



স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলন (আম)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**

Government of Manipur

## CHAPTER- 17

### STATES AND KINGDOMS IN NORTH- EAST INDIA SINCE THE 15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

#### **NOTES:**

- The kingdoms of north east India, the Kingdom of Ahoms, the Kingdom of Kacharis and the Kingdom of Manipur, each of these kingdoms had their own distinctive culture and civilization.

#### **A. RISE OF THE AHOMS:**

- The Ahom Dynasty was founded in modern day Assam by one Sukapha who belonged to the Tai and Shan race.
- Sukapha who was an adventurous man, after conquering a number of tribes he established the Ahom kingdom with its capital at Charaideo ( now in Sibsagar district in Assam).
- During the thirteenth and sixteenth century, the Ahoms were engaged in the expansion and consolidation of the kingdom and they expanded under many powerful king and one of the most important king was Suhungmung (1497-1539).
- Suhungmung established good relations with the ruler of Manipur and in 1537 he sent royal envoys to the court of Kabomba, the king of Manipur.
- Sushengpha (1603-1641) was another important Ahom king and in his reign the conflicts with the Kacharis and Mughals continued and the Mughals were defeated twice in 1527 and 1619 and the conflict continued till 1638.
- The Ahom king Rajeshwara Singh (1751-1769), married a Manipuri princess, Kuranganayini and she was the niece of Raja Jai Singh and because of this relationship the Ahoms extended military help during the Burmese invasion to Manipur.

- The Ahom kingdom began to decline with the accession of Gaurinath as the king of Ahom in 1780, also the Moamaria Rebellion created a lot of problem. In 1792 ,the British East India Company sent Captain Welsh to assist the Ahoms.
- There were many factors which led to the decline of the Ahoms- defects in administration system, weak military system, Moamaria Rebellion, Burmese invasion and the British invasion etc.

## **B. KACHARI KINGDOM**

- The Kacharis were the earliest inhabitants of the Brahmaputra valley and they are known by different names- Dimasa in north Cachar hills , Bodo in Brahmaputra valley and the Manipuris Called them Mayan Thongnang.
- The Kachari were not in good terms with the Ahoms and had always been in conflict, also they faced defeat in the hands of the Ahoms in 1526 and 1536.
- The Kacharis left Dimapur and established their capital at Maibong in north Cachar hills.
- In 1606 ,the Kachari king Satrudaman was able to defeat the Ahoms and later took the title Pratap Narayan and changed the name of the capital as Kirtipur.
- In 1813,Govindachandra became the king of the Kachari kingdom and successfully repulsed the invasion of the Manipuri king , Marjit .
- Later due to Burmese invasion to Manipur in 1819, the Manipuri prince ousted Govindachandra and he had to flee to Sylhet and sought help of the British.

## **C. RISE AND GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM OF MANIPUR**

- During the fifteenth century, the most notable king of Manipur was Kyamba (1467-1508) and his original name was Thangwai Ningthouba.
- In 1470 AD ,Thangwai Ningthouba and Khekkomba the king of Pong jointly invaded the Kyang Kingdom in the Kabaw Valley and was victorious
- A treaty was signed after the conquest between Kyamba and Khekkomba and according to the treaty, a large portion of the Kabaw valley became part of Manipur.
- Kyamba also repulsed the Mayangs who invaded Manipur from the west in 1504.

- Many Manipuri kings contributed to the growth of Manipur, among them king Kabomba (1524-1542) may be mentioned.
- Kabomba established good relationships with the Tekhao (upper Assam) by entering into marriage alliances and in 1536 a road was opened from Tekhao to Manipur.
- King Mungyamba was another king who greatly contributed to the growth of the kingdom. He assumed the name of Mungyamba after defeating Mungyang a Shan principality of Burma in 1563 and subjugated the Samsok principality in 1592.

#### **D. KHAGEMBA (1597-1652) : A CASE STUDY.**

- Khagemba means Khagi+Ngamba, the conqueror of khagi(Chinese).
- Khagemba was one of the greatest king of Manipur, who was a great conqueror.
- He conquered Kyang in 1602, captured Mawao and other Shan principalities in and around the Anggo hills of Kabaw Valley and raided Samsok in 1614.
- He repulsed the Burmese invasion to Manipur in 1651.
- It was during Khagemba's reign the Muslims came to Manipur, the Muslim captives were made to settle in Manipur and came to be known as 'Meitei Pangals'.
- During the reign of Khagemba, the kingdom of Manipur extended from the Barak river in the west to the Chindwin river in the east and from Maram hills in the north to Sugnu in South.

#### **#ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Khagemba was the first Manipuri king who used the epithet of Lainingthou (Godly king) in 1606 claiming the divinity of kingship of Manipur.
- For efficient administration of the state, Khagemba set up many Loishangs (Departments).
- Many markets at various places were established to facilitate trade and commerce
- Agriculture was encouraged, the *Taothabi*, a variety of paddy which can be cultivated in swampy areas were introduced.
- Khagemba encouraged education by bringing out many books on various subjects in archaic Manipuri script.

- Inside the Kangla, Khagemba constructed a brick wall enclosing the royal gate in 1614.
- In 1616 ,constructed a five storey palace and in 1632 rebuilt the royal gates with bricks.
- In sports, a new style of Polo with modified rules, the Pana style was introduced.
- Khagemba was a great patron of Sanamahi religion and was closely associated with many scholars and philosophers of the time- Apoimacha, Konok Thenggra, Sala Sana Khaidem Temba ,Yumnam Tomba ,etc.
- King Khagemba breathed his last in 1652 at the age of 55 years



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