UNIT 1: AHOM MONARCHY AT ITS ZENITH

UNIT STRUCTURE

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1.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- describe the struggle between the Ahom, the Koch and the Mughal,
- discuss the various reasons for the ongoing conflicts and their outcomes,
- explain the role of Suhungmung and Rudra Singha in making the Ahom dynasty a supreme power in Assam.

1.2 INTRODUCTION

You have already learnt about the coming of the Ahoms to Assam and the establishment of the Ahom dynasty by Sukapha in 1268 A.D in your previous semester. You have also come to know of the rise of the Koches and also of the many struggles of the Ahoms with the indigenous tribes as well as the Turko-Afghan invaders. However, it was only with the accession of Suhungmung (1497-1539 A.D.) that the Ahom dynasty became the dominant power in Assam, and continued in that position till the time of Rudra Singha (1696-1714 A.D.). This unit will look into the rise of the Ahom dynasty.

1.3 AHOM – KOCH CONFLICT

The relation between the Ahoms and the Koches were never smooth. They were at war with each other at the slightest pretext. Again, in times of need they entered into marital alliances. The Koch had a friendly relation with the Ahoms as mentioned in the Ahom Buranjis. There is the mention of a friendly visit by Visva Simha and his brother in 1537 to the Ahom king. However, the Koch chronicles describes Visva Simha as having invaded the Ahom territory, in which the Koch army had to retreat.

After Visva Simha, his son Malla Deva ascended the throne. He was famous by the name of Nara Narayan. Another son of Visva Simha was Sukhladhvaj, better known as Chilarai. During the time of Nara Narayan, the Ahoms and the Koches came into conflict and the Ahoms had to face a serious setback. It started with a conspiracy against Nara Narayan by a petty chief who fled to Suklenmung when detected. Suklenmung gave shelter to the chief. The result was that a battle was fought between the Koch king Nara Narayan and the Ahom king. The Koch army under Chilarai fought at the banks of the river Dikrai and was able to defeat their rival. Another battle was fought at Kaliabor, but the Ahoms were again routed with a heavy loss. During this time, the Koches under Gohain Kamal, another brother of the Koch king, constructed a road from the Koch capital to Narayanpur (North Lakhimpur sub division). This road came to be known as the Gohain Kamal Ali. This construction was completed in 1547, after which the Koches built a fort at Narayanpur.

Soon Suklenmung attacked and encamped at the bank of river Pichala. This resulted in a disaster as the supplies of the Koch army were cut off and many of them died. The Koch army was in a bad shape after this battle. Nara Narayan soon made an attempt by burning down some villages within the Ahom boundary. The Ahoms retaliated and in an engagement at the mouth of the river Dikhou, the Ahoms were defeated. Again in a second engagement at the same place, Chilarai, the Koch commander inflicted another crushing defeat on the Ahoms. The Ahom king and his nobles fled and soon Garhgaon, their capital city, was captured.

The Ahoms had to sue for peace. The Ahom king had to surrender many of their nobles and sons of their chiefs to the Koches as hostages besides paying a war indemnity of sixty elephants, sixty pieces of cloths and a large amount of gold and silver as per the conditions set while making peace with the Koch king.

However, even though Nara Narayan was successful everywhere, yet in the case of Padshah of Gaur, the Koches had to face much trouble. The Koch chronicle informs of the defeat of the Koch forces under Chilarai who was taken captive. This made the Koch king, Nara Narayan very desperate to make a good relation with the Ahoms. He, therefore, decided to release the prisoners he had taken during the war with the Ahoms. But this he did by a trick so that nobody could understand the real motive. He called for a game of dice to be played with Sundar Gohain, one of the hostages and staked the release of the hostages, in case of his loss. He deliberately lost the game and thus released the prisoners and made friendship with the Ahoms.

In July 1563, the Koch commander, Tipu led an invasion up to the Brahmaputra. But the Ahoms defeated him. In 1570 again, Tipu and Bhitarual raised an army against the Ahoms but the Ahom army was successful in crushing their efforts. In 1577 three men revolted against Nara Narayan, but having failed they sought the shelter of the Ahom king. The Ahom king, Sukhampha allowed them to settle at Gajala. In 1585, the Koch King of Koch-Hajo, Raghudeb gave his daughter Sankala in marriage to Sukhampha with a handsome dowry. Sukhampha in his turn gifted the Koch King generously.

After the death of Nara Narayan the Ahom-Koch relations entered a new phase. The Koch territory was divided among the sons of Nara Narayan and Sukhladhvaj (Chilarai). The river Sankosh became the dividing line. The tract of land east of Sankosh was given to Raghudeb, son of Chilarai, while the west remained with Lakshmi Narayan, son of Nara Narayan.



LET US KNOW

Nara Narayan did not marry for long and had declared Raghudeb, his brother Chilarai's son as his heir apparent. But later Nara Narayan got married at the coaxing of his brother and was blessed with a son. This made Raghudeb very insecure. Therefore, after the death of Chilarai, Raghudeb sought to revolt. His uncle Nara Narayan therefore decided to divide his kingdom for the sake of peace.

However, Raghudeb was made to pay tributes to his uncle Nara Narayan and acknowledge his lordship. But the death of Nara Narayan gave Raghudeb the much needed opportunity to declare his independence. Therefore, Nara Narayan's son and successor Lakshmi Narayan instigated Raghudeb's son Parikshit Narayan to revolt against his father. Parikshit revolted but was caught and imprisoned. He escaped later and took shelter at the Ahom kingdom. He returned on the demise of his father to claim his right over the territory in1603 A.D. Parikshit now defied the overlordship of Lakshmi Narayan and hence they exchanged swords in which the latter was beaten. Both now looked for Ahom friendship. Parikshit gave his daughter Mangaldahi to the Ahom king Pratap Singha in marriage. Lakshmi Narayan had no choice but to turn for help to the Mughals. The Nawab of Bengal saw his chance and so sent an army under Mukkaram Khan against Parikshit Narayan. Parikshit Narayan had to sue for peace. He turned to the Ahoms for help, but they insisted that the Koch army join their forces at which Parikshit chose to fight the battle alone. He had to suffer defeat and his brother, Bali Narayan fled to the Ahom king for asylum. Pratap Singha installed him as the Raja of Darrang as a tributary ruler and renamed him as Dharma Narayan.

The Ahoms thus came into conflict with the Mughals because of the Koches. The Ahoms were successful against them. However, in a new expedition sent from Bengal in 1637, the Ahoms and their allies were defeated. Dharma Narayan was killed in 1638 and peace was negotiated. Parikshit's territory now passed to the Ahoms, while the Mughals occupied

the tract of land west of the river Barnadi. Sundar Narayan, son of Parikshit was made the new king but he was no longer an independent king. He was required to consult the Barphukan on all important matters. The western Koch kingdom also, in the same way became a vassal of the Muslims. Thus, the Koch kingdom ceased to exist on its own. However, in 1658, the ruler of Koch Bihar, again, came into conflict with the Ahoms. With the death of Shah Jahan, the Mughal troops were withdrawn and this emboldened Pran Narayan to assert his independence. He defeated the Mughal forces led by Wazir Bhabanath. Encouraged by his easy win, he proposed for an offensive and defensive alliance with the Ahoms which was rejected. Rather he was defeated by the Ahoms and was driven across the river Sankosh. During the accession of Chakradhwaj Singha (163-1670 A.D.), the Koch Raja of Darrang sent his warm wishes. Again, there was an incident of the Koch ruler helping the Mughals. However, Chandra Narayan or Surya Narayan, grandson of Bali Narayan was made a tributary ruler of Darrang by the Ahom king Udayaditya Singha (1670-1672 A.D.). Thus the Ahom–Koch relation went through different phases. The Koches tried to establish their independence but had to submit before the power of the Ahoms.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: Name the Koch king who succeeded Visva Simha.

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Q 2: Sukhladhvaj was better known as .....

Q 3: Name the road constructed by the Koches connecting the Koch capital in Koch Bihar and Narayanpur.

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Q 4: Name the Koch princess married to Pratap Singha.

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Q 5: Who was made the king of Darrang by the Ahoms?

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1.4 AHOM – MUGHAL CONFLICT

It was during the time of Suhungmung that we hear of the Muhammedan invasion. Their attacks were repulsed. The next invasion by the Mughals took place in the time of Susengpha (Pratap Singha). The reason was the shelter provided to Bali Narayan (brother of Parikshit Narayan) and the murder of a Mughal trader near Kaliabor. The Nawab of Bengal, Sheikh Qasim sent an expedition against the Ahoms, in which they were accompanied by Sattarjit and Akhek Gohain. The enemies met each other at the bank of the river Bharali. Initially the Mughals had an upper hand due to the fog but ultimately due to the treachery of Akhek Gohain, the Mughal forces were taken by surprise in an attack by the Ahoms, both by land and by water and the Mughals had to face defeat. Many of the generals and soldiers were killed or taken captive. The rest were put to death and a huge booty earned. Soon, the Ahom commanders ignoring the orders of the king pursued the Mughals to Hajo, but they were defeated and had to retreat to Srighat. The Burha Gohain was taken captive. Many ships, elephants, and booty were taken away by the Mughals. Many Ahom soldiers were wounded.

Fresh hostilities began in September 1612 when the Mughals besieged Dharma Narayan in his fort, south of the river Brahmaputra. The Ahoms soon came to his rescue and in the battle that ensued, the Mughals were severely routed. There were attempts for a friendship pact but it could not be materialized because of foul play by Sattarjit. After some years the relation became strained because of Sattarjit and his tricks and also because Harikesh, a defaulting officer under the Nawab of Bengal, was given protection by Pratap Singha. The Mughals tried to seize Harikesh to which the Ahoms replied by force and in the battle the Mughals were defeated. Pratap Singha now decided to fight the war in his enemy's territory and hence sought the friendship of local chiefs. Soon he occupied the Mughal forts at Deomiah, Bantikot, Chamaria, and Nagarbera. At Hajo the Mughals were reinforced by additional troops sent by the Nawab of Bengal. In the engagement that followed the Ahoms were defeated. But soon Pratap Singha sent more forces and the Ahoms once more advanced and pushed the

Mughals back to Sualkuchi. In an interesting encounter the Ahoms also inflicted a heavy defeat on the Mughal fleet at the bank of Brahmaputra, near Hajo. The Ahom chronicles record the capturing of three hundred cannons, boats, guns and other spoils too. Hajo was soon infested by the Ahoms and supplies were all cut off leaving the Mughals with no other option but to surrender.

Another fresh invasion soon was made by the brother of the Nawab, Mir Zainuddin. On his way he heard of what had happened to his compatriots but he marched forward and he was assisted by Pran Narayan, ruler of Koch Bihar. The enemies camped at Jogighopa and at Hirapur. In the many engagements that followed the Ahoms were defeated. In October 1637, the Ahoms attacked the Mughal army but they were defeated. At Barpeta, the Ahoms were surrounded from all sides by the Mughals and were beaten. The Mughals soon occupied the fort at Agiathuti and Srighat. The Kajali fort was soon captured by the Mughals and the Ahoms had to suffer a serious naval defeat. In 1638, the Mughals along with Pran Narayan came up to the river Bharali. Hostilities soon began in which the invaders had to retire back to Guwahati after undergoing a defeat. Peace was made between both the camps by which the Bar Nadi on the north bank of Brahmaputra and Asurar Ali on the south were fixed as the boundary between them.

The next Ahom-Mughal conflict took place during the reign of Sutamla or Jayadhvaj Singha. The death of Shah Jahan gave opportunities for those who were desirous of power and thus a long feud began for succession. Taking this chance Jayadhvaj Singha made an advance towards Guwahati. The Mughal Faujdar of Guwahati had fled leaving horses, cannons, guns etc. Pran Narayan the ruler of Koch Bihar sought alliance against the Mughals from the Ahoms but the Ahoms did not agree. They marched against the Koches who were driven across the river Sankosh. Thus, the whole of the Brahmaputra Valley came under the Ahoms. The Mughals under Mir Jumla who was the governor of Bengal marched against the Ahoms in 1662. He was accompanied by Rashid khan. After a long march he arrived at the fort of Jogighopa with a large

army. The Ahom garrison at Jogighopa could not give resistance to the Mughal force and hence they retreated to Srighat. On hearing this Jayadhwaj Singha sent reinforcement to Srighat and Pandu, but the Mughals had already reached and the Ahoms gave no fight. The fort of Srighat was destroyed by the Mughals and Guwahati fell to the hands of the invaders. The troops on the North bank of the Brahmaputra fled to Kajali while those on the South bank were killed. The Ahom forces at Kajali were so upset with the news that came that they chose to retreat to Samdhara. The Ahoms began strengthening the forts at Samdhara and Simlagarh.

Meanwhile Mir Jumla marched towards Garhgaon, the Ahom capital. Many chiefs and rajas submitted to him, among those were the Raja of Dimarua and the Raja of Darrang. Mir Jumla next camped close to the fort of Simlagarh. The Ahoms after a feeble resistance gave up and fled. Thus, the fort of Simlagarh fell to the Mughals very easily. At this news the Ahom garrison at the fort of Samdhara lost heart. They fled, after destroying the store of gun powder. Mir Jumla appointed a Faujdar in charge of the fort and proceeded further. The Ahoms next attacked the Mughal fleet which was isolated as Mir Jumla moved ahead with his foot soldiers. The battle continued the whole night but when the Ahoms heard the trumpets of the coming of the Mughals the next day, they fled. As many as three hundred ships were captured by the Mughals. The Ahom forces under the Bar Gohain gained some success but they kept on retreating. The Ahoms next established themshelves at Lakhau or Lakhugarh but as the invaders arrived, the Ahoms retreated again. The Ahom king Jayadhvaj Singha ordered the Burha Gohain to remain at Garhgaon and himself along with the Bar Phukan and the Bar Barua and five thousand men fled to Namrup. On reaching Gajpur, Mir Jumla heard of the flight of the Ahom king. He at once sent his forces to Garhgaon.

On 17 March, 1662 Mir Jumla entered the Ahom capital, Garhgaon and occupied it. A large booty of eighty two elephants, gold and silver worth three lakhs of rupees and 170 storehouses, each being able to contain one to ten thousand mounds of rice fell into their hands. But slowly the

rainy season set in. Taking advantage of it, the Ahom army launched some surprise attacks on the invaders. The garrison at Gajpur was overpowered by the Ahoms. But they failed at Deopani. As the rains continued Mir Jumla found it difficult to maintain his outposts and therefore retreated to Garhgaon. Most of the country had been re -occupied by the Ahoms and Jayadhwaj Singha returned to take charge. Negotiations for peace were made, but they failed. The Ahoms renewed their attack on the capital, Garhgaon. The Mughals gave up after a tough fight. The Ahoms attacked the Mughal army day in and day out. Moreover, the food supplies had decreased and fever and dysentery plagued the Mughal army. Meanwhile, in Lower Assam, the Mughal garrison was driven away by Pran Narayan, the ruler of Koch Bihar.

By the end of September, rains had ceased to fall and reinforcements started pouring in. When the floods receded, the supplies started flowing lending mobility to the Mughal troops, the Mughals again prepared for a fresh attack. The Ahom king and his nobles fled to Namrup again. Mir Jumla attacked the Baduli Phukan who submitted and joined the Mughals in pursuing the Ahom king. But due to the famine in Bengal, supplies were not reaching the Mughal forces. Mir Jumla also fell ill and his soldiers were not at all ready to risk another rainy season and hence threatened to desert him. Thus the Nawab was compelled to negotiate for peace with the Ahom king. The famous Treaty of Ghilajhari Ghat was concluded on January 9th 1663 by which the country west of the river Bharali on the north bank of the Brahmaputra and to the Kalang on the south was ceded to the Emperor of Delhi. Soon after this, Mir Jumla gave orders for returning to Bengal. But on 30th march 1663, he died just before reaching Dacca.

When Jayadhwaj Singha died, he had no direct heir and the nobles invited the Charing Raja to occupy the throne. He was named Supungmung and assumed the Hindu name Chakradhvaj Singh. New hostilities began with the Mughals on the question of payment of the indemnities as promised in the peace treaty made by Jayadhvaj Singha. Rashid Khan was succeeded by Saiad Firuz Khan as the Faujdar of Guwahati. Firuz Khan

demanded the payment which was due from the Ahom king. Chakradhvaj Singh now decided to go to war and after more than a year of due preparation, on August, 1667 the Ahom army under Lachit Barphukan set out to take Guwahati from the Mughals. The outposts at Kajali and Bansabari were taken by the Ahoms. After a siege of two months, Guwahati and Pandu were captured too. The Mughal forces were routed and Firuz Khan was killed. Even though fresh reinforcements arrived, yet the Mughals could not make much headway. They had to retreat from Agiathuti and fell back on the Manas River. They were surrounded from all sides. Many of them were killed and some were sent as captives to the Ahom capital, Garhgaon.

In 1668, fresh conflict began with the Mughals. Aurangzeb, the Mughal ruler sent one Raja Ram Singh as the commander of the imperial army to avenge the death of Firuz Khan and the loss of Guwahati. Raja Ram Singh was accompanied by Rashid Khan. In the battle near Tezpur, the Ahoms were routed but they soon gained a naval victory and also took over the fort at Rangmahal. The Mughals were again defeated near Sualkuchi, both on land and in water. At Sessa the Ahoms won a double engagement. Next, the fort at Agiathuti fell into the hands of the Ahoms. But very soon Ram Singh routed the Ahoms and the Bar Phukan had to retreat with a heavy loss. Raja Ram Singh now sued for peace. For some time hostilities between both the rival camps were halted.

Meanwhile, Chakradhwaj Singha was succeeded by Sunyatpha or Udayaditya Singha. Raja Ram Singh again presses for the recognition by the Ahoms of the old boundary. As he was desperate he started his march to Sitamary. The Ahoms also marched from Samdhara to Srighat. In an engagement the Ahoms were successful but due to their naval defeat the army had to retreat. But when reinforcements arrived the Ahoms were able to defeat the Mughals in a naval battle and a second land victory was also gained by them. After leading the Ahoms to victory at the decisive battle of Saraighat, Lachit Barphukan who was ailing succumbed to his illness. By March 1671, Ram Singh due to repeated losses had retreated to Rangamati. For some years there was peace. During the time of

Sudaipha (1677-1679 A.D.), Guwahati was lost to the Mughals. In March, 1679 it was handed over by the new Barphukan who had allied with the Mughals on his falling out with the Burhagohain.

The last Muhhamedan war was fought during the time of Gadadhar Singha (1681-1696 A.D.). His first course of action on his accession was to oust the Mughals from Guwahati. At the first assault, the forts at Kajali and Bansabari fell into the hands of the Ahoms. Another naval victory was gained near the bank of the Bar Nadi. The Mughal Faujdar of Guwahati was too weak to give resistance and fled. Thus, Gauhati was re- occupied by the Ahoms along with a huge booty. From now onwards the river Manas was accepted as the boundary by both the parties.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 6: In which year did Mir Jumla invade Assam?

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Q 7: During whose reign did Mir Jumla invade Assam?

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Q 8: Name the capital of the Ahoms when Muhammedans came to Assam.

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Q 9: What was the outcome of the invasion of Mir Jumla?

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Q 10: During whose reign was the last Muhammedan war fought?

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1.5 RUDRA SINGHA

Sukhrungpha (1696- 1717 A.D.) ascended the Ahom throne after his father Gadadhar Singha (1681-1696 A.D.) with the Hindu name Rudra Singha in 1696. The Kacharis under Tamradhvaj asserted independence. Therefore, Rudra Singha dispatched the Ahom army under the Bar Barua and the Pani Phukan to subdue the Kacharis. Both the officers took a separate route to invade the enemy country. The Barbarua started his expedition in December

1706, and during this long march he had to fight the Nagas. The Kachari capital, Maibong was occupied and a huge booty taken. While the Pani Phukan proceeded to Raha, he occupied Demera without any resistance from the Kacharis because they were afraid of the Ahom army. Very soon, the Pani Phukan joined the Bar Barua at Maibong. But due to bad weather, the soldiers were unable to proceed further.

But Rudra Singha was bent on moving up to Khaspur. The Bar Barua fell ill and died on the way of his return to Demera, while the Pani Phukan continued to march and reached Sampani. However, by the end of March 1707, Rudra Singha was compelled to call back the forces due to the sickness and death caused by the rainy season. In the meantime, Tamradhvaj had fled to Bikrampur, and on the coming of the Ahoms he had asked for help from the Raja of Jayantia, Ram Singh. But when he heard of the withdrawal of the Ahom forces, he informed Ram Singh not to come to his aid. Ram Singh had however other plans. He made the Kachari king and several of his family members captives and he overran the frontier forts at Bandasil and Icchamati. Tamradhvaj now asked for help from Rudra Singha and begged for pardon for his wrong doings.

Rudra Singha thus marched to the Jayantia territory to free the Kachari king. The army again was divided into two groups. The Barbarua and the Barphukan led the Ahom forces. On reaching Mulagul, the Barbarua sent a message to Ram Singh for the immediate surrender of Tamradhvaj and his family, to which Ram Singh replied in the positive but on condition that both the Ahom forces of the Barbarua and Barphukan should stay their advance. Ram Singh gave up the captives but the Ahom forces continued with their march to Jayantia. Ram Singh prepared for a tough battle but he had to surrender to the Barbarua and was taken captive. In the meantime, the Barphukan marched towards the Jayantia kingdom.

On the way, the Jayantias tried to give a tough time to him but on more than one occasion they fled away. When the Jayantia nobles got to know of the capture of their ruler, they sought help from the Bar Dalai, the Raja of Khairam and the inhabitants of the two hundred independent Khasi villages, to expel the invaders. While the Jayantia Raja was being taken to

Gobha, the Ahom army had to face a stiff resistance from the Jayantia army. They often made surprise attacks on the Ahoms. In such engagements, the Ahom soldiers were forced to flee. Rudra Singha soon sent reinforcements under the Burhagohain but the Jayantia army could not be subdued. The Ahoms, however, did destroy many villages and killed many of their enemies. With the onset of the rainy season the Ahom army started to retreat. In these engagements the Ahom side lost 2366 men that included 12 high officers.

After accepting his submission the Ahom king released Tamradhvaj. However, the Jayantia Raja died due to dysentery. It is presumed that his son was released by the Ahoms. Rudra Singha now planned to wage war against the Mughals. He was assisted in this campaign by the Kachari and the Jayantia kings and also the Dafalas. With a big army he proceeded to Guwahati but he died due to illness in August, 1714.

Rudra Singha caused the construction of the brick city of Rangpur, bridges over the river Namdang and Demow and the Kharikatiya, Dubariyam and Meteka roads. The Jaisagar temple and tank, as well as the tank and temple at Rangnath were made by him. Unlike his predecessors, he did not prefer a policy of isolation; rather he sent his envoys to other parts of the country. Many of the hill tribes submitted to him. He is said to have taken *sharan* (initiation) from Krishna Ram Bhattacharyya, Mahant of the Sakta sect from the district of Nadia, Bengal. He reversed his father's policy of persecuting the Vaishnava Gossains. He gave them their old position and honoured them. He was regarded as one of the greatest rulers among the Ahoms.



LET US KNOW

Chronology of the Ahom kings from Suhungmung to Rudra Singh.

1. Suhungmung/Dihingiya Raja ——————1497-1539 A.D.
2. Suklenmung/ Garhgaya Raja ——————1539-1552 A.D.
3. Sukhampha/Khora Raja ——————1552-1603 A.D.
4. Susengpha/Burha Raja ——————1603-1641 A.D.

5. Surampha/Bhaga Raja ——————1641-1644 A.D.
6. Sutyinpha/Nariya Raja ——————1644-1648 A.D.
7. Sutamla/Jayadhwaj Singha ——————1648-1663 A.D.
8. Supungmung/Chakradhvaj Singha ————1663-1669 A.D.
9. Sunyatpha/Udayaditya Singha ——————1669-1673 A.D.
10. Suklampha/Ramdhwaj Singha ——————1673-1675 A.D.
11. Suhung ——————1675-1675 A.D.
12. Gobar ——————1675-1675 A.D. (for 20 days)
13. Sujinpha ——————1675-1677 A.D.
14. Sudaipha ——————1677-1679 A.D.
15. Sulikpha/Lara Raja ——————1679-1681 A.D.
16. Supatpha/Gadadhar Singha —————— 681-1696 A.D.
17. Sukhrungpha/Rudra Singha——————1696-1714 A.D.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 11: What was the Ahom name of Rudra Singha?

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Q 12: Name the Kachari king who fought with the Ahoms.

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Q 13: Name the Jayantia king who was contemporary of Rudra Singha.

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Q 14: Under whom Rudra Singha took Sharan?

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Q 15: In which year did Rudra Singha die?

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1.6 LET US SUM UP

After going through this unit we have learnt that,

- from the time of Suhungmung the Ahom dynasty started its expansionist policy and was able to establish itself as a dominant power in the Brahmaputra valley.
- we have seen that during the time of Suhungmung, there were conflicts with the Mughals, Chutias, and Nagas, etc.
- throughout the rule from Suhungmung to Rudra Singha, the Ahoms were fighting and had been successful in compelling their neighbours to submit to them. This period is very important as it marks the rise of the Ahoms and it can also be termed as the golden age of the Ahom dynasty. The inroads made by the Mughal army were reversed.
- the Ahoms also made friends with the tributary Rajas through matrimonial alliances. This period also saw the use of gun powder, flourishing of art and architecture and the emergence of a new religious order and social culture. But soon after Rudra Singha, the Ahom dynasty started to decline.



1.7 FURTHER READING

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