

Population Growth: Kokrajhar Area

Besides being an administrative centre, Kokrajhar is also important for trade and commerce. It was mainly important for timber before the BTC accord. Kokrajhar contains many offices as the capital of BTAD and the head quarter of Kokrajhar district like the Secretariat of BTC, offices of Directors as Council Head of Departments for different line departments. The Kokrajhar town has many offices and educational institutions like Central Institute of Technology, Kokrajhar Government College, Bineswar Brahma Engineering College, Bodoland University, telephone exchange, 200 bedded Civil Hospital, B T. College, General Colleges, I.T.I and other facilities required for capital and the district Head Quarter town.

The Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station (BTPS) presently known as National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) at Salakathi which is very close to Kokrajhar, has created same impact for growth & development of the town.

Table 5: Growth of Population in Kokrajhar Master Plan Area: 1961 to 2011

Year	Population in Municipality area	Decadal Growth (%)	Master Plan area (excluding Municipality)	Decadal Growth (%)	Total Master Plan area	Decadal Growth (%)
1961	9,489	-	15,134	-	24,623	-
1971	17,060	79.79%	22,315	47%	39,375	60%
1988	26,775	56.95%	34,033	53%	60,808	54%
2001	31,164	16.39%	52,484	54%	83,648	38%
2011	34,136	9.54%	65,689	25%	99,807	19%

Source: Statistics & Economics Department, BTC, Census of India, Assam and Town & Country Planning

Population Density

Apart from the Municipal Area, the planning area as a whole is thinly populated. The gross density of population of Kokrajhar Municipal area in 1971 was approx. 1977 p/sq.km. and in 1988 was 3212 p/sq.km. while that of planning area was 741 p/sq.km during 1988. Now the population density of Municipality area is increased to 3784 p/sq.km. in 2001 and 4144 p/sq.km. in 2011 while the population density of whole Master Plan Area is 665 p/sq.km. in 2001 and 793 p/sq.km. The population density in Kokrajhar Master Plan Area excluding Municipality is 446 p/sq.km. in 2001 and 559 p/sq.km. in 2011. This indicates that the density of population is increasing in all the areas.

Table 6: Density of Population: Kokrajhar Master Plan Area

Area	2001			2011		
	Area in sq.km	Population	Approx. density (p/sq.km.)	Area in sq.km	Population	Approx. density (p/sq.km.)
Total Kokrajhar Master Plan Area	125.78	83,648	665	125.78	99,807	793
Kokrajhar Municipality Area (KMA)	8.24	31,164	3,784	8.24	34,136	4,144
Kokrajhar Master Plan Area (Ex. Municipality)	117.55	52,484	446	117.55	65,689	559

Source: 2001 & 2011 figure from census of India, Assam.

Population Estimates

The population of whole Kokrajhar Master Plan Area, Municipality area and Master Plan Area excluding Municipality area is estimated by using the Arithmetic, Geometric and Exponential methods and the mean of the values are considered as estimated value of population. The estimates are shown in the table 7.

Table 7: Population Estimates for Kokrajhar Master Plan Area: 1961 to 2041

Year	Population in Municipality area	Decadal Growth (%)	Master Plan area (excluding Municipality)	Decadal Growth (%)	Total Master Plan area	Decadal Growth (%)
1961	9,489	-	15,134	-	24,623	-
1971	17,060	79.79%	22,315	47.45%	39,375	59.91%
1988	26,775	56.95%	34,033	52.51%	60,808	54.43%
2001	31,164	16.39%	52,484	54.22%	83,648	37.56%
2011	34,136	9.54%	65,671	25.16%	99,807	19.32%
2021	36,806	7.82%	78,330	19.24%	1,15,136	15.36%
2031	39,302	6.78%	91,176	16.40%	1,30,479	13.33%
2040	41,514	5.67%	1,03,755	14.04%	1,45,293	11.52%
2041	41,777	6.30%	1,05,399	15.60%	1,47,176	12.80%

Source: Statistics & Economics Department, BTC, Census of India, Assam and Town & Country Planning and analysis by author.

The population of Greater Kokrajhar Master Plan Area is estimated and found to be increasing from 99,807 in 2011 to 1,15,136 in 2021, 1,30,479 in 2031, 1,45,293 in 2040 and 1,47,176 in 2041.