marwari merchants, who retain in their hands almost all the wholesale trade, have been compelled to remove their shops farther inland (Allen, 1905). This earthquake consequently led to the diversion towards the town of a channel of the Brahmaputra which was then running at a distance of about eight kilometers to the north of the town. Thus affected by erosion caused by these two rivers, Dibrugarh town had lost a significant amount of territory spanning over more than two kilometers in the west. This earthquake left more disastrous impact as it made the Brahmaputra shallow and increased the extent of erosion. As a result, the Dibrugarh lost most areas of its old township that contained most buildings and establishments of the British times" (Nath.-2001). Present Dibrugarh city is the extended form of old Dibrugarh town.

V. DIBRUGARH CITY IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD

In the year 1840, the British established their administrative head quarter of already occupied territory of Matak kingdom at Dibrugarh. "In 1842, the Matak territory was amalgamated with the already created Lakhimpur District, and its head quarters then located at North Lakhimpur was also shifted there to Dibrugarh. Since then Dibrugarh remained the administrative headquarters of the Lakhimpur district till the year 1971." (Nath. 2001)

It is recorded that the British in order to defend their conquered territories (Matak territory) from their frontier enemies constructed a fort (*durga*) on the bank of the Dibru river, some historians want to say that the name of Dibrugarh has originated from this fort or *durga* of the British. But "this is just an imagination of the historical construction, it is very simple to understand that a 'fort' (*durga*) and a 'rampart' (*garh*) cannot be the same thing. Interestingly, while the fort was built in the year 1844-45, the official use of the name Dibrugarh (with varied forms of spelling) is found as the British made their administrative camp here." (Nath, 2015). At the same time AJM Mills, in his 'Report on the Province of Assam', 1853 frequently used the term 'Debrooghur' or 'Debroo' to denote Dibrugarh. (A.J.M.Mills- 1853).

On the other hand W.H. Hunter on his 'A Statistical Account of Assam' mention that 'The Principal Civil Station, which is also the chief town of the District (Lakhimpur), is Dibrugarh, situated on the river near the point where it empties itself in to the Brahmaputra, in 27°29'0" north latitude and 94°56'0" east longitude. (W.H. Hunter, 1871)

But, both the rampart and fort no longer exists. It can be assumed that the name of Dibrugarh came from the rampart that was built by the Ahoms on the bank of the river Dibru.

However, in 1842, Dibrugarh became the administrative head quarter of the Lakhimpur district. "On the resumption of Upper Assam by the British government, this district was for the first time brought under European Superintendence, and under the able management of Captain Vetch". (W. Robinson, 1842). Thus Captain Vetch was the first British Superintendent and the Principal Assistant to the Commissioner and Political Agent for Upper Assam as well as stationed at Dibrugarh. In addition to Captain Vetch, the Principal Assistant to the Commissioner and Political Agent for Upper Assam, the other officers connected with the civil duties of the district are- a Sub-assistant, a Subedar Ameen and a Moonsif (Robinson, 1842).

The court building of Dibrugarh was constructed in the year 1840 and it was converted to a concrete building in the year 1875. Dibrugarh Jail was constructed in the year 1840 and it was also converted to a concrete building in the year 1859-60. Hunter wrote- "There are two jails in Lakhimpur District, viz.-the principal Jail at Civil Station of Dibrugarh, and a lock-up at North Lakhimpur." (W.H. Hunter, 1871). In the year 1878 Dibrugarh was constituted a Municipality under the Bengal Act V of 1876 (Nath, 2001).

In 1872, the administrative head quarter of the district (Lakhimpur), Dibrugarh, only contains a population, including troops in the cantonment, of 3870 persons. Hunter wrote, "In 1872 the regular Census returned the population of the native town of Dibrugarh, at 2274 and of the cantonment at 1096, making a total of 3870. The headquarters of the 44th Assam Light Infantry are stationed at Dibrugarh. The military force consists of 5 British officers and 491 natives of all ranks. (Hunter, 1871). But within a thirty years of time (1872-1901) the population of Dibrugarh increase enormously. According to the Census of 1901, the population of Lakhimpur district was 3,71,396 where "more than three-fourths of the total population live in the Dibrugarh, or *Sadr* subdivision and the development in this portion of the district has been phenomenally rapid.



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It contains many extremely prosperous tea gardens, Dibrugarh itself is a thriving little town and the oil wells, railway and coal mines afford occupation to a considerable number of labourers and artisans.” (Allen, 1906).

From the beginning the British considered Dibrugarh as their strategic point. As the British considered the importance of the strategic location of Dibrugarh, they not only built a fort about which mention has been made earlier, but they stationed the major arm forces there. During Second World War, Dibrugarh was the main military base and a transit camp. “During the Second World War, the Japanese moved in to Burma and occupied Rangoon by June 1942. It was at this time that thousands of refugees entered India. Dibrugarh became a great military base as also a transit camp for the evacuees of Burma.” (Borgohain, 2003)

Industrial resources and activities such as growth of tea industry, discovery of oil and coal have led to the development of communication network connecting the Dibrugarh town with the rest of country in the colonial period. Streamer services were introduced in Dibrugarh in the year 1856. Through this streamer services Dibrugarh was well- connected with Calcutta and Chittagong and other important places. Railway communications were introduced in Dibrugarh in the year 1882.

The first school in Dibrugarh was established in the year 1840. On 25/06/1885 the first school for girls was established in Dibrugarh. This is the first school for girls in the entire northeast. In the year 1900, Dr. John Berry White Medical School was established in Dibrugarh. This medical school was converted to a full-fledged Medical College by the name of Assam Medical College in the year 1947. The first college in Dibrugarh was established in the year 1945. Initially this college was known as ‘Dibrugarh College’ which was later known as Dibrugarh Hanumanbax Surajmall Kanoi College (DHSK College).

After establishment of many educational institutions in the colonial period, the Dibrugarh town had created an elite and middle class society. Born and stationed at Dibrugarh, a number of prominent persons have made significant contributions in the field of education and literature. In this regard the names of Mofizuddin Ahmed Hazarika, Benudhar Rajkhowa, Jatindranath Duwara, Nilamani Phukan may be mentioned. “It is significant to note that the first weekly news paper ‘The Times of Assam’ was published from Dibrugarh in the year 1895, and the Assam Tribune in 1939. The editor of the former was Radha Govinda Baruah, and that of the later was Lakshminath Phukan” (Nath, 2001).

In the Freedom Struggle of the country, the people of Dibrugarh had actively participated. Dr. Umesh Mukherjee led the Swadeshi Movement in Dibrugarh. Rajabala Das, Benudhar Dutta etc. were other prominent leaders of Dibrugarh in the Freedom Struggle.

VI. DIBRUGARH IN THE POST- COLONIAL PERIOD:

After independence Dibrugarh became one of the major cities in northeast India. In the post-colonial period, Dibrugarh gradually grew in every field like education, industry, transport and communication system, literature and culture, tourism etc. Population also grew rapidly in Dibrugarh in the post-colonial period. According to Census of 1951, the population of Dibrugarh city was 37,991. In 1971 it increased to 80,348 and in 2001 it increased to 1,22,523. At present as per Census of 2011 the population of Dibrugarh city was 1,54,019. Growth of population in Dibrugarh is mainly due to its urban growth. “As a result, the nature of its (population) composition is also heterogeneous and not caste specific, although this aspect of its population cannot altogether be discarded. Since then various caste and communities other than the local Ahom, Moran, Matak and other ethnic groups, began to pour into the township. The most significant of the new settlers were the Bengalis followed by the Marwaris” (Nath- 2001). In the post- colonial period many people from different parts of the state as well country came to Dibrugarh and started to live there for various purposes such as service, business, education, etc. At the same time due to the growth of tea industries, oil industries and coal industries in and nearby areas of Dibrugarh city, the population of the town increased enormously.

After independence of India, Dibrugarh also became an educational hub of Assam. Higher education grew rapidly in the post-colonial period. The first college of Dibrugarh, ‘Dibrugarh College’ which was established in the year 1945 was renamed as ‘Dibrugarh Hanumanbax Surajmall Kanoi College’ in the year 1950. The first college in Dibrugarh for commerce stream students was established in the year 1960. The name of the college was DHSK Commerce College. The third college of the city ‘Dibru College’ was established in the year 1962. The first college for women in the city ‘Manohari Devi Kanoi College’ was established in the year 1963. Now Dibrugarh city has eight general degree colleges such as DHSK College, DHSK Commerce College, Dibru College, MDKG College, NLB City College, Lahowal College, CG Purbanchal College and Shree Bharati College etc.



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In the year 1965, Dibrugarh University was established. This was the second university in the entire northeast India. Dibrugarh city has also three Teacher Education Institutions namely- Department of Education, Dibrugarh University, Chandrakanta Hazarika B.Ed. College and Parijat Academy Teacher Education Institution, Dibrugarh. In the post- colonial period three Law colleges were also established in Dibrugarh city. These are Dr. Rohini Kanta Barua Law College, SIPE Law College and Centre for Juridical Studies, Dibrugarh University.

Medical education also grew rapidly in Dibrugarh city in the post- colonial period. The Berry White Medical School was converted to a full-fledged Medical College by the name of 'Assam Medical College' in the year 1947. In 1982, Indian Council of Medical Research or Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR or RMRC) was established in Dibrugarh. This is one of the 26 permanent institutes of medical research in India and the only in northeast India. Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dibrugarh University offers both Bachelor and Master degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Assam medical college offers Medical degrees like MBBS, BDS, MS, PG, Ph.D. etc. Assam medical college also offers Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences and diploma and certificates in Nursing.

Engineering education also grew rapidly in Dibrugarh city in the post- colonial period. The first technical institution of the city is Dibrugarh Polytechnic. It was established in the year 1965. Dibrugarh University Institute of Engineering and Technology was established in the year 2009 and offer four year B.Tech. programme.

School and collegiate education grew rapidly in the post-colonial period. More than twenty Junior Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools, more than hundred schools and more than twenty technical training institutes including nursing centres were established in Dibrugarh in the post-colonial period. In the year 1948, the first English medium school 'St. Mary's School' was established in Dibrugarh. In the post-colonial period many English medium schools were established in the city under private initiatives. Little Flower School (Established 1952), Salt Brook School (Established 1985), St. Xavier's School, Gyan Bigyan Academy etc, are prominent English medium schools in the city. Many Assamese medium schools were established in the city in the post- colonial period both in Government and private initiatives. *Sankardev Sishu Niketan*, *Asom Jatiya Vidyalaya*, etc. are important Assamese medium schools of the city.

In the post-colonial period Dibrugarh also become as industrial hub of Assam. Dibrugarh is famous for tea, oil and coal industries. Now Dibrugarh city has more than hundred tea garden and more than hundreds of tea factory. Dibrugarh alone produces around 40% tea of Assam. The first tea factory of India was established in Dibrugarh in the year 1840. The first Plywood factory of India was established in Dibrugarh in the year 1918. The largest Railway workshop of North East India was established in Dibrugarh in the year 1881. In the post- colonial period this workshop became one the largest workshop of the country. In the year 2007, the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, one of the prestigious Gas Cracker Project of India was established in Dibrugarh.

Transportation system also developed in the post-colonial period in Dibrugarh. In the year 1882, Railway communications were introduced in Dibrugarh. Now Dibrugarh city is well connected with almost all the major cities of India through Railways. The city has now two railway stations. During colonial period Dibrugarh was connected with other parts of the state by South Trunk Road. In the year 1948 it was converted to National Highway. After that the road was renamed as NH 37. In the year 2018, the Bogibeel Rail cum Road bridge on the river Brahmaputra was opened. After that NH37 was connected with NH52 of northern bank of Brahmaputra. The Bogibeel bridge of Dibrugarh is the longest Rail cum Road bridge of the country. Dibrugarh is also well connected with other parts of the country with waterways and airways. Bogibeel is now one of the major ports of the state. Mohanbari airport of Dibrugarh is now one among the very busy airport of northeast India.

Tourism industry also grew rapidly in the post- colonial period. Dibrugarh city is one of the places of tourist attraction nowadays. Tea industry and tea gardens, Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh University, the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Jokai Botanical Garden, *Koli Ai Than*, *Boga Babr Majhar*, Jagannath Temple, etc. are some of the main tourist spot of Dibrugarh city. After opening of '*Bhupen Hazarika Setu*' (Dhola Sadiya Bridge) of Sadiya (2016) and Bogibeel bridge of Dibrugarh (2018), the tourism industry of Dibrugarh is growing rapidly. Now, Dibrugarh city is one of the main tourist attractions for both national and international tourists.

In the field of literature and culture, Dibrugarh city is also famous in Assam. The first English weekly news paper 'The Times of Assam' was published from Dibrugarh in the year 1895.



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This paper was continuously published till 1947. 'The Assam Tribune', the leading English daily of Assam was first published from Dibrugarh which was later published from Guwahati. Most of the Assamese daily news paper of Assam have now Dibrugarh issues and publish from Dibrugarh Branch office along with Guwahati. In the field of literature Dibrugarh has produced many scholars. Nilamani Phukan, Mofizuddin Ahmed Hazarika, Dr. Mahendra Bora, Dr. Lila Gogoi, Dr. Nagen Saikia, Benudhar Rajkhowa from Dibrugarh honoured as a president of prestigious '*Asom Sahitya Sabha*'. Jatindranath Duarah, Tafazzul Ali, Dr. Keshabananda Deva Goswami, Dr. Prahlad Barua, Dr. Kabin Phukan, Dr. Karabi Deka Hazarika, Prahlad Ch. Tassa, Dr. Ratan kr. Katakii, Dr. Dambarudhar Nath, Dr. Nirmal Sahewala, etc. are prominent persons of Dibrugarh who have made significant contributions in the field of literature in the post colonial period.

Dibrugarh has a significant place in the political landscape of North East India. In the Post- colonial period Dibrugarh has contributed to the political field in several ways. In the Assam Movement (1979-1985 AD) people of Dibrugarh played an important role. In the post- colonial period, Dibrugarh has produced many influential political leaders who have contributed to both state and national politics. Mr. Jogendra Nath Hazarika, Mr. Keshab Ch. Gogoi and Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal from Dibrugarh have served as a Chief Minister of Assam. Mr. Ranjan Gogoi, present member of Rajya Sabha, served as Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India is a notable personality of Dibrugarh. In the system of parliamentary politics of India, Dibrugarh has a name as Congress (INC) strong hold in the 20th century and *Assam Gana Parishad* (AGP) and *Bharatiya Janata Party* (BJP) stronghold in the 21st century. Mr. Jogendra Nath Hazarika represents Lok Sabha from Dibrugarh Parliamentary in the year 1951- 1956, 1957- 1962, 1962-1967, 1967-1972. Other prominent political leaders represents Lok Sobha from Dibrugarh parliamentary constituencies are Rabindra Nath Kakati (1972-1977), Horen Bhumij (1977-1980, 1985-1991), Paban Singh Ghatowar (1991-1996, 1996-1998, 1998-1999, 1999-2004, 2009-2014), Sarbananda Sonowal (2004-2009, 2024- present), Rameswar Teli (2014-2019, 2019-2024). Through these leaders, Dibrugarh has significantly impacted Assam as well as Indian political field.

In the field of culture there is tremendous development in the post colonial period. '*Mancharupa*', the first cultural organization in Dibrugarh was established soon after the Independence.

Other important cultural organizations of Dibrugarh city established in the post- colonial period were *Jayashree Sangha*, *Vijay Sangha*, *Bharatiya Gana Natya Sangha*-Dibrugarh Branch, *Asom Natya Sanmilon*- Dibrugarh Branch, *Milonjyoti Sangha*, etc. Biju phukan, Bishnu Khargharia, Ashim Sharma, Deuti Baruah, etc. are prominent cultural personalities from Dibrugarh. All India Radio, Dibrugarh centre was established in Dibrugarh in the year 1969. Hiren Gohain, Rajen Gohain, Sayed Sadullah, Jyotish Bhattacharya, etc. are prominent Radio artist from Dibrugarh city. "The composite middle class of Dibrugarh is also responsible for the development of its urban cultural life. Accustomed to the colonial policy of classification of the township areas into 'elite' and 'common' socio-psychological division most sections of the old generation citizens of Dibrugarh still nurtures such colonial outlook." (Nath-2001)

VII. CONCLUSION

Thus, grown as a small fort in the medieval period and small military and administrative camp in the first half of the 19th century, Dibrugarh became one of the major cities of north east India. In 1971, Dibrugarh was bifurcated from Lakhimpur district and was declared as a separate district with Dibrugarh town as head quarter. Due to erosion, though Dibrugarh city had lost a significant amount of its territory, but yet now it covers many new areas. The city now covers an area of 391 square kilometers and it is also known as the 'Tea City of India'. According the census 2011, the population of Dibrugarh was 1,54,296. In March, 2024, Dibrugarh Municipal Board has upgraded to Municipal Corporation. It is the second city of Assam after Guwahati to have the Municipal Corporation.

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