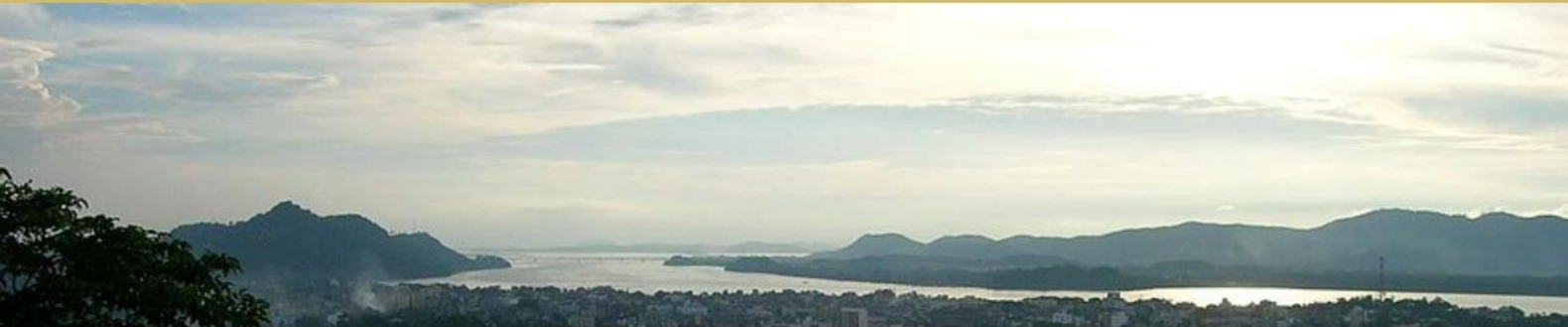


ASSAM STATE Muslims in Guwahati, India

Want to serve there?



Along with beautiful landscapes and a pleasant climate, Guwahati offers agreeable living and working conditions.

1 MILLION

Population of Guwahati City

125,000

Muslims in City

25%

Muslims in City

ASSAM

State Language

MAP OF INDIA



ABOUT GUWAHATI

With a population over one million, Guwahati is the largest urban center in Northeast India and the regional hub for **sports and cultural activities**. A fairly modern city by Indian standards, Guwahati is situated in West Central Assam, India's key northeast state.

Assam State has a population around 31 million, with 9 million Muslims from unreached and severely underengaged people groups of **Assamese** and both **Syloti** and **Bengali Muslims**, originally from Bangladesh.

One of seven *sister states*, **Assam borders Bangladesh** on the west and Bhutan on the north, so it's tucked a bit away from mainland India.

LIVABILITY

Like most Indian cities, Guwahati is crowded and growing. Guwahati has an international airport and the rest of Assam can be reached via train or car (on poorly maintained rail and road systems). One major highway runs through the city.

There are several local hospitals to provide medical care. Good schooling (by Indian standards), as well as Internet access are available. Several Western fast food chains, including Dominos, Baskin Robins, KFC and Subway can be found in Guwahati. Typically, the region experiences hot, wet summers—with heavy rainfall at times during the monsoon season—and mild, dry, dusty cooler season.

ASSAM STATE



GUWAHATI

Overview & OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in getting hearing more?

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

About half of **Assam's 9 million Muslims** are **Bengali**, which are almost entirely **Sunni**, with **Sufi** tendencies, and gives a place in India (as well as West Bengal) to reach into the 150+ Bengali Muslim people group.

The **Syloti**, who migrated from the witchcraft capital of Islam, Sylhet in Bangladesh are mostly Sufi and are the *charasmatic* Muslims including color, song and dance into their worship.

To reach the Assamese Muslims, workers would likely learn Assamese, the state language of Assam, and one of the four major dialects of Assamese: *Kamrup (Guwahati)*, *Goalparia (Dhubri, and Goalpara)*, *Central (Nagaon)* and *Eastern (Sibsager)*.

In addition to the Muslim population and Hindu majority, the state of Assam is also home to a Christian minority of 1 million, primarily from tribal backgrounds. Some have tried to mobilize them from Shillong, a hill station nearby Guwahati with little success. Strategic opportunities to disciple members of a house church network exist, in addition to possible partnerships with other members of God's team who are working in Guwahati.

Since tribal rebels are organized and fighting for political autonomy, a peace-making and justice element of society transformation will be important.



"Guwahati" means "place of sunrise."



Teaching women a trade.

Is God speaking to your heart about the Muslim people in India? Guwahati offers a unique opportunity to reach three major people groups, mobilize and train locals, and get involved in social justice issues.

WATCH THIS



Water

2005

**not for children*

IDENTITY IN GUWAHATI

The people of Guwahati are generally open and friendly to foreigners.

While Assam is one of the poorer provinces in India, Guwahati is by far the wealthiest city within Assam. The city's average annual per capita income is \$550. Industries include tea, petroleum, coffee, paper, wood, agriculture and textiles, so export companies and businesses would be welcome.

If an experienced disciplinemaking coach could find an entry opportunity that made sense, they could spend the majority of the time training.

A God's team also welcomes anyone with degrees in social work, psychology, trauma, child development, education and/or those experienced in rehabilitating young girls rescued from the sex trafficking industry to work with the girls and Muslim families located around them. **Watch the above movie Water.*