

## **JAYPUR AT A GLANCE**

When history is studied carefully in an analytical way it is sometimes seen that some persons keep an indelible imprint on the social, cultural and economical life of a nation. This type of people earn eternal fame. But some people come to limelight for a short span of time and are forgotten in course of time. The same thing holds good in case of a town or city. Many civilizations came into existence in and around some towns and cities and the places played a vital role in the growth of those civilizations but were forgotten later on. Jaypur is also a such town.

The early name of Joypur was DIGHALAGHAT and perhaps a part of it was also known as BOGORIGURI. According to the TUNGKHUNGIA history, at the advent of MOWAMARIA REVOLT in the reign of Ahom King Lakshi Singha the royal army fought with the Mowamorias at this Dighalaghat where the royal army was defeated. One very important ancient route known as Patkai Route which led to the Kingdom of AVA also started from Jaypur and passed through the territories of SINGPHOs and Patkai Tribes, debouched to the valley of Hukong and through Hukong one could go to any place of Burma. Through this route first Ahom King Chaulung Sukafa entered Assam in third decade of thirteenth century and crossed the river Buri Dihing, using a bamboo raft made by the Nagas to a place called Tipam, situated on the other bank of Buri Dihing opposite to Jaypur.

With the establishment of Jaypur the name of a brave tribal youth of Namrup is connected with. His name was Patalong who later on was known as Patalong BarBaruah or Patal Bar Baruah in history . To resist the frequent Burmese Invasions, Ahom King Chandrakanta Singha entrusted Patalong Bar Baruah with the job of constructing a rampart on the route used by the Burmese invaders. Patalong Bar Baruah selected a suitable place on the bank of the river Buri Dihing at Dighalaghat and constructed a rampart and a small township in the year 1821., Patalong Bar Baruah named the town as Jaypur. History does not have any record when the name of Dighalaghat was renamed Naga Ghat. The remnants of the rampart are still seen in some places of Jaypur.

### **JAYPUR UNDER BRITISH RULE :**

At the treaty of YANDABO, February 1826, the King of Ava surrendered to the East India Company, among others, his claim over Assam. Even then the Britishes had to face some abortive mutiny in Upper Assam and having known about some dissatisfaction of the Ahom Nobles, Britishes allowed king Purandar Singha to reign in Upper Assam in 1833 where Jaypur was on the east boundary of the Kingdom and on the other bank of the river Buri Dihing the kingdom of Bar Senapati was there. In 1838, king Purandar Singha was dethroned and the British rulers founded a Frontier Station at Jaypur and in 1840 Captain Hannay made it the headquarter of the Sebundy Corps which was, after some major political developments in favour of the British rulers along with the inhospitable climatic condition of the region, shifted to Dibrugarh in 1847.

In 1939, Captain Brodie took charge of the District of Sibsagarh as Principal Assistant and made Sibsagarh its District Headquarter. After sometime Capt. Brodie declared Jaypur as a sub-division under the District of Sibsagar and Jaypur as its sub-divisional headquarter. After the introduction of Mauzadari System for collecting land revenue 130 Mauzas were formed in the district by Capt. Brodie and Jaypur was one of them. On 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1840, the Jaypur Thana ( Police Station) was established with one Daroga(Officer), one Bor Mahari( Head Clerk), one

Zamadar(Head Constable), eight Bor Kandaz( Armed Constable) and six Tekelas ( Messenger). The above fact is supported by A.J. Maffat Mills Report when he came to Assam in 1853 to inspect the administrative system in the state. Another supportive fact is that in 1854, a report of killing men and cows by tiger written by the then Daroga of Jaypur Thana Umaram Sarmah was published in ARUNODAI, the first Assamese News paper. It is beyond any controversy that in early part of British Rule Jaypur did not have any parallel in the region in context of strategy, Trade & Commerce and administration. But after the laying of railways in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Naharkatia was selected for constructing Railway Station and thus Naharkatia became more important than Jaypur. In 1869, Jaypur was attached with Dibrugarh which was one Sub-divisional headquarter under the district of Lakhimpur. Thus Jaypur lost its status of a Sub-divisional headquarter and its court was shifted to Dibrugarh.

### **JAYPUR IN THE DAYS OF AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARIES :**

It is a well known fact that the American Baptist Missionaries had unforgettable contribution towards Assamese literature. The American Baptist Missionaries entered Assam nurturing a wrong idea that the language spoken by the Singphos and the inhabitants around Sadiya had vast similarity with the language spoken by the SHANS of South China. They had an intention that staying at Sadiya they would work among the Shans and in course of time they would spread their activities to the mainland of China. Therefore, they named the mission as SHAN MISSION. In 1836, two American Baptist Missionaries Nathan Brown and Oliver J Cutter along with a printing press reached Sadiya. In 1837, Miles Bronson joined them. But due to certain linguistic problem and Khamti Revolt they could not stay at Sadiya and shifted their missionary centre to Jaypur in 1839. In 1838 Bronson couple came to Jaypur and established an Assamese Medium School at Jaypur which at that time was against the British Rules as Bengali was the official language in those days. In May 1840, Roda Bronson, sister of Miles Bronson, joined her brother at Jaypur but unfortunately she died in the same year in the month of December. Roda Bronson's death was the turning point for the missionaries as after her death they abandoned the SHAN MISSION and decided to spread Christianity among Assamese people. As a result a historic event took place at Jaypur as the missionaries baptised an Assamese youth Nidhi Ram Keot to Christianity dipping him in the river Buri Dihing. Nidhi Ram Keot after baptism was known as Nidhi Levi Farwell and he is the first Assamese Christian.

### **TRADE & COMMERCE AT JAYPUR :**

Bruce Brothers , Robert Bruce and Charles Alexander Bruce in 1823 discovered tea in Assam. In 1835, the tea discovered in Assam was confirmed as same that was found in China and after that East India Company started to plant tea on experimental basis and those were called Tea Forest. Charles Alexander Bruce was appointed as superintendent to look after the works of plantation. After some failures arising due to the non-suitability of soil at some places C.A. Bruce started organised tea garden at Jaypur. At the beginning there were two tea gardens Kakojan and Jaypur but later on they were amalgamated and named as Jaypur Tea Estate. C.A. Bruce shifted the tea headquarters to Jaypur considering the feasibility of River Navigation through Buri Dihing for exporting tea. In one historic moment of 1837 Bruce sent first 12

boxes of made tea to Calcutta for exporting to London and that was the beginning of tea export from Inida. In the next

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year 95 boxes of tea were exported. Therefore, it is established that Jaypur was the first organised tea garden in Assam. According to historian Gait, in 1840 the garden was sold to Assam Company. It is a matter of pride that the management of Jaypur(Now Jaipur) Tea Estate has been preserving some tea bushes planted in those early days. Before the Honourable Supreme Court of India imposed ban order on felling of trees, Jaypur was famous for timber and plywood industry.

### **POPULATION :**

Regarding population pattern of Joypur there is no distinct record or data available . Jaypur has a mixed population and people with different religions and belief have been living here with unity and harmony. In between Jaypur and Naharkatia a village known as Namphake is a habitat of Tai Phakes, commonly known as Phakeals in the region. The village is a place of importance both for tourists and researchers. The Phakeals have been adhering to their culture and traditions strictly.

### **CULTURE :**

One upon a time Jaypur occupied an important place in the cultural map of Assam. In 1933, famous social worker and MLA Bhadra Kanta Gogoi dared to introduced co-acting in staging dramas at Jaypur. He was also a pioneer in organising professional drama party at Jaypur in those early years.

### **SPORTS :**

Jaypur does not have a commendable record in the field of sports. But it has the rarest distinction of having the first Foot Ball Academy of the state.

### **EDUCATION :**

The American Baptist Missionaries established one L.P. School at Jaypur in 1838 but was closed as soon as they left the place. Record reveals that another L.P. School existed at the abandoned court house in 1877. AT present Jaypur is having a Higher Secondary School and a few more High and other schools.

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### **Help Taken from :**

1. Dr. H.K. Borpuzari :- A Comprehensive History of Assam Vol –IV
2. Dr. H.K. Borpuzari : Assam in the Days of Company

3. Dr. Mahendra Borpuzari : Dihingar Parar Jaipur ( Article)