

As such, 16th century is crucial in the history of the medieval period because of the consolidation of the Ahoms in the east, the Koch in the west and the growth of Ekasarana Dharma of Srimanta Shankardev. The rivalry between the two kingdoms resulted in the former allying with the Mughals and the latter with the Ahoms. Most of the 17th century saw the Ahom-Mughal conflicts in which the Ahoms held the powerful Mughals at bay and epitomized in the Battle of Saraighat of 1671. After many ups and downs, it led to the downfall of Kamrup.

In 1824, the First Anglo-Burmese War broke out. The British attacked the Burmese garrison in Assam and by 1825 the Burmese were expelled from Assam. Thereby, the British were able to conquest and consolidate their rule in Assam. After the British took control of the region, the name Assam was extended to the province that was then much larger than the Ahom Kingdom, though unclear of the origin of the name Assam among the competing theorists.

Symbolism is an important part of Assamese Culture. Various elements are being used to represent beliefs, feelings, pride, identity etc. Tamul Pan, Xorai and Gamosa are the best symbolic elements in Assamese Culture. The *jaapi* is a traditional conical hat from Assam. It is worn as a status symbol by Assamese royalty and nobility. There are several important indigenous traditional festivals in Assam. Bihu is the chief indigenous festival and the most celebrated festival among all.

Assam is synonymous with legacy of historical ruins, natural beauty, teeming wildlife, immaculate tea gardens and warmth which makes it the gateway to the northeastern states.

Keywords: *Assam, Culture, Historical ruins*