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# Glossary

Vernacular T	<b>Serm</b> Meaning in English
Amlah	: An agent, a clerk or an officer
Anna	: One-sixteenth of a rupee
Aryavarta	: Abode of the Aryans / Historic name for the present-day northern Indian
	Subcontinent and territories north of the Vindhyas in India, Nepal, the
	provinces of Punjab and Sindh in Pakistan
Barobhuyan	: Petty chiefs exercising regal authority in Nagaon and Kamarupa during
	13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century
Barphukan	: The Ahom viceroy at Guwahati having control over civil and military
	administration of the area from Kaliabor to Manah
Begum	: A form of address for a Muslim woman of noble ancestry
Bhadralok	: An educated high-caste Hindu in the context of the nineteenth century
	Bengal
Bhagvata	: A cardinal text of Vaishnavism
Bhakti	: Unflinching devotion to the Divinity / a Hindu religious movement of the
	medieval period that promoted the belief that devotion to god was the only
	means of salvation attainable by everyone
Bhaona	: A traditional Vaishnavite theatre form introduced by Sankaradeva / a
	performance of the form
Bhasa	: Language
Bhishma	: One of the most honored figures in the Mahabharata. He gave up
	marriage and throne for his father's sake. He is the symbol of mature
	wisdom.
Bidesh	: Foreign country
Bihu	: The national festivals of Assam. Three different bihus are associated with
	distinctive phases in the farming calendar as well as cultural activities.
Brahmin	: A member of Hindu 'priestly' caste / highest and purest order in the
	fourfold varna scheme
Buranji	: A chronicle
Burhagohain	: One of the three ministers in the Ahom cabinet who was regarded as the
	most senior member of the Cabinet

Carita	: Biographical narrative
Chatra	: Student
Chokee	: A frontier outpost
Churia/Dhoti	: A lower garment of a man in the form of a long piece of unstitched cloth
	wrapped around the waist
Desh	: Country
Dewan	: Chief executive in charge of revenue administration.
Dhekial Phu	kan: A civil officer commanding six thousand paiks in the Ahom
	administration
Endi	: A warm cloth made of the silk of the endi cocoon
Gamocha	: A traditional towel.
Ghat	: A landing place on the bank of a river
Gola	: A shop
Gosain	: A spiritual guide
Guru	: Preceptor
Gyan	: Knowledge
Haat	: Periodical rural market
Hakim	: High official.
Jati	: Caste in the sense of a specific named 'birth-group'
Jatra	: Theatrical performance
Juva-raj	: Crown prince
Kaivarta	: Hindu farming and fishing community in the lower position of the caste
	ladder
Kala azar	: Black fever
Kaliyuga	:The last and the most degenerate of four eras in the Hindu conception of
	cyclical time
Kamakhya	: A mother Goddess, a Hindu temple dedicated to this tantric goddess
Kani	: Opium
Kartika/Kati	: The seventh month of the Hindu calendar, second half of October and
	first half of November
Kavya	: A Sanskrit poetical literary composition
Kharikatana	: A tax
Khel	: A unit or division of people made by the Ahom rulers for specific
	profession

Koka	: Grandfather
Konwar	: An Ahom prince
Krishna	: A deity worshipped across many traditions of Hinduism with different
	perspectives
Mahanta	: A religious preceptor
Mahila Samit	<i>i</i> : Women's Association
Majindar Bar	rua : An officer resembling king's private secretary
Marwari	: A Rajasthani business community that had dispersed throughout India
Mauza	: Revenue circle
Mauzadar	: Revenue officer in charge of a mauza
Mekhela	: A lower garment of awoman
Muga	: A kind of silk worm or cloth with a golden hue
Munsiff	: A subordinate judicial officer
Namghar	: A prayer house of the Vaishnavas in Assam
Paik	: An Assamese ryot whose duty was to render services to the king and
	the State at fixed periods of the year
Panchayet	: Village assembly
Phukan	: A high official under the Ahoms commanding six thousand paiks
Patta	: A lease deed or title deed
Pinda	: Balls of cooked rice and barley flour mixed with ghee and black sesame
	seeds offered to ancestors during Hindu funeral rites and ancestor worship
Posa	: An Ahom policy to win over the turbulent hill tribes on the north of
	Darrang
Purdah	: A religious and social practice of female seclusion prevalent among some
	Muslim communities as well as upper-caste Hindus in Northern India
Puja	: Worship / a religious ceremony
Pukka	: This housing refers to dwellings built of permanent material such as stone,
	brick, cement, concrete, or timber
Pundit	: A learned man in traditional knowledge of Sanskrit / a scholar in modern
	sense
Raij	: People
Raij-mel	: Popular assembly
Raj	: A supreme power / ruling authority
Rajkhowa	: A supervisor over three thousand <i>paiks</i> in the Ahom administration
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Rama	: One of the most commonly adored gods of Hindus and is known as an
	ideal man and hero of the epic Ramayana
Ray Bahadur	: A title offered by the British to their great supporters in India
Rudraksha	: A seed traditionally used for prayer beads in Hinduism
Ryot	: A peasant
Sabha	: An association / an assembly
Sadar	: A headquarter of a district
Sadaramin	: Chief surveyor
Salagram	: A black stone collected from the locality known as Sala gramma on the
	bank of the Gandak, a tributary of the river Ganges sacred to the Hindus
Sati	: Ritual of self-immolation of Hindu widows
Sattra	: A Vaishnava institution of Assam consisting of prayer-halls and cloisters
	for the monks
Sattradhikar	: Head of a sattra
Shastra	: Religious scripture
Sheristadar	: A record keeper, a court officer
Subhadra	: An important character in the Mahabharata, the younger sister of
	Krishna, and the wife of Arjuna
Thana	: Police Station
Tulsi	: Holy Basil is a sacred plant in Hindu belief
Vaishnavas	: Worshippers of Vishnu, the second member of the Hindu trinity
Zamindar	: A hereditary collector of revenue

# **List of Publications**

- Saikia, Arani. "Ethnicity and Nationalism: Some Gleanings from *Mor Sowanrani*" by P.G. Barooah(1871-1946)' in International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, ed. Prof. Neill Harvey, Peer-reviewed and referred journal, ISSN: 2250-3226, Vol.3, Number3, 2013 Pp. 173-178. Print
- Saikia, Arani. "The *Carit Puthis*: an Evaluation" in Indian Journal of Applied Research,
  Peer-reviewed & referred international journal, Vol3, Issue8, August 2013, Pp. 34. Print
- Saikia, Arani. "Lakshminath Bezbaroa and the Assamese Nationality Question" in Researchers World, ed. Dr V.S. More, International referred research journal, ISSN: 2231-4172, Vol.5, Issue I, January 2014, Pp. 38-43. Print