

Field Visit to Guwahati (17-22 October 2012) by Samir Kumar Das as part of CRG's CORE project

1. The last leg of the field survey was conducted in Guwahati from 17 to 22 October 2011. It was meant basically for (a) preparing the documentation on the peacemaking process from newspapers, pamphlets, manifestos and charters, etc. of the relevant organizations; (b) meeting and interviewing (i) some of the ex-rebels involved in the process, (ii) the intellectuals, journalists, eminent opinion leaders and civil society activists involved in the new peace initiative, (iii) the officials playing some role (direct or indirect) in the peacemaking process, and (iv) the leaders and activists of what I propose to call 'new citizenship movements'. Besides, some library work was also done in Guwahati District Library, Gauhati University Library and the Library of the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD) based in Guwahati. Work in these libraries provided me with the data and information concerning (c) new development initiatives, policy papers, government reports on strategic planning and governance reforms etc.
2. However, this was not all. The data and information collected during the visit were sought to be read together with the archives already collected by me in course of my previous visits in 2011 and 2010. I have made in fact regular field visits to various parts of the Northeast – particularly Assam since 1989.
3. This field visit makes it imperative on my part to appreciate the notion of *governed* peace. Governed peace does not rule out conflicts and war, but only makes a convenient combination of war and peace – a combination that is also convenient to all the relevant parties and stakeholders. Accordingly, governed peace brings about peace as a condition in which war is continued 'through other means'. The long history of peacemaking with ULFA since 1990 is as well the history of war 'continued through other means'.
4. The study needs to be placed along a comparative scale and other case studies are required for developing comparative insights.