

**Field Study Report on
A Study on the Historical Monuments of Ahom Age in Assam of
Sivsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat District**



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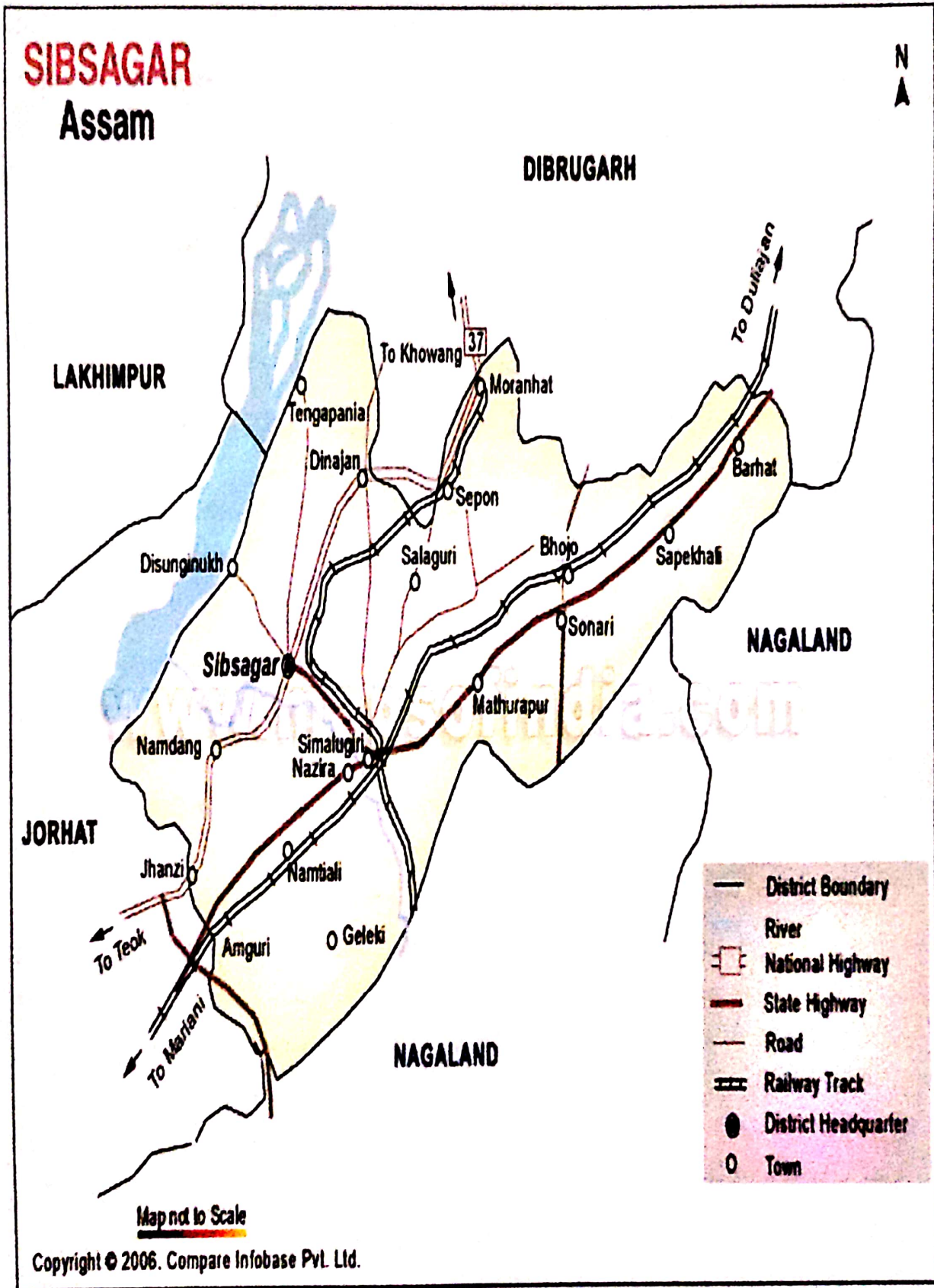
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Introduction of Sivasagar :

Sivasagar or Sibsagar is an administrative district of Assam with headquarters at Sibsagar town. The district shares common boundaries with Dibrugarh District on the east, Jorhat district on the west, river Brahmaputra on the North and Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh states on the south. It is about 360 kilometres (224 mi) north east of Guwahati. It is the district headquarters of the Sivasagar district. Sivasagar is a heritage place in Assam famous for the monuments of Ahom kingdom. Now it is a multicultural city. Sibsagar, ex Rangpur, was once the capital of the Ahom rulers who dominated Assam for more than 600 years. They ruled Assam virtually uninterrupted for 6 centuries until their kingdom fell to the Burmese in 1819, and their ruling class was all but wiped out. The province was liberated by the British in 1825 but, owing to the state of anarchy which prevailed in the province, it was completely annexed in 1826. This city's main feature is the water body from which it gets its name. This is a 257acre (1.04 km²) tank(pukhuri) also called Borpukhuri which is one of the largest tank in world, at a higher elevation than the rest of the town, with three temples(Dol's in Assamese) on its banks namely Devi dol, Shiv dol and Bhisnu dil. Of these temples, the most prominent is the Sivadol, standing tall at 104 feet (32 m), drawing large crowds on Shiv Ratri during the month of FebruaryMarch. This Shiv dol is one of the tallest shiv dol in world. The Shiva Dol is a huge temple with the main temple or the sanctum sanctorum (called GARVA GRIHA) rising to an imposing height of 180 feet. It is the tallest of all Shiva temples in India. The other temples are the Vishnudol and Devidol. The temples were built by Queen Ambika, wife of Swargadeo Siba Singha, in the year 1734.

Map of Sivsagar :



History of Sivasagar :

Before the British period, the center of administration of Assam was around Sivasagar where the famous Ahoms ruled for nearly six hundred years. The Ahom kings took keen interest in building different temples, dedicated to various deities and which were usually flanked by large tanks which till today stand out as memorials to their glory in the district. Sivasagar, or Rongpur as it was known then, was the capital of the Ahom Kingdom from 1699 to 1788. The famous Joysagar Tank was excavated within 45 days by Rudra Singha (1696-1714) in memory of his mother Joymoti Kunwari. The Joy Dol is situated on the bank of the Joysagar Tank. Pramatta Singha (1744-1751) built the Ranghar with bricks in 1745. Gaurisagar Tank is situated at a distance of about eight miles from Sivasagar town. The Sivasagar Tank was excavated by queen Ambika Devi in 1733. The Siva Dol, Vishnu Dol and Devi Dol are situated on the bank of the Sivasagar Tank. Rajeshwar Singha (1751-1769) built the Kareng Ghar in Gargaon. Charaideo, about 28 kilometers away from Sivasagar, is famous for a cluster of Maidams, the Ahom age tumuli. Sukapha, the first Ahom king, constructed his capital at Charaideo in 1253. Sivasagar was earlier known as Rongpur and Rongpur was earlier known as Meteka.^[2] The original name of Sivasagar district was Sibpur. On February 24, 1826, the treaty of Yandaboo consolidated the British occupation of Assam. This treaty of Yandaboo brought an end to the roughly six hundred year long Ahom rule in Assam. After the 1826 teaty, the British government in Assam incorporated a number of administrative changes such as the formation of districts. The Sivasagar district was created after the annexation of Purandar Singha's dominion of upper Assam in 1839. The Sadar headquarter of Sivasagar was transferred to Jorhat in 1912-13. The undivided old Sivasagar district comprised three subdivisions, namely

Sivasagar, Jorhat and Golaghat. In 1983, the Sivasagar district was reorganized to carve out the Jorhat district. It was further divided on 15 August 1987 for the creation of the Golaghat district.



It is said that the original name of Sivasagar was - 'Kalansupar' after the name of 'Kalansu Gohain' who resided in a village originally existed in the place where currently the Sivasagar tank is located.

This town's main feature is the water body from which it takes its name. This is a 257-acre (1.04 km²) tank, also known as the Borpukhuri, which is at a higher elevation than the rest of the town, with three temples ("Dol"s in Assamese) on its banks. Of these temples, the most prominent is the Sivadol, standing tall at 104 feet (32 m), drawing large crowds on Shiv Ratri. The other temples are the Vishnudol and Devidol. The temples were built by Kuwori Ambika, wife of Swargadeo Siba Singha, in 1734.

Transport of Sivasagar :

Road

Sivasagar is well connected by road with the rest of the state. State-run buses connect it to Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and other places from the Assam State Transport Corporation's (ASTC) bus station in Sivasagar. Private buses are also available. Taxis are also available for hire. AC and Non AC Luxury buses to Guwahati, Itanagar, North Lakhimpur, Tezpur daily service available

Air

The closest airport is Jorhat Airport located at Jorhat, 75 km away from Sivasagar. The airport is connected, via regular flights, to cities like Guwahati, Kolkata, Bangalore, and Delhi. Sivasagar is also connected to Dibrugarh and Shillong. Another option for getting here is via Dibrugarh Airport, located at a distance of 95 km from the city. There are frequent flight services to both Jorhat and Dibrugarh. Taxis to Sivasagar are available from either airport.

Railway

The New Tinsukia - Bengaluru Weekly Express connects through Sivasagar Town railway station. Dibrugarh-Agartala Express connects Sivasagar town directly with Barak Valley and The state of Tripura twice in a week. Kamakhya Dibrugarh intercity Express connects Sivasagar to the State capital daily. Rangiya Dibrugarh Express thrice a week also connects Sivasagar to the Lower Assam parts. The nearest railway station on the Tinsukia-Guwahati sector of the North East Frontier Railways is located at Simaluguri, 16 kilometres (9.9 mi) from Sivasagar. Buses ply regularly from Simaluguri towards Sivasagar. It is approximately a half-hour bus ride from Simaluguri town. Simaluguri JN is well connected with many cities across the country.

Demographics of Sivasagar :

An official Census 2011 detail of Sivasagar :

In 2011, Sivasagar had population of 1,151,050 of which male and female were 589,216 and 561,834 respectively. In 2001 census, Sivasagar had a population of 1,051,736 of which males were 545,476 and remaining 506,260 were females. Sivasagar District population constituted 3.69 percent of total Maharashtra population. In 2001 census, this figure for Sivasagar District was at 3.95 percent of Maharashtra population.

There was change of 9.44 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Sivasagar District recorded increase of 15.83 percent to its population compared to 1991. Average literacy rate of Sivasagar in 2011 were 80.41 compared to 74.47 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 85.84 and 74.71 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 81.53 and 66.81 in Sivasagar District. Total literate in Sivasagar District were 813,505 of which male and female were 444,767 and 368,738 respectively. In 2001, Sivasagar District had 7,965,351 in its district. Most of the inhabitants of the town are Assamese, comprising Ahom, Koch, Assamese Hindus, Assamese Muslims, and other ethnic groups.

Tourist Attraction of Sivasagar :



1) Ranghar :

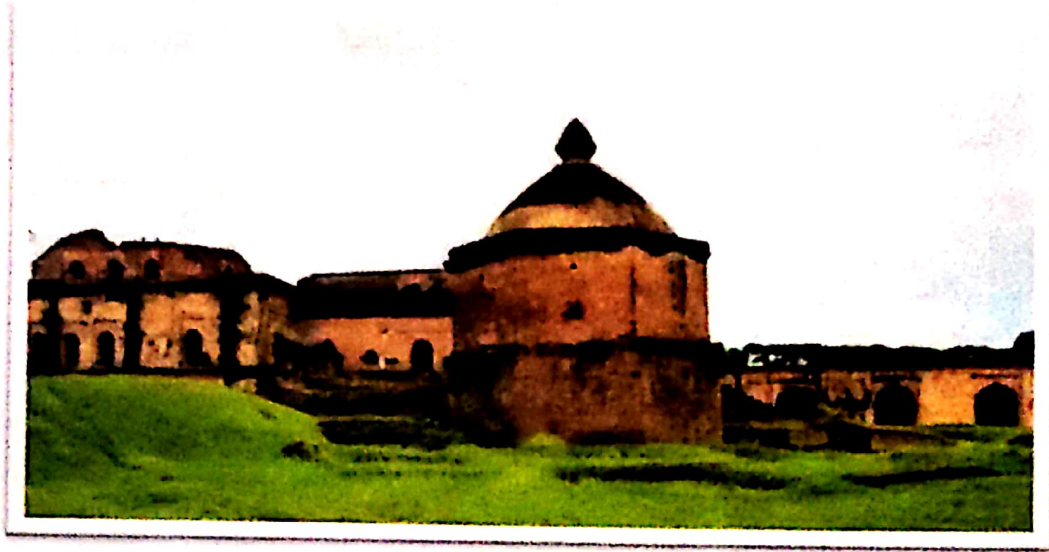
It is a doublestoried, oval shaped amphitheatre with a roof which is shaped like an inverted boat is the oldest paviloin in Asia is situated in Joysagar near about 3 km from main city. This was built by Ahom king Pramatta Singha (AD 1744 1750) for watching various games by families of royals. These included many of Assam's indegenous games like birds fight, buffalo fight, etc.



2) Kareng Ghar :

It was a Royal House of the TaiAhom kings, which is situated in Gargaon, the third capital of the TaiAhoms which is just near about 15 km from main city. It was built in 1752 AD by Ahom King Rajeswar Singha. It was the capital of ahom kingdom. The city of Gargaon is surrounded with several ramparts such as Nimanagarah, Bahgarh, etc. Gargaon is known to the TaiAhoms as 'Chehung' means a city surrounded with ramparts. According to TaiAhom Buranjis (histories), king Siuklengmung as per advice of his principal queen Chaoching (a princess from Nora kingdom) made this city after Cheregua, the second capital of the TaiAhoms.

3) Talatal Ghar :



Talatal Ghar or the Kareng Ghar (meaning the royal palace in Assamese) is located in Rangpur, one of the erstwhile capitals of the Ahom kingdom. This capital was first established by the Swargadeo Rudra Singha in 1707. It is located in the western part of the Sibsagar town. The multistoried palace, Talatal Ghar, was built by Swargadeo Rajeswar Singha. It is just 5 minutes walkable distance from Ranghar Rajeswar Singha added three underground stories known as Talatal Ghar made of brick and an indigenous type of cement to the four storied Kareng Ghar (or palace) built by Rudra Singha and his other sons. The Talatal Ghar had two secret underground tunnels connected to the Dikhow river and the Garhgaon Palace for use as an escape route in case of any enemy attack. Visitors nowadays can only view the ground floor and first floor and some of remaining portion of the 2nd and 3rd floor of the palace. The underground stories have been sealed and many of the wooden structure of the palace has vanished with time. The palace was surrounded by a brick fortification and also by an earthen fort (Garh) with dikes filled with water. There is a Khar Ghar or gunpowder and ammunition store near the palace.

4) Charaideo Maidams(Graveyards of Agom kings) :

Charaideo or Charaideo Maidams, a place sacred by the Ahoms. Stands at least 32km east of Sivasagar town. It is located at the foothills of a chain of low lying hills, called Charaideo, an offshoot of the Naga hills. Encompassing an area of 1012 sq. km , Charaideo is encircled by ramparts(Garhs). Though the capital of the Ahom kingdom moved many times, Charaideo remained the symbolic center. It contains sacred burial grounds of Ahom kings and queens and is also the place of ancestral Gods of the Ahoms. The tombs (Maidams) of Ahom kings and queens at Charaideo hillocks are comparable to the Pyramids of Egypt and are objects of wonder revealing the excellent architecture and skill of the sculptors and masons of Assam of the medieval days. The actual number of Maidam has exceeded 150 but only 30 Maidams are protected by the Archeological Survey of India and Assam State Archeology Department, and the remaining Maidams are unprotected. Most of these unprotected Maidams are encroached by people and so going to be damaged. The biggest unprotected Maidam is the Bali Maidam near Nimonagarh. This Maidam is called Bali Maidam, because while British plundered it, they got obstruction from excess sands (Bali) in the surrounding of the Maidam. The site has had some archeological works but also has suffered from robbers. There have been calls for the site to be UNESCO World Heritage listed.



5) Joysagar Tank :

Joysagar tank is the largest man made tank in the world. distance of its four sides covers 3 k.m. water level of Joysagar tank is 14ft higher than ground level. Joysagar tank is situated at a distance of around 5 km south of the present Sivasagar town. This big tank measures approximately 498 Bighas of land. One of the famous educational institutes of Upper Assam "Sivasagar College" stands on its bank other than some historical relics on the other sides of bank of the tank.



6) Sivasagar Tank:

Sivasagar tank is situated in Sivasagar district headquarters. The name is semantically adopted as place name at the level of District Name from a tank name. Prior to this excavation of this tank this area was known as 'Klongsupariya Gohain Gaon.' According to Changrung Phukanar Buranji, Draupadi, the second queen of TaiAhom king Sivasimha founded this tank. According to Changrung Phukanar Buranji, Draupadi, the second queen of TaiAhom king Sivasimha founded this tank sometimes in A.D. 1732 to commemorate her husband's name. So the tank and the name of the Hydronym. It measures about 400 + Bighas of land and the conscretion ceremony was conducted with more than hundred Brahmins so the tank is called 'Sagara'. During winter several migratory birds are seen.



7) Namdang Stone Bridge :

The Namdang Stone Bridge is historic bridge located a few kilometers away from Sivasagar town in Assam, India. It was constructed in 1703 by craftsmen brought from Bengal during the reign of Ahom king Rudra Singha. The bridge is 60 m long (196.85 ft), 6.5 m wide (21.32 ft) and 1.7 m high (5.57 ft). It runs over the Namdang river, a tributary of the Dikhou river. The present National Highway 37 is passing over it. The unique characteristic of the bridge is that it was cut out from a single solid piece of rock hundred years of age.



8) Ajan Pir Dargah Sharif :

Just 22 Km away from the Sivasagar At Saraguri Chapori stands Ajan Pir Dargah Sharif. Ajan Pir was the first Muslim saint to compose "Zikir" in Assamese Language (160 Nos. Approx.). On the day of the "URUS" thousand of devotees gather here to pay homage to the memories of this great Muslim reformer.



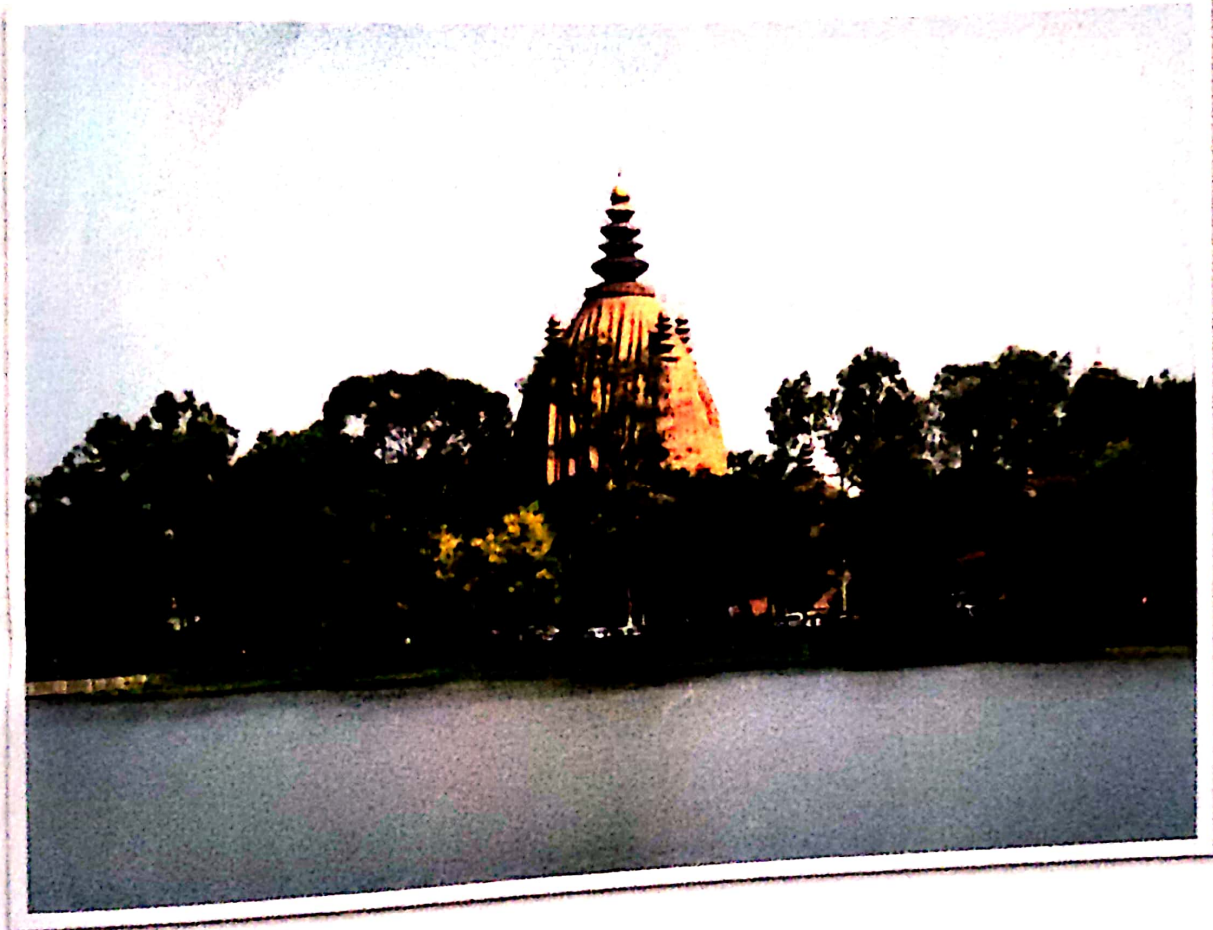
9) Gaurisagar Tank and Temples :

The Gaurisagar tank was built by queen Phuleswari Devi (1722 1791) and was dedicated to goddess Durga. It is covering an area of 150 acres and enclosing Shivadol and the Vishnudol temples. Gaurisagar is only 12km from Sibsagar.



10) Rudrasagar Tank and Temple :

King Lakshmi Singha built the tank in 1773 in memory of his father King Rudra Singha. On its banks stand a Shiva Temple and is situated 8km away from the Sibsagar town.



Temples :

Sivadol Temple

It was built in 1734 by Kuwori Ambika, wife of the Swargadeo Siba Singha. Dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, this is the most sacred of the three temples. Rising to a height of 104 feet (32 m), it encircles an area of 195 feet (59 m). It is thronged by devotees during the festival of Shivratri.



Sivadol

Vishnudol :

This was also built by Kuwori Ambika. It is dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu. According to the Hindu calendar, the month of "Bhada" is considered auspicious and sees a greater number of visitors to the Dol, although it remains open throughout the year.



Bishnu Dol

Devidol

This is dedicated to the Hindu Goddess of Power, Durga. Durga Puja, the most important festival marked at the temple, is celebrated twice a year: in the months of Chaitra (April–May) and Ashwin (September–October).



Economy of Sivasagar District : Sivasagar's biggest contribution to the world is its tea. Sivasagar produces some of the finest and most expensive teas in the world. Sivasagar also accounts for fair share of Assam's production of rice, rapeseed, mustard, jute, potato, sweet potato, banana, papaya, areca nut and turmeric etc. Sivasagar is also a home of large varieties of citrus fruits, leaf vegetables, vegetables, useful grasses, herbs, spices, etc, which are mostly subsistence crops. Sivasagar's agriculture has yet to experience modernization in a real sense and is lagging behind. With implications to food security, per capita food grain production has declined in past five decades. On the other hand, although

productivity of crops increased marginally, still these are much lower in comparison to highly productive regions.

Oil and Gas Fields :

After independence, the national Government realized the importance oil and gas for rapid industrial development and its strategic role in defense. Consequently, while framing the Industrial Policy Statement of 1948, the development of petroleum industry in the country was considered to be of utmost necessity. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, ONGC, started its operation in Assam in post independence days in early 1960s. It found new oil Basin in Sivasagar, Assam. Since then ONGC and oil has been an integral part of Sivasagar's growing economy. The ONGC's contributions to the development of the region is significant. There are various oil and gas fields available in the whole sivasagar district. The major oil fields and LPG plants fields in sivasagar are Lakwa, Galeki, Gaurisagar, Rudrasagar, Nazira, Sapekhati etc. GAIL (India) Limited, is India's flagship Natural Gas company, integrating all aspects of the Natural Gas value chain and its related services. In a rapidly changing scenario, they are spearheading the move to a new era of clean fuel industrialization, creating a quadrilateral of green energy corridors that connect major consumption centres in India with major gas fields, LNG terminals and other cross border gas sourcing points. The main plant of GAIL is situated in Lakwa which is about 30 km from Sivasagar town.

Tea Gardens in Sivasagar District :

Upper assam tea gardens contribute a huge role in Assam's economy. Sivasagar also having a numbers of tea gardens. Tea gardens not only produces economy but also it adds the scenic beauty. The beautiful tea gardens provides a very beautiful landscape of sivasagar district.

Here is some of the major tea gardens in sivasagar are:

- 1) AIDEOBARI T.E./P.O. Sonari785 690, Sivasagar.
- 2) BEMOLAPUR T.E./P.O. Borhat785693,Sivasagar.
- 3) BEZBORUAH T.E./P.O. Sapekhati785 692, Sivasagar.
- 4) MASKARA T.E./P.O. Rajmai785 672, Sivasagar
- 4) RAJMAI T.E./P.O. Rajmai785 672, Sivasagar
- 5) MUKTABARI T.E./P.O. Baruanagar785 692, Sivasagar.
- 6) BEHUBOR T.E./P.O. Nazira785 685,

Museum :

A new addition is the Tai Ahom Museum on the banks of the Sivasagar. It stores artefacts from the Ahom kingdoms and their rulers, including vestments, swords, manuscripts, goblets, and household utensils.

Panidihing Bird Sanctuary :

A rich wetland eco-system of 33.93 square kilometres (13.10 sq mi) on the southern bank of the river Brahmaputra, in Sivasagar district. Birds: A paradise of migratory and resident birds, over 165 species of birds have been identified and recorded here. Among these is a high concentration of geese and other migratory birds. Common species include bar-headed goose, grey leg goose, spot billed duck, mallard, gadwall, wigeon, gargany, shoveller, red-crested pochard, common pochard, ferruginous duck, adjutant stork, lesser adjutant stork, open-bill stork, and the white-necked stork. Aquatic fauna. Several varieties of fish have been identified here, along with various species of frogs, snakes, and other amphibians and reptiles.

Other Attractions :

The ancient capital of the Ahoms is Gargaon, about 13 km east from Sivasagar, home to the Kareng Ghar, a seven-storied palace built by 18th-century architects. Charideo, situated nearby, is another old capital which was built by Sukaphaa, the founder of the Ahom dynasty. There are Maidams, or vaults for kings and other members of the royal families here. Travellers cross the Namdang stone bridge, carved out of a single boulder hundreds of years ago, over which the busy national highway (NH 37) still runs today.

Conclusion :

From above discussion we can say that there is a lot of potential to become sivasagar as tourist place . so we should try to make sivsagar as a beautiful and cline city .

Reference :

- 1. From Wikipedia through Internet**
- 2. From Sivasagar releated Books.**
- 3. From Sivasagar local persons.**