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Medieval History : Ahom Kingdom - Part X

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Assam History

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Medieval History

Ahom Kingdom – Part X

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Hi, I am Bhaskarjyoti Hazarika !

- ✓ Graduated from Assam Engineering College
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Ahom Kingdom

Reign of Gaurinath Singha and Burmese
Invasion

Reign of Gaurinath Singha

- Gaurinath Singha appealed for help of men and materials to the **British East India company**
- He appealed through a salt merchant named **Raush** and commissioner of Koch Bihar - **Mr. Dauglas**
- In response to this the Governor General **Lord Cornwallis** despatched **Captain Thomas Welsh** with sepoy and he arrived at Goalpara in **November, 1792.**
- The meeting between Gaurinath Singha and Capt. Welsh took place at **Nagarberra** on the Brahmaputra.

Operation of Captain Thomas Welsh

- **Captain Welsh** suppressed the rebellious elements at Guwahati and on the north bank.
- He also pacified Darrangi Raja Krishnanarayan and expelled many of the **Burkandazes** (hired North Indian Soldiers) who assisted him.
- Then Captain Welsh advanced to Jorhat. Then he defeated the Moamarias in Rangpur and restored the authority of **Gaurinath Singha** at Rangpur in **1794 A.D**
- Soon after this success, **Capt. Welsh** was recalled by the new Governor General **Sir John Shore** and he left Assam.

Operation of Captain Thomas Welsh

- During his stay in the kingdom, Capt. Welsh concluded a **commercial treaty in 1793** by which commerce between Assam and Bengal was sought to be put on 'reciprocal basis'
- **The Report of Capt. Welsh** which he submitted to his government gives some important information in regard to the administration of Ahoms, trade and commerce, products etc.
- Gaurinath Singha was very cruel and vindictive. But he did some good work like **abolition of human sacrifice at the Kechaikhati temple at Sadiya**
- In 1794 A.D he permanently shifted the Ahom capital to **Dichoi (Jorhat)**

Reign of Kamaleswar Singha

- Gaurinath Singha died in 1795 and he was succeeded by **Kamaleswar Singha**
- He left the administration to the most efficient officer – **Purnananda Burha Gohain**
- His reign witnessed localised revolts at several places in Kamrup, at Sadiya by the Khamtis, Pani Noras, Miris, fresh Moamaria insurrection in league with the Daflas but all those were successfully suppressed.
- The revolt at Kamrup was led by **Haradatta** and his brother **Birdatta**. They organised some **Barkundez** soldiers. The local people called them Dumdumiya and hence the revolt was known as Dumdumiya or **Donduwa Droh**

Reign of Kamaleswar Singha

- The Donduwa Droh was soon repressed and Hardatta and Birdatta was killed by **Kalia Bhomora Barphukan** and he was offered the title **Pratap Ballav** by Kamaleswar Singha.
- **Kalia Bhomora Barphukan** also decided to build a bridge over Brahmaputra near **Silghat** . The second bridge over Brahmaputra '*Kolia Bhomora Setu*' (**1987**) connecting Kaliabar and Tezpur has been named after **Kalia Bhomora**
- In **1805**, there was a fresh rising of Mowamariyas under Sarbananda Singha
- Moamariyas also brought Burmese twice to the country for assistance. But Purnananda bribed the Burmese and sent them back.

Reign of Kamaleswar Singha

- Finally Purnananda Burhagohain concluded a treaty with Moamariyas and they settled in between Brahmaputra and Burhidihing which came to known as '**Matak**' state. Their chief was given the title '**Bor Senapati**'.
- Kamaleswar Singha connected the new capital Jorhat by constructing several new roads like the **Na-ali, Rajabhar Ali, Mohabandha Ali, Kamarbandha Ali**,etc.
- He also built a **copper-house at Kamakhya**
- **Kamaleswar Singha died in 1810 A.D**

Reign of Chandra Kanta Singha

- Kamaleswar Singha was succeeded by **Chandra Kanta Singha**
- He assumed the Ahom name **Sudenpha**. As he was very young in age, the control of Ahom Kingdom remained at the hands of Purnananda.
- **The reign of Chandra Kanta Singha saw the Burmese invasion.**
- Chandra Kanta Singha developed a great friendship with **Satram** who soon became greedy and insolent and plotted assassination of Burhagohein. He was captured and banished to Namrup.
- Consequently at the death of Kalia Bomora, **Badanchandra** was appointed as the **Barphukan**.

First Burmese invasion – 1816 A.D

- The appointment of **Badanchandra Barphukan** was the most disastrous decision for Ahom Kingdom.
- Badanchandra Barphukan was very corrupt and soon friction was developed between **Purnananda Buragohain** and **Badan Chandra Barphukan**
- Finally **Buragohain** sent men to arrest Badan Chandra but he fled and went to Calcutta and sought British assistance. But the British refused to intervene.
- Following that Badan Chandra went to Burmese capital **Amarapura** and pleaded for assistance against the Burhagohain. The Burmese Monarch **Bodoupaya** already had his eyes on Assam

First Burmese invasion

- **Bodoupaya** took the opportunity and in **1816 A.D** he dispatched a huge Burmese army of about sixteen thousand men with **Badan Chandra** to Assam. It was the first Burmese Invasion to Assam.
- Purnananda Burhagohain sent Ahom army to resist Burmese. At that juncture, unfortunately he died of heart attack. Purnananda's death was a big blow to Ahom kingdom. He was succeeded by his son **Ruchinath Burhagohain**.
- In the first battle at **Ghiladharighat**, Burmese defeated the Ahom army. Then the Burmese army marched forward and arrived at Jorhat. On their line of March, Burmese army burnt thousands of villages.

First Burmese invasion

- The Burmese army arrived at **Jorhat**.
- **Badanchandra** was reinstated as Barphukan and he became all powerful.
- Chandrakanta Singha was retained as a nominal king and all relatives and adherents of Burha Gohain was killed.
- In **April, 1817 A.D** the Burmese returned to their country and took with them an Ahom girl named **Hemo Aideo** and a very huge amount of presents.

THANK YOU

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