



ISSN Print: 2394-7500  
 ISSN Online: 2394-5869  
 Impact Factor: 8.4  
 IJAR 2022; 8(2): 79-81  
[www.allresearchjournal.com](http://www.allresearchjournal.com)  
 Received: 18-11-2021  
 Accepted: 02-01-2022

**Bhargab Barman**  
 M.Phil. Research Scholar,  
 Kumar Bhaskar Varma  
 Sanskrit and Ancient Studies  
 University, Nalbari, Assam,  
 India

## Ancient Assam: Its different dynasties

**Bhargab Barman**

### Abstract

This paper is confined the ancient kamrupa and its different dynasties at different times. There were many kingdoms in ancient Kamrupa which are elaborate in this paper. This paper contains different kingdoms and their rulers' tenure. Several monarchs rose and fell in ancient Assam throughout the Dynastic period. The territory of Assam, formerly known as Kamrupa or Pragjyotishpur, had been occupied by a variety of ancient kingdoms, including Varman, Mlechchha, and Pala, among others, since the early stages around 350 AD.

**Keywords:** Ancient Kamrupa, kingdoms, administration, line of kings

### Introduction

The ancient history of Assam, or Pragjyotisa - Kamarupa, as the area was known from the beginning of its history, is an area of study that is almost untouched and unconvicted. It is clear that our prior knowledge is limited, and this is attributable not only to a scarcity of resources and their contradictory nature, but also to the human mind's inability to properly understand existing facts.

Pragjyotisa was the name given to it in ancient times. The origins of this name and when it was first used are a topic of debate among academics. However, it was more mythical than historical. It was later becoming known as Kamarupa, at least since the fourth century C.E., and was frequently preceded by Pragjyoisa as Pragjyotisa-Kamarupa. The Ahom, whose dominance in the Brahmaputra Valley lasted for 600 years, from 1228 C.E. to 1826 C.E., are related with the current name Assam. The original sources of information on Ahom-Bhutan Relations will be presented, as most international sources are familiar to individuals who are familiar with Bhutan's history (Phukan, 2014) [2].

Lord "Shiva" married Parvati, the daughter of a prominent monarch at the time named Daksha. The King, on the other hand, disliked his son-in-law for many reasons and hence did not invite him to the "Jagna" (great sacrifice) ritual, which the king had meticulously planned. Parvati, as the king's daughter, could not pass up the opportunity to attend the ritual and travelled with her husband's permission. "Daksha" made nasty remarks about her husband when she arrived at the auspicious location, and this in front of a large crowd. She was enraged and outraged by the disrespect given to her husband, and she sacrificed her life on the spot (*Home / Kamrup Metropolitan District | Government of Assam, India 2022*).

From 350 to the mid-12th century CE, Kamarupa was controlled by at least three kingdoms. Kamarupa was an autonomous kingdom that emerged as a feudatory state of the Gupta Empire in the 6th century. Although successive Muslim invasions were thwarted in the 13th century, the Ahom tribe of northern Myanmar (Burma) penetrated the territory from the east, gradually expanding their control of the province westward. Assam (or probably Asama) was the Ahom's name for the region, and it gradually replaced Kamarupa as the official name. Kamarupa was the center of evolution for the Tantric type of Hinduism, particularly at the Kamakhya temple complex in Guwahati, thanks to its unique blend of South Asian and East Asian civilizations (Britannica, Kamarupa | ancient state, India 2022).

**Nature and Scope of the Study:** The nature of the study is historical, which try to elaborate the ancient scenario of Kamrupa and its different dynasties. The earlier name of Kamrupa was due to many reasons which are describe in the paper. The different rulers or kings played notable role to flourishing the region.

**Corresponding Author:**  
**Bhargab Barman**  
 M.Phil. Research Scholar,  
 Kumar Bhaskar Varma  
 Sanskrit and Ancient Studies  
 University, Nalbari, Assam,  
 India

### Objectives of the Study

- To elaborate the scenario of ancient Kamrupa (Assam)
- To find out role of the kings
- To study about different kingdoms at that time.

**Methodology:** The study employs a qualitative and analytical research methodology based on both primary and secondary sources, including official documents, conferences, related books and journals, reprints of published papers, and soft copies such as internet pages and pdf documents acquired from sites. The study will mostly rely on primary sources, with secondary sources being reviewed as needed.

### Different Dynasties of Kamrupa

Mahiranga Danava founded the *Danava dynasty*, which was the first legendary line of monarchs in Pragjyotisha. Kirata was the dynasty's origin. Despite the lack of archaeological evidence, these monarchs are recorded in the Kalika Puran. Kirata leaders formed the Danava dynasty; the last of them, Ghatakasura, was murdered and replaced by Naraka. The chronology of the rulers of the dynasty were,

- Mahiranga
- Hatakasura
- Sambarasura
- Ratnasura
- Ghatakasura (Gait, 1906).

The Danava Dynasty was replaced by the *Bhauma Dynasty*. After the Danava dynasty, the Bhauma dynasty is Pragjyotisha's second legendary dynasty. Narakasura, the founder of this dynasty, and his descendants Bhagadatta and Vajradatta are first referenced in the epics Mahabharata and Ramayana in parts written during the first few centuries, however they are placed in either northwestern or eastern India (Sircar, 1990) <sup>[3]</sup>. According to the Kalika Purana of the 10th century, Naraka of Videha formed the dynasty by deposing Kirata chief Ghataka, the last of the Danava dynasty. The elements of the Naraka account are regarded legendary, despite the fact that he could have been a local Kirata chief or a Hinduized tribal teenager in the past. The adulation and assimilation of a local leader, as well as the creation of myths, follow a pattern seen throughout India. Suparna, the final ruler, was assassinated by his ministers. There is no credible evidence to establish the existence of this dynasty.

Pushyavarman, presumably a contemporary of Samudragupta (c. 335/350-375 CE), was the first ruler of this *Varman dynasty*. The kingdom he built with great difficulty grew on the outskirts of the Gupta Empire, embraced the north Indian governmental model, and its kings followed the Gupta kings' and queens' names and honours. Until the sixth monarch, Mahendrarvarman, who built a rock shrine and acquired the title of Maharajadhiraja (king-of-kings) in the last part of the fifth century, little is known about the early kings. Pushyavarman's dynastic line first appears in the 7th century, in copperplate inscriptions produced by Bhaskaravarman in Dubi and Nidhanpur, and in the Harshacharita, and not before in any inscription from his ancestors. Bhaskaravarman claims to be a descendant of Narakasura, Bhagadatta, and Vajradatta in these inscriptions. The capital was relocated at least once, most recently by Sthitavarman (566-590), with the earlier city, Pragjyotishpura, on the south-eastern slope of the Narakasur

hill near Dispur. It's possible that the new capital will be in Guwahati.

The chronology of the kings of Varman dynasty, were

- Pushyavarman
- Samudrarvarman-I
- Balavarman
- Kalyanvarman
- Ganapativarman
- Mahendrarvarman
- Narayanavarman
- Mahabhutivarman
- Chandramukharvarman
- Sthitavarman
- Susthitavarman
- Supratisthitavarman
- Bhaskarvarman

Following the fall of the Varman dynasty, the *Mlechchha dynasty* (c. 650 - 900) controlled Kamarupa from their capital at Harruppesvar in present-day Tezpur, Assam. This dynasty had twenty-one monarchs according to historical documents, however the line is unclear and the names of some intermediate emperors are unknown. Salastambha appears for the first time in an inscription 175 years into the dynasty's reign (I bid). Salastambha was a Bodo-Kachari chief of Mech, which was later Sanskritized to Mleccha, according to Suniti Kumar Chatterji and Dineshchandra Sircar; an inscription from the time of a monarch from the later Pala dynasty declares him to be a mlecchadhin (Lord of The Mlecchas) (I bid). Over the Hayunthal Plates, an unintelligible explanation for their being named mlecchas was also provided. Mleccha could signify the destruction of Vedic Brahmanical religion in favour of tantric Vamacara, which is practised by Saivites and Saktas. Salastambha's ethnic identification may have been the same as Varmans, but they were known as mlecchas.

From 900 CE, the *Pala dynasty* governed the Kamarupa kingdom. The first emperor of this dynasty was elected, similar to the Pala Empire of Bengal, which explains the name "Pala." The Palas of Kamarupa, however, were Hindus, unlike the Buddhist Palas of Bengal. The Hindu orthodoxy traced their ancestors back to the previous Varman dynasty, and hence to Narakasura, or the Bhauma dynasty. The Pala monarchs of Kamarupa were given the titles of paramadaivata paramabhattaraka maharajdirja (the Guptas' imperial title), sri-vrha (one who can trace his ancestors to Varha), and prajyotisdhipati (ruler of Pragjyotisa). When the Gaur king Ramapala attacked Kamarupa, the Pala dynasty came to an end (c. 1072-1126). Timgyadeva was appointed governor of Kamarupa and reigned from 1110 to 1126 (Shin, 2018) <sup>[5]</sup>.

The chronology of rulers of the Pala dynasty were,

- Brahma Pala (900-920)
- Ratna Pala (920-960)
- Indra Pala (960-990)
- Go Pala, also Gopalavarman (990-1015)
- Harsha Pala (1015-1035)
- Dharma Pala (1035-1060)
- Jaya Pala (1075-1100)

After the Pala Dynasty in Kamrupa, the most powerful dynasty *Ahom Dynasty* came into existence. Early in the thirteenth century C.E., a huge troop of Tai people from the

Mong Mao kingdom advanced to the Brahmaputra valley under the command of a prince named Siu-ka-pha, according to their own chronicles. According to the chronicles, this group included aristocrats, priests, men, women, children, fighting men, and regular servants and bureaucrats. Mong Mao's current location in the Shweli Valley in south-western Yunnan has been discovered. It is now part of the Dehong Tai-Singpho Autonomous Prefecture, with Mangshi (in Chinese) or Mong Khwan (in Tai) as its capital (Phukan, 2014) [2].

They expanded along the river channels of the Buridihing, Brahmaputra, and Dikhow after crossing the Patkai and formed various minor estates. Siu-ka-pha eventually constructed his capital in Sivasagar, at a location called Cheraidoi, contemporary Charaideo. The first king was Siu-ka-pha. In 1268 C.E., he died there and was cremated there (Ibid).

The chronology of Ahom kings were,

- Sukaph (1228-1268)
- Suteupha (1268-1281)
- Subinpha (1281-1293)
- Sukhangpha (1293-1332)
- Sukhrangpha (1332-1364)
- Sutupha (1364-1376)
- Tyao Khamti (1380-1387)
- Sudangpha (1397-1407)
- Suhungmung (1497-1539)
- Suklengmung (1539-1552)
- Sukhampha (1552-1603)
- Pratap Singha (1603-1641)
- Surampha or Bhoga Raja (1641-1644)
- Sutinpha or Nariya Raja (1644-1648)
- Jayadhwaj Singha or Sutamla (1648-1663)
- Chakradhwaj Singha (1663-1670)
- Udayaditya Singha (1670-1673)
- Gadadhar Singha (1681-1696)
- Rudra Singha (1696-1714)
- Siva Singha (1714-1744)
- Pramatta Singha
- Rajeshwar Singha (1751-1769)
- Laxmi Singha (1769-1780)
- Gaurinath Singha (1780-1794)
- Kamaleswar Singha (1795-1810)
- Chandrakanta Singha (1810-1818)
- Purandar Singha (1818-1819)

## Conclusion

Ancient Kamrupa had above mentioned different dynasties by different line of kings. The kings of different dynasties had various alliance with different contemporary rulers in that time. Along with the existence of neolithic, megalithic, palaeolithic, and metal age cultures may be found in Assam during this period. In addition, the prehistoric periods of Assam revealed the geographical locations, reigning periods, and cultural specialisations of some of the state's first rulers. In Assam's historical archives, the names of the Danava Dynasty, Ahom kings, Barobhuyans, Kachari, Chutia, and Koch kingdoms are prominent. According to Assamese mythology, it was a beloved residence of many epic characters throughout the ancient period. The rule of the Danava Dynasty marked the beginning of Assam's legendary age.

## References

1. Kumar Chowdhury M. Assam-Bhutan Trade Relation Since Medieval Period. 2015;01(11).
2. Phukan JN. Ahom-Bhutan Relations with Specific Reference to Royal Bhutanese Embassy Visiting Ahom Capital in 1801, 2014.
3. Sircar DC. Pragiyotisha-Kamrupa, 1990, 01.
4. Nath, Baij Puri. Studies in Early History and Administration in Assam, 1968.
5. Shin, Jae-Eun. Region Formed and Imagined: Reconsidering temporal, spatial and social context of Kamrupa, 2018.
6. Choudhury PC. The History of Civilization of the People of Assam to the Twelfth Century AD, 1959.
7. Singh, Pankaj. Ancient Pottery of Assam: A Study 2015, 15.