

Glossary

- Bayan:** An expert in playing some traditional Indian drums like Khol, Mridanga etc. The word is associated with mainly Satra-culture of Assam.
- Bidroh:** A mutiny.
- Buranji:** The chronicles, written in Assam during the Ahom rule at the auspices of the monarchs and the nobles. Writing 'Buranji' was a traditional practice of the Ahoms. Originally it is a Tai word, now naturalized in Assamese.
- Chronicle:** "Chronicles are accounts, generally of a character, and often anonymous, composed of passages copied from sources which the chronicler is at pains to indicate, and of personal recollections, the veracity of which remains to be determined" (Encyclopedia of Britannica, vol.-I, p.648)
- Desh:** A country
- Guru:** Etymologically it means one who leads someone from darkness to light. In flexible connotation it means a teacher, but generally it means a religious preacher.
- Indra:** Mythological lord of heaven and Hindu deities
- Lakli:** It is a Tai word. Lakli means a year of an Aijepi era. The Aijepi era, origin of which is 'undoubtedly Chinese', is said to have been inaugurated by Chao Aijep, son of Khunlai. The era consists of cycles of sixty years. The peculiar method of counting of Aijepi laklis and converting them to Saka era is given in *Deodhai Asam Buranji* (pp.xxxix-xliv), which is reproduced from manuscript of *Deodhai Asam Buranji* obtained from the American Baptist Mission.
- Ligira:** A personal attendant of a king or a minister.
- Mahanta:** A pontiff of Vaisnavite cult in Assam
- Moksha:** The word is associated with Hindu spiritualism. It means emancipation of the souls from the cycle of re-birth. It is considered as the ultimate goal of spiritual austere endeavour.

Namghar:	Associated with Vaisnavite cult of Assam. A house of community prayer
Nat:	Nat is a person of dancer community
Paiks:	Manual labourers serving public duties in return of a specified quantity of tax-free arable lands in the revenue system prevalent in Ahom kingdom.
Puthi:	Generally a holy scripture. But the term is used for the manuscripts of the 'Buranji' also for their sanctity connected with.
Rag:	The six modes of Indian classical music
Rahu:	The Eighth planet of Indian traditional astrology. Mythologically it is a truncated demon and it causes the solar and lunar eclipses. It is considered as harmful for luck and fortune.
Rati khowa:	A perverted form of Vaisnavite cult. Tantrik rituals are added to it. Both male and females participate in this practice. Meats and wines are consumed and dance and music were performed. It is practiced in night. Some Gopal Ata is supposed to be the founder of this cult.
Sanchi-Pat:	The paper prepared scraping and rubbing the bark of Aquilaria Agallocha. The manner of preparing the leaves was very lengthy. It is described in Appendix-D of Gait's 'A History of Assam'. It takes several days. Its glossy surface and durability is spectacular feature.
Satra:	The Vaisnavite monasteries in Assam. It has become a cultural center also in addition to its religious character.
Shalagram:	A kind of ammonite or fossil shell, produced in the north Indian River Gandaki, worshipped by the Hindus generally as the symbol of Visnu.
Swargadev:	The lord of the heaven, the monarch. Generally used for the Ahom monarchs.
Tantra /Tantrik:	A Hindu cult of worship. 'It is difficult to give a general definition of Tantras'. 'They can only be described, but one matter is included in almost in almost all of them, viz the five 'Makaras'. Often they contain an amalgam of religion, philosophy, superstitions, dogmas, rites.

astronomy, astrology, medicine, prognostications." Generally practiced to attain miraculous power. Five 'Makaras' are '*madya*' (wine), *mamsa*(meat), *matsya*(fish), *mudra*(diagram) and *maithun* (sexual intercourse)². *Tantrik* is the adjective form of Tantra.

Tekela: A messenger. Mainly associated with Ahom Administrative system.

Tula-Pat: The paper prepared by pressing cotton.

¹ Kane, P.V.-History of Dharmasastras, Vol-V, Part-II, pp-1048-1049

² Bhattacharya, N.N.- History of Sakta Religion- page-98