

Urban Expansion in Guwahati, Assam

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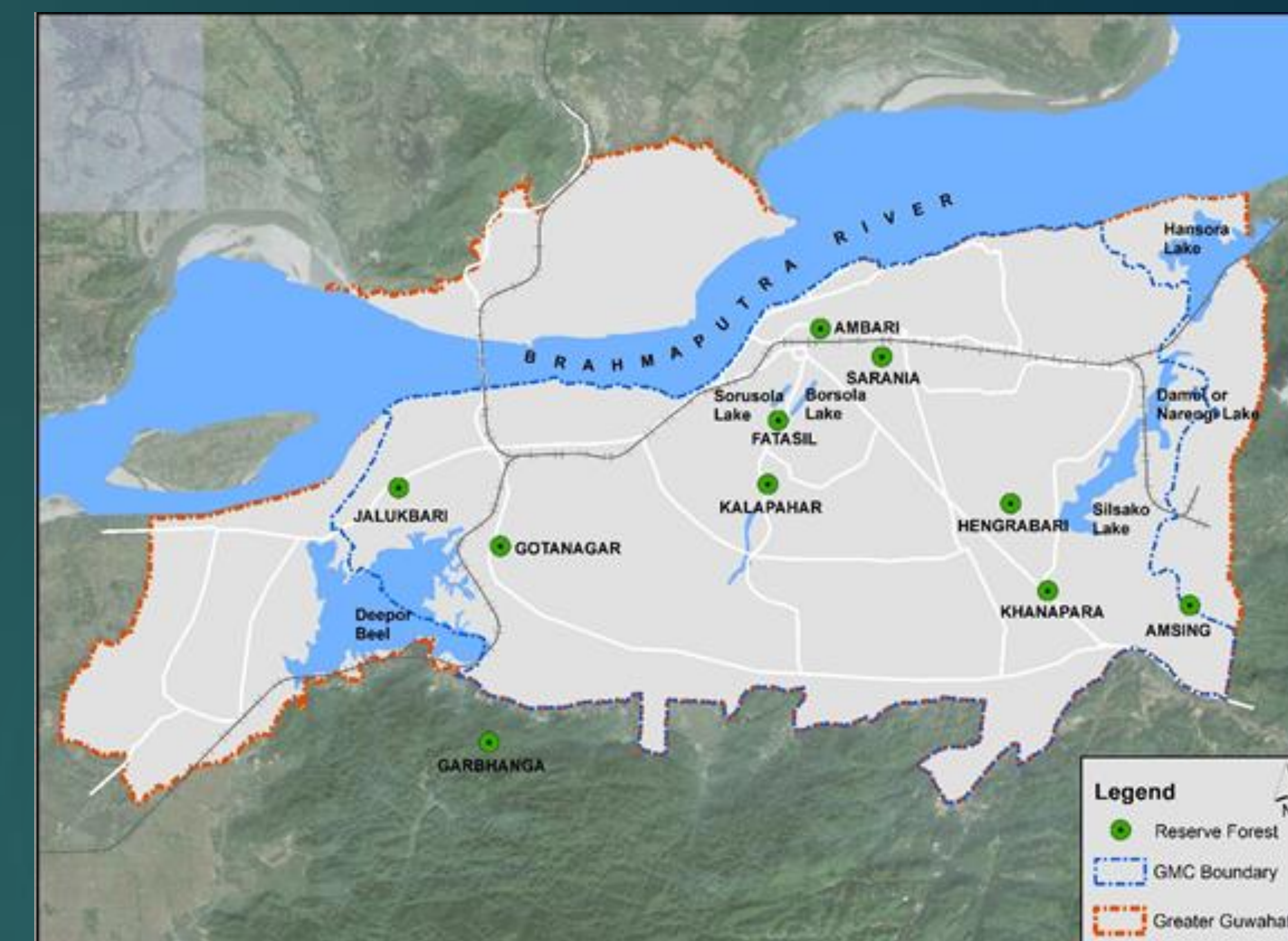
Project- Introduction to Environmental Studies- Professor Rahul Chopra

Guwahati is a city in Assam built on the banks of the Brahmaputra river that flows through North East India to converge with the Bay of Bengal. It is surrounded by the Nilachal, Chitranchal and Narakasur Hills.

In the maps below, we can see huge increase in the density and population of the city. The population of Guwahati has increased by 64.7% between 1989 and 2011.

Upon calculation, average population increase rate of India between 1989 and 2011 is 1.89. If this rate was compounded in Guwahati, population should have reached 882,189 instead of the 962,334 it actually reached, a difference of 9%. This is unusual for a state with the population rate lower than the national average.

This can be answered by the phenomenon of migrant settlement, which could have also been induced due to Guwahati's locality Dispur being declared the state capital, thus attracting people looking for employment and other opportunities.



1989



10 km

2011



10 km

Figure 1. False color Landsat 4-5 TM satellite image of Guwahati showing the empty less densely populated areas on 9th March 1989.

Figure 2. False color Landsat 4-5 TM satellite image of Guwahati showing the empty less densely populated areas on 6th March 2011.