

Flashback to the history of TAI-AHOM of the Assam



As a travel writer, I had always enjoyed traveling more than anything else. So my travel took me to different part of the world. I was quite surprise about myself, because the place that I am about to write was so close to the history of Assam, but still unknown to many of us. This is nothing but to take a step in to the history of TAI-AHOM of the Assam. Started our journey from Guwahati at about 7am in a wintry morning and it took nearly five hour. Sibsagar is 369 km from Guwahati. After arriving the historical place, we had an invitation on behalf of our friends for a traditional dinner at PAT-HA-KU which is the center of the Tai Ahom cultural center. It is about 25 km. from Sibsagar town.

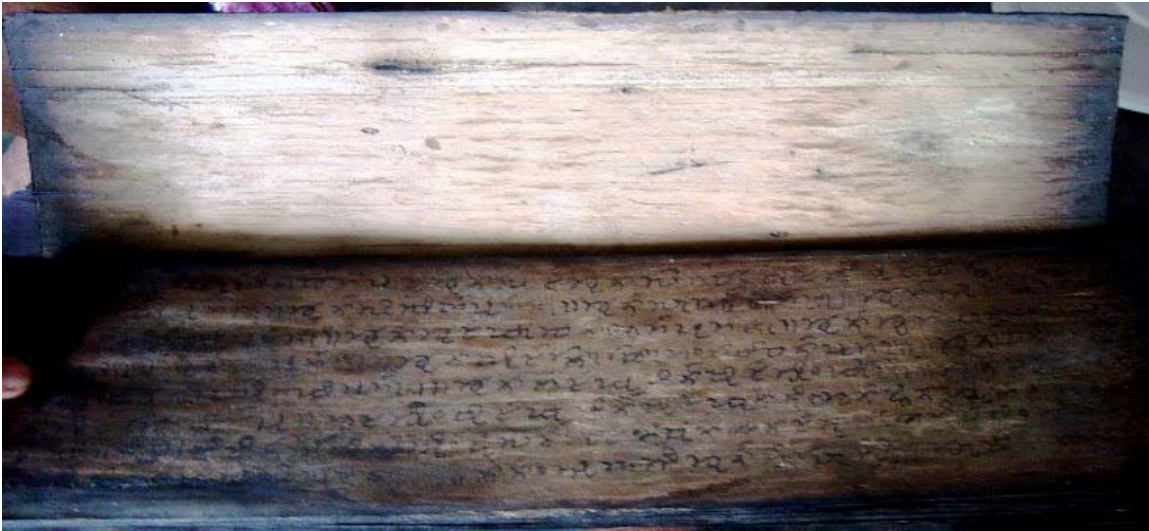
For many people Sibsagar is a place of historic importance but I was interested to find out the place call PAT-HA-KU which is a rare combination of history and culture of the Tai –Ahom in Assam. Our lodging was fixed in the circuit house which was constructed during British rule and where one can still feel the presence of the British Rule around the room, bed and window, although many of the rooms were reconstructed due to the need of time. Sibsagar Tourist Lodge of Assam Tourism was situated near the circuit house. Both the lodge and circuit house use to give a nice and wonderful picture of the “BORPUKHURI” constructed by the second Queen of Sibasagar, queen Ambika in 1734 on 6th April, 1735. The name PAT-HA-KU has three different parts and meaning (a) Pat means a decision (b) Ha means five (c) Ku means official, so it was a place where five senior officers or ministers assembled together for taking important and secret decision during the Ahom rule as the place stood near to the capital of the Ahom kingdom, Gargaon Pat-Ha-Ku situated towards the north-east side of the Charidew sub-division. Ahom were engraver of the united Assamese nation and at that time it was call BAR ASOM and major part of the assamese culture consists in Tai-Ahom culture.



Mohon, Deodhai, Bailung are some of the classes which are the major inhabitants of this place, who are still practicing the ancient religion and rituals. The Tai-Ahom is “Fura-Lung” from taw religion of the philosopher Lautse of China but presently the Ahom has become a greater part of the Hindu and the Assamese society, but in fact neither they were Hindu nor Buddhist. Pat-Ha-Ku is a place where each and every step takes us to the golden era of the Ahom rule. Pat-Ha-Ku is a place where remains tremendous scope of developing cultural tourism and it can be made as one more destination of revisiting history for the people of the world. In fact, I was told by my friend that few scholars from Thailand, China and Japan had visited the place in order to study the similarities of this place with their native land. To my utter dissatisfaction, I was surprised to know that the amount of work that should have been done by the Assam

government has not been done as yet, although a Tai-Ahom museum has been established near the Barpukhuri par, I got the privilege to go through a manuscript of the Tai-Ahom which was written in the Tai –Ahom language, perhaps 200 or 300 year old manuscript.

In Pat-Ha-Ku , I had met few scholars one of them was Bapa Ram Hatibaruah who is still at the age of 80 trying to preserve the age old tradition of the Tai–Ahom in his own way. The house he is living, built by his great grand father and it was still like a monarch in his own kingdom. It made me feel proud to see the young and the old generation speaking the language which was perhaps more than 600 years old. Pat-Ha-Ku is just like the Jerusalem of the Christian for the Tai-Ahom. The pandit still speaks the Tai-Ahom language and by studying in the Tai-Ahom academy nearly 200 Ahom teachers are working in different parts of world. Late Mulung Dam Chow Nada Nath Deodhai phukan was a scholar from Pat-Ha-Ku, who in the year 1932 took the responsibility of editing the Ahom lexicons based on original Tai manuscript, besides translating several manuscripts with Late Ananda Ram Ghohai of Nagaon. I want to pay my esteem homage to these great people who took all the pain to establish the Tai-Ahom culture and tradition to such a great height. This journey would not complete if I forget to mention another great man of this community, Dum Chow Dombaru Deodhai Phukan, who with his hard work established the central Tai academy in 1968.



On my way back to home we were invited one of our friend Pranjal where we were served with traditional Tai cuisine. It is custom of all the tribes of North-East to welcome their guest with home made rice beer which they call LOK LOW. During my two-night visit to Sibasagar was full of delight and close to history. On my way back to Guwahati I took a walk to visit some of the historical monument like the SIVADOLE which is 180 feet in height, 195 feet diameter and it is capped by 7 feet high golden dome constructed in the year 1734. The Rong Ghar was the royal sport pavilion of the Ahom king, constructed in the year 1746. The Talatal Ghar constructed by King Rudra Sinha in the year 1699 is known as the military station of Ahom Kingdom. The Gargoan palace (Kareng ghar) built in 1747. The Charaideo Maidan was the tombs of king and queen at the hillock are comparable to the pyramids of Egypt. Another remarkable factor is the unity of the Hindu and the Muslim can be seen at the Ajan peer dargah of the 17th century the famous Muslim saint Ajan peer and his 120 disciples composed ZEEKIR, a kind of devotional song characterized by the adoption of Assamese elements in to religious faith, toward the end of my journey my heart was full gratitude and honor for the place of history.

By- **Rashmi Das**