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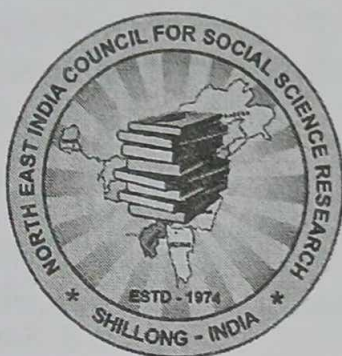
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## **Changing Land Use Pattern of Belsiri River Basin of Assam, Using RS and GIS**

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### **Study Area**

The present study is conducted in the Belsari river basin in the Sonitpur district of Assam (Fig.1). It is a part of the Brahmaputra river valley with an evolutionary history in the foreland of Bhutan Himalayas (Krishnan:1982)

Due to the uniqueness of geology and topographical structure the Belsiri river basin located in Sonitpur district is quite dynamics in nature. Geographical location of the study area extends from 26°36' N latitude to 27°05' N latitude and 92°20' E longitude to 92°40' E longitude. The basin area starts from the lesser Himalayas having plains and plateaus in its entire course. As the basin area is starts from Arunachal Pradesh the river basin is known differently in different places. The Basin area is basically composed of new alluvial soil in the lower part and old alluvial soil in the upper part which is known as Bhabar and Tarai belt. Though the Belsiri river has many tributaries but the river Belsiri partly fed by rain water and partly by the glacial melt. The study area is considered to identify significant human interventions that have led to increased rate of forest encroachment and habitat fragmentation resulting in deterioration of forest ecosystem. The dwellers produce varieties of crops and are engaged in other primary activities in the basin area causing rapid change in the pattern of land use as noticed by the authors during the field study.

### **Objectives**

The study has been undertaken to fulfil the following objectives

1. to study the land use of Belsiri river basin
2. to study the changing nature of landuse pattern of the basin
3. to analyse the impact of changing landuse pattern on the basin area

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