

## A Comprehensive Analysis on Administration of Ahom Kingdom and Their Socio-Economic Importance

**Dr. Biva Rani Das<sup>1</sup>, Minakshee Boruah<sup>2</sup>.**

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Assamese, Dhakuakhana College, Dhakuakhana, Assam, India.

<sup>2</sup>Research scholar, Department of Assamese, Cotton university, Panbazar, Assam, India.

### Abstract:

Assam located in the north eastern part of India known for different great dynasties of kings. The Ahoms who had ruled in this land came in 1228 AD well known as descendent of Indra, the king of heaven. The Ahom originally lived in Irawati valley of Burma. Around 10 century AD, two prince known as Khulung and Khunglai started moving in the north east direction whom Sukafa was believed to be the descendent, who is said to be the founder of Ahom kingdom. The Ahom rule for Brahmaputra valley for six hundred years, they mainly worshiped 'Somdeo', who was their chief deity. To administer the kingdom properly they, they had a unique administrative system. Borgohain, Burhagohain and Barpatragohain were the three most important minister of the kingdom. In this paper, we are going to discuss about administrative system of the Ahom system.

**Key word:** Assam, Ahom, Period, Administrative system, Monarchy

**Introduction:** When it comes to Ahom period, it basically refers to the long 600 years period of Ahom history. From the 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of the 13<sup>th</sup> century to the 4<sup>th</sup> decade of 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Ahom had ruled in Assam. A total of 41 rulers from the dynasty ruled during the period over coming various ups and downs, wars and peace, alliance and enmity etc. When we talk of culture of Ahoms, we mean culture of integrity, cooperates, besides political control. The Ahoms belongs to shames Chinese linguistic family. They entered Brahmaputra valley with their religion art, culture, language etc. but they had adopted the existing culture of the valley in wide extent and ultimately the great Arians community has founded. They had marriages Rabhas with Sutia, Kochari, Moran, Motak etc. that ultimately reflected the liberal character of the Ahoms king. Different people from different community together formed Bebejia 'Khel'. Similarly RudraSingha selected huge person to from 'Gharfalia' Khel.

On the basis of Monarchy, the Ahom administration system is highly developed. In their system the bureaucracy, officer and their employes are totally devoted with their work. In this paper, we can discuss about the administration system of Ahom kingdom and their impact on social life.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the paper is to –

1. To study about administration details of Ahom Kingdom.
2. Comprehensive analysis on interrelationships among king, bureaucracy, official employes with the people.
3. Impact of administration system on socio-economic lifestyle of Ahom kingdom.

## **Methodology and Materials :**

For the Convenience of the discussion analytical method is adopted.

## **Scope of the Study :**

A book named 'Itihasesoaurachasahatabachar' is the main scoped for the Article. The paper is based on several Ahom history Articles of experts and collective books for studies.

## **Analysis:**

The Ahom who have established themselves in the Brahmaputra valley has a long history. Sukafa, who had ruled for eighteen years in 'Mungrimungram' entered 'Samarpeeth' of established Ahom kingdom. The Ahom called this valley as 'Mung-dun-sun-kham' (Mung-country, Dun-full of, Sun-garden, Kham-gold), i.e. the land full of gardens. Sukafa started his journey towards Assam along with one more 'Khel' was developed called as Barua during the Ahom's region. In Tai language Barua was known as 'Phuke' (phu-person, ke-noble, i.e. noble/gentle person). Different Khel included in BaruaKhel are- kathBarua, KathbharatiBarua, SulpaniBarua, JalbhariBarua, GandhiaBarua, KukurasuaBarua, DulakakhariaBarua, JoradharaBarua, bezbarua, Dulia Barua, KathkatiaBarua, MoliaBarua, GajapariyaBarua, SilakutiyaBarua, SoraimariaBarua, DhenusuaBarua, DuwariyaBarua, MelbhagiyaBarua, BharatiBarua, NaosoliaBarua, KharghariyaBarua, SonowalBarua, MaranBarua, DeoliaBarua, GhutokiaBarua, Bujarbaruah etc. Beside this, Rajkhowa, Choudhury, Talukdar, Thakuria, Patgiri and GaonKakoti etc were some other officers appointed in Ahom administration.

By consisting 3-4 paiks, a 'got' was made of this paiks worked in normal time as well as during war as a soldier. During normal time, they need to work in king's palace or other minister's house. To manage of control these paiks, Hazarika, Saikia, Bora etc. officials were appointed. Hazarika managed 1000 paiks, whereas Saikia managed 100 and Bora managed

20 paiks. In Tai language, Saikia was known as 'Rupak', Hazarika as 'Ruring', (Chosenglung, seng=holy, i.e. Big holy god) was introduced by Suhungmung (1497-1539 AD) and placed konseng in the post or made step brother Konseng as the first Borpatragohain. The chief minister was provided with 10000 paiks of they had the power even to difference a king or place a prince on the throne.

Borphukan and Borboruah's place were next to the chief ministers of infact they can be called as sub ordinate ministers. These two parts were created by Susengpha or Pratapsingha (1603-1641AD). In tai language Borgohain is known as 'Phukunglung' (great person). He ruled the territory from Kaliabar to the extreme western part of the kingdom of his office was palced in Guwahati. Barboruah was called as 'Phukelung' in the language of his office was located in Rangpur. His territory was extended from Kaliabar to the extreme eastern point of the kingdom. He managed the army of the kingdom and assigned armies during war. He used to take report from the ambassador coming from other king and reported to the king. Infact, he was the chief executive officer of the king. Beside these, one

more type of officer called 'Melbhogia Raja' was there. Some clause existed in the kingdom like Tipomia, Saringia, Naurupia etc were the king selected from these clauses.

The Ahom adopted much liberal social policies of did not discriminate among people based on castes. To administer the kingdom efficiently, 'Khel system' was there. Above the officers, there was a designation called 'Chaopha' (Chao-great of god; Pha-Heaven) which means 'God of Heaven' or 'Swargadeo'. Although kingship was the prevalent system, the king used to take advice from the ministers. That is why some scholar describe Ahom monarchy as 'Limited monarchy'. The king always took advice of discussed all the important matters with the ministers, Melodia Raja, Borphukan, Barboruah, Charaphukan and subordinate rulers. The king along with three ministers, Barphukan and Barbaruah constituted the ministry of Ahom's. The king and the three ministers and Barbaruah resided in the capital, while the Barphukan's office was located at Gauhati. Among the three ministers one was selected as chief ministers. During Sukapha's reign two ministers were there mainly Burhagohain (called as Chaophromung; chao-god, phrong-wide, mung-country; i.e. Lord of large kingdom) and Borgohain (called as Chaothalung; chao-god, thao-old, i.e. Old God). The first Burhagohain of Ahom kingdom was Thaomukling lung maorai (1229-1268 AD) and the first Borgohain was Thaomung ka-nang (1229-1290AD). The past of Burhagohain two ministers viz, Thaomungklingu Burhagohain of Thaomungkanongan Borgohain & other officers, his three queen along with around 900 man-women (he mostly selected unmarried and young people). After a long journey with hard work, dedication and diplomatic tactics, he defeated many small kingdoms like Moran and Borahi and finally founded the Ahom kingdom Sukapha was there at Habung from 1240-1242 AD but due to frequent flood this place was not suitable for capital. In the regard Edward A Gait writes in his book, A history of Assam, write this- 'In 1240 this tract of country became flooded during the rainy season, so he left it and descended the Brahmaputra to Habung where he spent two years, while here the Ahom lived by cultivation but this also was liable to inundation and in 1244 a heavy flood nauseated to another move. Sukapha therefore continued his journey down the Brahmaputra reached the mouth of the Dikhau.

In 1253 AD Sukapha finally reached Charaideo and founded his capital. The word Charaideo stands for Che-rai-deo- (che-city, rai-bright, deo-hill) i.e. Bright Hill city. Here in Charaideo Sukapha sacrificed a white horse under 'Nooni tree' to worship Langdon and established the capital. Starting from Sukapha to Purandarsingha, total 41 rulers ruled from this dynasty in this land.

As the kingdom expanded gradually, new officer were required to administrator efficiently. Datidagohain, Sadiakhuagohain, Marangikhowagohain, Salalgohain, Sakiyal officer etc. were introduced. One important designation of Ahom administration was 'Phukan'. Phukan is a tai word that means noble person. Mainly two kinds of Phukan can be shown in Ahom administration, they are-

- a) ChoraPhukan
- b) ChomuaPhukan

The Chomua were non military but had to go for war if required. NyayKhudaphukan, Naoboichaphukan, Dihingiaphukan, Dekaphukan, Neogphukan, Naophukan, Paniphukan, Chetiaphukan were the main among Choraphukans. Nyayakhudaphukan was the chief justice of Ahom kingdom. Nowboichaphukan was responsible for the management of royal boot and 300 paiks worked under him. Two Dihingiaphukans were there – one at Rabgpur and another at Gauhati. They control 600 paiks each. Deka and Neogphukan also had 6000 paiks each under them. The paiks and soldiers of Royal palace and the capital were placed under Bhitaraalphukan. Paniphukan manage 7000 paiks while Cheraphukan managed 4000 paiks. Changgrungphukan, Naosoliaphukan, Tamuliphukan, Jalbariphukan, Khongiaphukan, Charingiaphukan, Tipomiaphukan, Parbotiyaphukan, Gandhiaphukan, Rajguruphukan were main among Chamuaphukan.

One more 'Khel' was developed called as Baruah during the Ahom's reign. In Tai language, Baruah was known as phuke' (phu = Person, Ke = noble, i.e. noble/gentle person). Different khels included in Baruahkhel were – Kath Baruah, Kathbharali Baruah, Sulpani Baruah, Jalbhari Baruah, Gandhia Baruah, Mazinder Baruah, Khanikar Baruah, Sensus Baruah, Changmai Baruah, Hati Baruah, Ghura Baruah, Kukurasua Baruah, Chaudang Baruah, Joradhora Baruah, Bez Baruah, Dulia Baruah, Kathkatiya Baruah, Molia Baruah, Gajaparia Baruah, Silakutia Baruah, Soraimaria Baruah, Dhenuswa Baruah, Duwaria Baruah, Melbhagea Baruah, Bharali Baruah, Naosolia Baruah, Khargharia Baruah, Sonowal Baruah, Maran Baruah, Deolia Baruah, Ghutokia Baruah, Bujar Baruah etc. Besides these Rajkhowa, Choudhury, Talukdar, Thakuria, Patgiri and Gaon Kakati etc were some other officers appointed in Ahom administration. By consisting 3-4 Paiks, a 'gut' was made of this paiks worked in normal time as well as during war as a soldier. During normal time, they need to work in king's palace or other minister house. To manage & control these paik, Hazarika, saikia, Borah etc official were appointed. Hazarika managed 1000 paiks, where a saikia managed 100 paiks and Borah managed 20 paiks. In Tai language saikia was known 'Rupak', Hazarika as 'Ruring' and Bora as 'Rusao'.

### **Conclusion:**

The administrative system of Ahom kingdom was very efficient. No contemporary kingdoms of NE India were so fine and efficient as that of Ahoms. Because of fine administrative system, the kingdom could expand through out of the valley and ruled for six hundred years.

### **Result:**

- . The administrative system of Ahom kingdom was highly commendable.
- . All the people starting from 'paiks' to king perform their own duties with considerable efforts. For the development of the kingdom, different officials were appointed.
- . Like the efficient and disciplined administrative system of the kingdom, punishments were also harsh. Brahmins and women (except jaymati) were excluded from punishment.

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