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## Assam - on Path of Progress

The rate of economic growth of Assam has been remarkable during 2001-2010. The Planning Commission's recent data reveal that in terms of percentage increase in the rate of growth during the period, the state may be ranked at 6th from the top among all the states in the country (Table 1).

Table 1 Percentage increase in the real growth rate of selected states (in terms of GSDP)

States	Real Growth Rate 2001-2002(A)	Real Growth Rate 2009-2010(B)	Pc (%) increase in Real Growth Rate between 2001-2010(C)	State ranking in improvement In growth rate
Andhra Pradesh	4.22	5.79	37	18
<b>Assam</b>	<b>2.58</b>	<b>7.34</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>6</b>
Bihar	-4.73	8.56	281	3
Jharkhand	6.79	6.58	-3	25
Gujarat	8.41	10.23	22	21
Kerala	5.17	9.73	88	11
Rajasthan	10.87	3.95	-64	28
Tamilnadu	-1.56	8.96	675	1
Uttar Pradesh	2.17	7.22	233	4

*Source: Planning Commission*

From the Table above it is evident that the percentage increase in real growth rate or speed of improvement in economic growth in Assam has been 182 percent, which is well above states like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Kerala.

Most strikingly, the state's rate of growth of 7.34 percent during 2009-2010 has been greater than the rate of growth of the country which has been pegged at 7.96 percent, thereby indicating a closing to the gap between the state and the country.

The average real growth rate of Assam was 2.21 percent during 1994-2002. The same has increased to **5.91 percent during 2002-2012, registering an increase of 167.4 percent over the earlier period.** The corresponding all India rate has been 28 percent.



### Economic Growth in %



Therefore, it appears that the percentage improvement in economic growth of Assam has been about 6 times more than improvement at the country level.

*The most interesting aspect of the Planning Commission's data is that since 2001-2002 (start of the Congress rule in Assam) the state never experienced any decline in the growth rates. In fact, the state's economy has shown tremendous improvement during last ten years from the deplorable conditions of 2000-2001, and recent growth estimates clearly speak for themselves.*

Most significantly, this remarkable turnaround of the state's economy from the quagmire of 2000-2001 has not only remained limited to growth performances of the state. **The India Human Development Report of 2011** has clearly shown that the state has performed appreciably well in all fronts of human development. The report states that "What is remarkable is that for five of the low HDI states the improvement in HDI is considerably above the national average. These are Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Assam (p.22)".

Of the three indices used to measure the overall human development index, the report places Assam at the top among all the states in terms of percentage change in income index from 1999-2000 to 2007-08. The report shows that the income index for Assam has improved from 0.152 (1999-2000) to 0.288 (2007-08) marking an increase of near 90 percent compared to the all India improvement of mere 21 percent.

The education index has also increased from 0.516 (1999-2000) to 0.636 (2007-2008) registering an improvement of about 23 percent.

It is, however, a matter of concern that improvement in the health index of the state has not been as impressive as income and education index, which is suggestive of serious





**% of change in HDI between 1999-2000 and 2007-08**



challenges for all of us. The health index, which was 0.339 (1999-2000) has risen to 0.407 (2007-08) indicating an increase of about 20 percent during the period, which is nevertheless, higher than the relative national increase of 13 percent during the same period.

**% change in income index from 1999-2000 to 2007-08**

