

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The “**Assam State Archives - An Introduction**” was first printed in 1995. We are delighted to publish the second edition of it after 20 years. This was originally brought out on the occasion of the celebration of Archives Week organized by the State Archives, Assam from 18th to 24th December 1995. This aimed to provide information about the nature and functions of Archives and also to create public awareness about the Assam State Archives. I am also pleased to inform the readers that the Assam government has recently undertaken several major initiatives to modernize and reorganize the Assam State Archives under the guidance and supervision of Shri Jishnu Barua, IAS, Principal Secretary to CM and SAD (Archives). We hope that this updated booklet will be useful for everyone. Any suggestion for improvement of its form and content will be highly appreciated.

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

We are happy to place before you this modest brochure “**Assam State Archives - An Introduction**” on the occasion of the celebration of Archives Week from 18th to 24th December, 1995, organized by the State Archives, Assam. The sole purpose of this venture is to bring home the nature and functions of State Archives and also to focus public attention on what is there in Assam State Archives. It is hoped that it will prove useful to the Administrators, Scholars and members of the public. Any suggestion for improvement in contents of this brochure and/or allied matters will be gracefully received.

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INTRODUCTION

The systematic study of history and culture necessitates the scientific preservation of records for research and reconstruction of the past.

Archives are institutions that collect and preserve the documentary heritage of a nation for posterity. Although their use was not so widely prevalent among the members of the public, offices of the Record Officers in some form or the other have been in existence in India from the beginning of colonial times. Till 1947, the number of Central Archives Offices was extremely limited, there being one at the Centre (New Delhi), one in Madras and the other in Bengal. Consequently, even the educated section of the population had very limited access to archival holdings. After independence, an urgent need was felt for writing history from the national perspective. Subsequently, the setting up of Central Record Offices/State Archives in different states assumed great importance. The emphasis in the earlier days was more or less on archives as a repository of historical materials preserved primarily for the use of research scholars. It is however, heartening to note that at present there is an increasing awareness about the value of archival institutions, both for academic research and as an administrative databank.

CONCEPT

The term “Archives” is derived from the Greek Word ‘Archeion’, meaning that which belongs to an office. The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as (a) a place in which public records or other important historical documents are kept, (b) historical records or documents so preserved. State Archives, therefore, constitute the Central Records Repository of a particular state where its records are preserved. But all records are not kept in the State Archives. A State Archives is the custodian of only the non-current records of the state administration, which are adjudged worthy of permanent preservation for reference and research purpose. 'Non-current' records are those which are no longer required for reference by the creating agency frequently enough to warrant their being further retained by it and these are then fit to be transferred to the Archives for permanent retention. Normally, records, which are 25 years old, are regarded to have attained the stage of non-currency. To sum up, State Archives is the Central Records repository of a state which takes in its custody the non-current records for their scientific preservation.

NEED FOR CENTRALISATION OF RECORDS

The three most pertinent reasons for centralization of records in a single repository are: - (a) The need for obtaining all the papers relating to a particular subject i.e. completeness of records, (b) the need for easy access and (c) the need for cross-reference. In other words, the centralization of records in a single repository greatly facilitates the day-to-day administration of the Government.

For the purpose of research, centralization of records is equally helpful. In a Central Record Repository, a researcher would be able to collect the materials for his or her research without any difficulty.

Further, for better and uniform organization, proper management, scientific preservation and utilization of records, centralization is a *sine qua non*.

Functions of a State Archives

The main functions of a State Archives are as follows:

- a) To concentrate in a single repository all the non-current records, both confidential and non-confidential, of the State Secretariat and the authorities subordinate to it, whether at the head quarters or elsewhere, including District, Division and Collectorate records.
- b) To house them in a properly equipped building.
- c) To arrange and classify them using scientific principles.
- d) To take adequate measures for their preservation.
- e) To make them available both to the official and non-official users.
- f) To provide the records with necessary reference tools like Indices, Handbooks, Descriptive Lists, etc.

- g) To ensure that no Government Agency weeds out their records except in accordance with the rules framed for the purpose by the State Archives [Rule 8 (1) and (2) of the Assam Public Records Act, 2002].
- h) In recent years, State Archives has sought to perform an additional function of collection of private papers of leading institutions and personalities of their respective states.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ASSAM ARCHIVES

Assam came under British rule at the close of the First Burmese war in 1826. In 1832, Cachar was annexed. Jaintia Hills were included in the East India Company's dominion in 1835 and in 1838 Upper Assam was annexed to it. Thus, gradually the whole of Assam came under British rule.

In 1874, Assam was detached from Bengal and made into a separate Chief Commissionership. Consequent upon the partition of Bengal in 1905, Assam was tagged with Eastern Bengal to form the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam under a Lieutenant Governor. In 1912, the Chief Commissionership of Assam was revived and in 1921, Assam became a Governor's province. At the time of partition, almost the whole of the predominantly Muslim district of Sylhet was merged with East Bengal, Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Dewangiri in North Kamrup was ceded to Bhutan in 1951. Later on Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh became separate states.

The Colonial administrators avoided an ad hoc approach to governance and were always careful in maintaining systematically their administrative records. Hence, old records were of immense importance to them as a sure source of precedents.

With the formation of Chief Commissionership in Assam, a Record Branch was created under the General Department in 1874. In 1901, branches were divided into three Sections i.e. Record, Recording and Library.

In 1906, these three branches were brought under the direct control of the Registrar of the Assam Civil Secretariat.

In 1949, a trained full-time Keeper of Records-cum-Librarian was appointed. This arrangement continued till 1980.

In 1980, the Government of Assam setup the State Archives as an attached office of the General Administration Department and designated it as the State Archives Organization. It became the nodal agency of the Government for matters relating to record management and administration. The State Archives presently deals with the acquisition and scientific preservation of the non-current records created by the state administration at different levels as its main functions. As per Govt. Notification No. AAP.159/95/7 dated 08-05-1996, the State Archives Organization became a full fledged Directorate and its administrative control was transferred from GAD to SAD vide Govt. Notification No. AR.19/2006/1 dated 09-03-2006.

ACTIVITIES:

The State Archives Organization is involved in the following routine activities:

- a) Acquisition and Accessioning of records received.
- b) Appraisal and weeding of records.
- c) Preparation of Indices, Summary Lists, Descriptive Lists, Hand-Books etc.
- d) Repair of brittle and damaged records under different processes of lamination.
- e) Binding of repaired records.
- f) Microfilming of records.
- g) Extending facilities to Government Departments, Research Scholars and *bonafide* members of the public for reference and research.

LIBRARY:

The State Archives has a library which has more than 29,300 books and publications, most of which are rare and out of print now. Overwhelming majority of these books are government publications, reports, files, monographs, gazettes and District gazetteers, which constitute authentic and factual database for research projects. Some highlights of the Library are shown at Annexure I.

RESEARCH FACILITIES:

Under the existing rules, all records up to 1957 are open for consultation by scholars. Photocopies of documents are made available on payment. Guidelines for research scholars can be seen at Annexure II. The Application Form required to be submitted to the Director of Archives for accessing records is given at Annexure III and the format for Requisition Slip for photocopying is given at Annexure IV.

Brief Outline of Records of the Assam State Archives

(A) OLD RECORDS:

The 'old records' in the Assam State Archives refer to the records of the period from 1823 to 1874. These records comprise the correspondences between the Agent to the Governor-General of India on the North East Frontier and the Government of India, dealing with the beginning of the modern administration of Assam, accounts of its topography, its flora and fauna, mineral resources, narratives of its political and administrative background, trade routes and commercial possibilities and Assam's political significance as part of the British Empire in India. Following are brief examples of these records:

- I. Letters received from the Government of Bengal - 1823-1874.
- II. Letters issued to the Government of Bengal - 1834-1874.
- III. Letters received from the Board of Revenue for the Lower Provinces - 1829-1860
- IV. Letters issued to the Board of Revenue - 1836-1860.
- V. Letters received from the District Officers - 1836-1865.
- VI. Letters issued to the District Officers - 1836-1865
- VII. Letters received from Miscellaneous Quarters 1830-1866.
- VIII. Letters issued to Miscellaneous Quarters 1830-1868.

DETAILS OF THE SERIES RECORDS:

The series of old records kept in the Assam State Archives are of great historical value. All records throw significant light on various aspects of administration of Assam and its neighbouring areas before 1874, such as the Revenue, Judicial and Police establishments and on the personnel and staff manning the administrative structure as well as the history of the different regiments stationed in Assam. These records delve into details of the early forms of administration in Assam under a Commissioner, the various administrative establishments, their respective functions, formation of the districts, demarcation of their boundaries, disputes and circumstances leading to the annexation or acquisition of territory etc.

SERIES-I: LETTERS RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL (1823-1874)

This series comprises 78 volumes. The letters of this series were received from the Government of India and the Government of Bengal, both having their Headquarters at Fort William, Calcutta. Ordinarily Foreign and Political Department letters relating to relations with Foreign States or Allied and Tributary States including Hill Tribes were received from the Government of India. The letters received from the Govt. of Bengal generally dealt with General, Judicial and Revenue matters.

The beginnings of the present administration of Assam, the formation of the administrative divisions or Districts and their boundaries, the beginnings of the Headquarters and Sub-Divisional Headquarters and their growth into towns, the early Revenue, Judicial and Police establishments are some of subjects on which these records throw a good deal of light.

Some records of these volumes relate to Ahom Royal families and the nobility, and the pension granted to them. Another series of letters in these volumes deal with the revenue arrangements of the divisions or districts showing the replacement of the old Ahom system by the new system that was introduced by the British.

SERIES II - LETTERS ISSUED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL (1834-1874)

The letters of this series were issued either from the office of the Commissioner or the office of the Agent to the Governor-General. This is undoubtedly a very important series of documents pertaining to administration in the revenue, judicial or political spheres, and also contains annual reports of Administration comprising a review of all administrative activities or correspondences with miscellaneous authorities including Heads of Native/Foreign States like Bhutan or protected states like Manipur and Cooch-Bihar. These reports were compiled by different officers on various subjects like geology, topography, rivers and mountains, natural resources of the land, on manners and customs of the people, their beliefs and polity.

Some letters also relate to claims and petitions for pensions and grants of lands received from the representatives of old royal families and the nobility. For example, there are petitions from Raja Chandrakanta Singh and his son Ghanakanta Singh Jubaraj, Raja Purandar Singh and his son Kameswar Singh and grandson Kandarpeswar Singh. These documents reveal details of the treatment the old ruling families received at the hands of the colonial government and how they gradually sank into poverty and lost their rank and identity.

Setting up of schools and making provision for books and teachers form the subject matter of a large number of reports from the district officers. The history of education in Assam since colonial times can be pieced together on the basis of these reports and correspondences. These reports would also show how the Bengali language was thrust upon the schools and Courts in Assam in a fit of ignorance by the early British administrators. This policy was, however, abandoned under combined pressure from some American missionaries and enlightened Assamese minds. They learnt more about the people and their linguistic traditions.

SERIES III - LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE BOARD OF REVENUE FOR THE LOWER PROVINCES (1829-1860)

This series of old records throw light on the beginning of modern Revenue Administration in Assam. The early system of colonial administration up to 1874 may be regarded as one of experimentation with new modes of assessment of land and other taxable commodities, new tenures in land and terms of settlement with the *ryots* and other estate-holders, granting recognition to the rights over possession of land to the cultivators, as far as possible.

The other subjects of importance relate to rules pertaining to the grant of estate lands in Assam to cultivators, and to tea planters and other capitalists, investigation by special Commission into claims of lakhirajdars for rent free tenures, estates of the Raja of Bijni and other Zamindars in Goalpara, examination of the claims of the Darrang Raj family to rent free estates, experimental cultivation of imported varieties of cotton and tobacco and cultivation of indigo and poppy, etc.

The correspondences also show the various personalities of men conducting public business. The slow absorption of hill areas into the expanding British Empire and the findings of their survey also feature in this series. The development of local stations of administration in different districts of Assam including the construction of roads, bridges and official buildings were destined to usher in sweeping changes in the landscape.

SERIES IV - LETTERS ISSUED TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE (1836-1860)

The series of old records of the period 1836-1860 under the head "Letters issued to the Board of Revenue" gives the background of the various reports compiled from time to time by British Officers in Assam relating to the resources of Assam as a whole and of the districts of Assam in particular. It also contains a description of the various proposals submitted by the Commissioner of Assam relating to the revenue administration of this newly acquired territory.

The correspondences of this series are generally related to subjects like policy of expansion of imperial interests over Bhutan, Tibet and China; survey and settlement of the districts or divisions of Assam; replacement of capitation tax by a land tax; assessment of land revenue and organization of Parganas and Mauzas, customs duties; establishing an inner line of the frontiers; grant of wastelands to Europeans in Assam; establishment of tea gardens in Assam; regulation of tea garden labour; survey and demarcation of boundaries in the frontier lands between districts; Annual reports of revenue administration, forest resources, cotton, tobacco and indigo cultivation; imposition of income- tax, pensions and allowances to members of old ruling families; experimental cultivation of new varieties of paddy; creation and jurisdiction of new subdivisions, etc.

SERIES V-LETTERS RECEIVED FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS (1836-1865)

This series is important in that they provide detailed information on resources, character of the population, frontier tribes and their attitude towards the Government, means of communication, etc. Letters received from Political Officers and the Political Agents reflect upon the foreign or political relations of the Company with native Chieftains and neighboring Native States.

The reports of district officers throw light on various aspects such as development of communication and postal facilities, prohibition of slavery, opening up of tea gardens, labour for tea gardens, etc. Further, the abolition of the *paik* system of Ahom days, the steps taken for the spread of education, control of raids and murders committed by the hills tribes in the plains, reports on petitions for pension, demarcation of boundaries among the districts are some of the important subjects of correspondences of the series.

SERIES VI-LETTERS ISSUED TO DISTRICT OFFICERS (1836-1865)

The volumes of this series are interlinked with the series of "Letters received from District officers" and embody the letters from the Commissioner's office to the collectors of the Districts and sometimes also to other officers in the district. Matters of revenue settlement revenue survey and assessment, settlement of Mahals and Mouzas, revenue appeals, management of Wards Estate, boundary questions form the subject matter of a large number of correspondences.

SERIES VII-LETTERS RECEIVED FROM MISCELLANEOUS QUARTERS (1830-1866)

This is also an important series of records comprising 47 volumes. The miscellaneous quarters with which the Assam Administration had relations are indicated in the list of volumes along with the Government Departments to which the correspondences are related. There are many records of correspondence with the Khasi States, on construction of the road from Shillong to Gauhati, matters relating to organization of the postal system in Assam, correspondences with the Accountant General, Civil Auditor and Revenue Accounts Office, letters relating to modern educational system of Assam etc.

There are copious records of relations of Assam with the Raja of Cooch Behar and also of Jaintia rebellion. Yet another important subject of correspondence of this series is the condition of the old Royal families and the nobility. With these documents researchers can read into the repercussions of the Sepoy Mutiny in Assam. There are a large number of letters from

Kandarpeswar Singh a Saring Raja, which tell the story of the dwindling prestige of the Ahom Kings. A socio-economic profile of the province can be easily set up with the available records more particularly from the dispatches of the military officers.

SERIES VIII-LETTERS ISSUED TO MISCELLANEOUS QUARTERS (1830-1868)

The series 'Letters issued to miscellaneous quarters' along with the inter-linked series 'Letters received from miscellaneous quarters' are related mainly to the political and foreign relations of Assam with the neighboring states and tribes. They highlight Assam's status in respect of Public Works, Postal facilities, Education, Trade and Commerce, Steamer services, etc. A large number of letters form part of the political correspondence with the Political Agents of Manipur and Khasi States including their internal affairs. The behaviour of the various tribes on the frontier such as the Bhutias, Akas, Daflas, Mishmis, Singphos, Nagas and Garos have been observed and recorded in another group of letters and reports.

(B) TRANSFERRED FILES FROM BENGAL:

I. Bengal Government files (1774-1874)

A. BOARD OF REVENUE RECORDS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL

In this series there are some old files dating from 1774 relating to the administrative organization and settlement of the Sylhet district, regulation of relationship with the zamindars of Goalpara and early British trade relations with Assam. There are several files showing early British contact with the Khasis from the Sylhet side and dealing particularly with Khasi raids on the plains of Sylhet, boundary disputes between Sylhet and the Khasi Hills and policy to be pursued towards the Khasis by granting them annual tribute. A number of files deal with the survey and demarcation of Sylhet and Cachar and survey demarcation of waste land grants and tea grants in Cachar. Some files of 1858 contain papers relating to the Mutiny in Cachar and Sylhet, petition of Raja Krishna Narayan of Darrang for Company's help with troops, on improvement of land revenue administration of Assam and revision of assessment.

B. BENGAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS RELATING TO N.E.F. (1835 to 1874)

A large number of files of this series deal with matters of historical and administrative importance and the resources of Assam like iron, coal, lime and other minerals, tea and forest products. There are files relating to steam vessels, communication (i.e. ferries and railways) and postal arrangement, settlement of waste land grants with European investors and the Company's experimental tea plantation in Assam. There is correspondence about taking over of the administration of Assam by the British Government and about pension granted to the members of the old ruling families. Some files contain report on the revenue and judicial administration of Assam in 1835 and on the regulation of relations of the British Government with the different hill tribes in Assam.

II. Dacca Commissioner's files (1867-1874)

Most of the files in this series deal with settlement of land in Cachar or Sylhet, boundary dispute between Sylhet and Cherra or Sylhet and the Khasi Hills, boundary dispute between Cachar and Manipur and other similar subjects. This series includes both files and bundles and on the whole, there are 114 files in this series. Out of these, 53 files were transferred to the East Pakistan Government in 1949 after partition, as these were related to that part of Sylhet, which was transferred to Pakistan.

III. Cooch Behar Commissioner's files (1867-1874)

Prior to British occupation of Goalpara, the border chieftains of Goalpara exercised some sort of control on the Garos of the bordering hills. As such, during first few years of British rule, the Garo Hills were treated as a part of Goalpara. Under regulation X of 1822 the three thanas of Goalpara, Dhubri and Karaibari were separated from the Bengal

district of Rongpur and subjected to special system of governance along with the Garo hills under a new name - North East Rongpur. It was transferred to the new province of Assam in 1826 and came to be known as Goalpara.

In 1867 Goalpara with the eastern Duars and the Garo hills were transferred to the administrative control of the Cooch Behar Commissioner. These files deal with a variety of subjects, like income tax, education, police reports, annual reports etc. Moreover, matters relating to revenue reports on the area, relationship between landlords and tenants, affairs of Bijni, Sidli and other Goalpara zamindaris estates and parganas are also included in this series.

(C) PROCEEDINGS:

(i) Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam - 1874-1905

The English East India Company occupied Bengal in 1765. Sylhet and Goalpara were then parts of the province of Bengal. These were later included in the province of Assam at the time of provincial reorganization in 1874. The administration of these two districts was carried on from Fort William at Calcutta, the headquarters of East India Company's administration in India. Subsequently these areas were included in the new Commissionership of North East Rongpur with headquarters at Sylhet. Assam came under British East India Company's rule in 1826 under the terms of the Treaty of Yandaboo. To facilitate the administration of newly acquired territories, a separate Commissionership of Assam was created and the Commissioner of North East Rongpur was also made Commissioner of Assam. The headquarters of the new Commissionership was in Guwahati. In 1874, Assam was constituted into a separate province under a Chief Commissioner and it remained a distinct unit of administration of the British Empire in India. Later on, Assam was upgraded to a Governor's Province in 1921

(ii) Proceedings of Eastern Bengal and Assam Government - 1905-1911.

(iii) Proceedings of the Assam Commissioner - 1928-1947.

(iv) Proceedings of the Government of Assam - 1912-1938

(D) OTHER RECORDS:

(i) Assam Commissioner's files - 1833-1919

(ii) Chief Commissioner of Assam's files - 1874-1909.

(iii) Governor's Secretariat (Confidential) files - 1892-1949 including confidential files of Chief Commissioner

(iv) Eastern Bengal & Assam files - 1905-1912

(v) Governor's Secretariat files - 1942-1949 (including Excluded Areas files from 1937 to 1949)

(vi) Political History of Assam's files - 1826-1947

The aforesaid project of bringing out three volumes on the Political History of Assam covering the period from 1826 to 1947 was compiled during 1977-1980. The project was started in 1975 under the General Editorship of the eminent historian Dr.H.K. Barpujari. Besides Dr. Barpujari, there were other noted academicians who rendered assistance in bringing out the volumes, viz. Dr. S.K. Barpujari, Dr. A.C. Bhuyan and Dr. Sibapada De as Editors and Dr.D.K. Goswami, Dr. K.N. Mukharjee, R.C. Medhi, A. Hussain and A Dutta as associate editors.

The object of the project was to analyze the main trends and developments in the Political History of Assam from 1826 to 1947 highlighting the significant role played by Assam in the Indian National Movement.

Records of these volumes are based mainly on official documents, published and unpublished, preserved in the archives and repositories of India and abroad namely Nehru Memorial Museum Library, New Delhi. West Bengal State Archives, Calcutta, Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Assam, Assam Secretariat Record Room, Shillong and Gauhati and the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Dispur, Gauhati.

(E) SECRETARIAT DEPARTMENTS:

- (i) General Department - 1874-1890
- (ii) Judicial Department - 1874-1905
- (iii) Revenue Department - 1874-1905

General Department - 1874-1905

Records
Native Records

Public Service

Issue

Recording

Library

Medical and Sanitation

Public Instruction

Local self Government

Public Works

General

Registration

Miscellaneous

Political and Judicial Department (1890-1905)

Foreign

Jail

Police

Law and Legislation

Registration

Municipalities

Military

Miscellaneous

Revenue Department (1874 -1905)

Forest

Emigration

Revenue

Finance and Commerce

Survey

Agriculture

Miscellaneous

Accounts and Statistics Department (1890-1905)

Accounts Provincial

Budget

Returns

Financial and Municipal

General Department (1905-1912)

Public Service

Education

Public Works

Medical

Miscellaneous

Appointment and political Department
(1905-1912)

Appointment

Political

Assam Rifles

Passport

Military

Revenue Department (1905-1912)

Forest

Emigration

Finance and Municipal Department (1905
-1912)

Financial

Forest

Separate Revenue

Municipal

District and local Boards

Immigration

Sanitation

Miscellaneous

Appointment and Political Department
(1912-1921)

Appointment

Political

Education

Passport
Assam Rifles
Military

Judicial & General Department (1912-1921)

Judicial

Legislative

Jail

General

General Miscellaneous (Lunatic)
General Miscellaneous (Education, Census)

Police
Registration
Military

Financial Department (1912-1921)

Finance

Local Self Government

Public works

Municipal Miscellaneous

Medical

Sanitation

Separate Revenue

Revenue Department (1912-1921)

Revenue

Revenue Miscellaneous

Immigration

Agriculture

Judicial and General Department(1921-1937)

Justice

Police

Jails

Explosive

Excise

Newspaper

Printing Press
Arms

Revenue Department (1921-1937)

Revenue

Forest

Ward Estate

Mines and Minerals

Fisheries

Book and Maps
Settlement

Finance Department (1921-1937)

Accounts

Budget

Local Audit

Income Tax

Stamp

Salt

Custom

Local Self Government and Industries
Department(1921-1937)

Municipalities

Local Board

Agriculture

Veterinary

Industries

Co-operative Society
Trade & Statistics

Education and Sanitation Department (1921-
1937)

Education

Medical

Sanitation

Lunatic

Registration

Ethnography

Census

Ecclesiastical

Gazetteer

Transferred Department (1927-1937)

Education

Medical

Local-self Government

Excise

Agriculture

Industries

Finance and Revenue Department (1927-1937)

Finance

Revenue

Income Tax

Stamp

Budget

Accounts

Home Department, (1937-1957)

Police

Public Service

Explosive

General and Judicial Department 1937-1947

Judicial

Forests

Justice

Law

Finance Department, 1937-1957

Local Funds

Finance

Excise

Budget

Audit

Sale Tax

Agricultural Income Tax

Appointment Department - 1937-1947

Supply

Appointment

Revenue Department - 1937-1957

General Revenue

Fisheries

Mines and Minerals

Excise and Registration

Ward's Estate

Land Revenue

Local Self Govt. Department - 1914-1957

Municipal Boards

Local Boards

Panchayat

Sanitation

Legislative Department - 1937-1957

Legislative

Legislative Council

Legal Remembrance

Administration General

Official Trustee

P.W.D. 1863-1957

Establishment and Communication

Accounts and Building

Record and Recording

Issue

General

Defense

Supply Department - 1943-1957

Textile

Supply

Food grain

General Administration Department - 1950-1957

Judicial Department - 1947-1957

Labour Department - 1951-1957

Planning and Development Department - 1952-1957

Secretariat Administration Department - 1952-1957

Chief Minister Secretariat - 1943 -1957

Transport Department - 1949-1957

Agriculture Department - 1890-1957

Tribal Areas Department - 1950-1957

Gazettes

Assam Gazette - 1874-1905
1913-1994

Eastern Bengal and Assam Gazette 1905-1912

Calcutta Gazette - 1845-1970

Reports And Gazetteers

Annual or Biennial Administrative Reports of various Government Departments
Journals and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal(1873-1914)

Imperial Gazetteers of India

District Gazetteers of Assam
District Gazetteers of Other provinces and States

Census Reports

CHIEF COMMISSIONERS OF ASSAM FROM 1874 To 1905

Sl No	<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1.	R.H. Keatinge	7 th Feb, 1874	21 st Jun, 1878
2.	S.C. Bayley	22 nd Jun, 1878	4 th Mar, 1881
3.	C.A. Elliott	25 th Mar, 1881	7 th Jul, 1883
4.	W.E. Ward (Officiating)	8 th Jul, 1883	7 th Oct, 1883
5.	C.A. Elliott	8 th Oct, 1883	26 th Feb, 1885
6.	W.E. Ward (Officiating)	27 th Feb, 1885	30 th Oct, 1887
7.	D.Fitzpatrick	31 st Oct, 1887	15 th Jul, 1889
8.	J. Westland	16 th Jul, 1889	21 st Oct, 1889
9.	J.W. Quinton	22 nd Oct, 1889	24 th Mar, 1891
10.	H.Collett (Officiating)	25 th Mar, 1891	26 th May, 1891
11.	W.E. Ward	27 th May, 1891	3 rd Jul, 1894
12.	C.J. Lyall (Officiating)	4 th Jul, 1894	3 rd Oct, 1894
13.	W.E. Ward	4 th Oct, 1894	27 th Nov. 1896
14.	H.J.S. Cotton	28 th Nov, 1896	30 th Apr, 1900
15.	J.B. Fuller (Officiating)	1 st May, 1900	31 st Jul, 1900
16.	H.J. Cotton	1 st Aug, 1900	28 th Apr, 1902
17.	J.B. Fuller	29 th Apr, 1902	26 th Apr, 1903
18.	C.W. Bolton (Officiating)	27 th Apr, 1903	29 th Jul, 1903
19.	J.B. Fuller	30 th Jul, 1903	15 th Oct., 1905

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM FROM 1905 TO 1912

Sl No	<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1.	J.B. Fuller	16 th Oct, 1905	19 th Aug., 1906
2.	L. Hare	20 th Aug, 1906	18 th May, 1908
3.	C.S. Bayley (Officiating)	19 th May, 1908	13 th Nov, 1908
4.	L. Hare	14 th Nov, 1908	31 March, 1912

CHIEF COMMISSIONERS OF ASSAM FROM 1912 TO 1921

Sl No	<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1.	Archdale Earle	1 st Apr, 1912	12 th May, 1914
2.	P.R.T. Gurdon	13 th May, 1914	8 th Sept, 1914
3.	Archdale Earle	9 th Sept, 1914	31 st Mar, 1918
4.	Nicholas Dodd Beatson Bell	1 st Apr, 1918	2 nd Jan, 1921

**GOVERNORS OF ASSAM
From 1921 to 1947**

Sl No	<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1.	His Excellency Sir Nicholas Dodd Beatson Bell	3 rd Jan, 1921	2 nd Mar, 1921
2.	H.E. Sir William Sinclair Marris	3 rd Mar, 1921	10 th Oct, 1922
3.	H.E. Sir John Henry Kerr	10 th Oct, 1922	10 th Apr, 1925
4.	H.E. Sir William James Reid (Officiating)	11 th Apr, 1925	5 th Aug, 1925
5.	H.E. Sir John Henry Kerr	5 th Aug, 1925	11 th Aug, 1925
6.	H.E. Sir William James (Officiating)	12 th Aug, 1925	8 th Dec, 1925
7.	H.E. Sir John Kerr	9 th Dec, 1925	27 th Jun, 1927

8.	H.E. Sir Egbert Laurie Lucas Hammond	28 th Jun,1927	10 th May,1932
9.	H.E. Sir Michael Keane	11 th May,1932	2 nd Jun,1935
10.	H.E. Sir Abraham James Laine (Officiating)	3 rd Jun,1935	10 th Oct,1935
Sl No	<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
11.	H.E. Sir Michael Keane	11.Oct,1935	3 rd Mar,1937
12.	H.E. Sir Robert Neil Reid	4 th Mar,1937	24 th Jun,1938
13.	H.E. Sir Gilbert Pitcairn Hogg (Officiating)	25 th Jun,1938	24 th Oct,1938
14.	H.E. Sir Robert Neil Reid	25 th Oct, 1938	24 th Feb,1939
15.	H.E. Sir Henry Joseph Twynan K.C.S.I., C.I.E. (Officiating)	24 th Feb,1939	4 th Oct,1939
16.	H.E. Sir Robert Neil Reid, K.C.S.I., K.I.E. (K)	5 th Oct,1939	3 rd May,1942
17.	H.E. Sir Andrew CeurlayClow, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.	4 th May,1942	24 th Apr,1946
18.	H.E. Sir Frederik Chalmers Bourne, C.S.E., C.I.E., I.C.S. (Acting)	25 th Apr,1946	3 rd Sep,1946
19.	H.E. Sir Henry Foley Knight, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S. (Acting)	4 th Sep,1946	23 rd Dec,1946
20.	H.E. Sir Andrew Gourlay Clow, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.	24 th Dec,1946	3 rd May,1947

GOVERNORS OF ASSAM
Since 1947

Sl No	Name	From	To
1.	H.E. Sir Akbar Hydari KCIR., C.S.I., I.C.S.	4 th May,1947	28 th Dec,1948
2.	H.E. Sir Ronald Francis Lodge, I.C.S. (Acting)	30 th Dec,1948	15 th Feb,1949
3.	H.E. Sir Shri Sri Prakasa	16 th Feb,1949	26 th May,1950
4.	H.E. Sir ShriJairam Das Daulatuam	27 th May,1950	14 th May,1956
5.	Shri Syed Fazal Ali	15 th May, 1956	22 nd Aug, 1959
6.	Shri Justice, Chandreshwar Prasad Sinha, Chief Justice, Assam (Acting)	23 rd Aug, 1959	13 th Oct, 1959
7.	Gen. Sayavant Mallannah Shrinagesh	14 th Oct, 1959	12 th Nov, 1960
8.	Shri Vishnu Sahay, I.C.S., (Acting)	12 th Nov, 1960	12 th Jan, 1961
9.	Gen. Satyavant Mallannah Shrinagesh	13 th Jan, 1961	7 th Sep, 1962
10.	Shri Vishnu Sahay, I.C.S., (retd.)	7 th Sep, 1962	16 th Apr, 1968
11.	Shri B.K. Nehru, I.C.S. (Retd.)	17 th April, 1968	7 th Dec, 1970
12.	Justice P.K. Goswami (Acting)	8 th Dec, 1970	4 th Jan,1971
13.	Shri B.K. Nehru, I.C.S., (Retd.)	5 th Jan,1971	18 th Sep,1973
14.	Shri L.P. Singh, I.C.S. (Retd.)	19 th Sep,1973	10 th Aug,1981
15.	Prakash Mehrotra	10 th Aug,1981	27 th Mar,1984
16.	T.S. Mishra (Chief Justice) (Acting)	28 th Mar,1984	15 th Apr,1984
17.	B.N. Singh	15 th Apr,1984	10 th May,1989
18.	Harideo Joshi	10 th May,1989	4 th Dec,1989
19.	A. Raghubir (Chief Justice) (Acting)	5 th Dec,1989	2 nd May,1990

20.	D.D. Thakur	2 nd May,1990	17 th Mar,1991
21.	L.N. Mishra	17 th Mar,1991	31 st Aug, 1997
22	Lt.Gen.(Retd.) S.K. Singh, PVSM	1 st Sep,1997	4 th Jun,2003
23	Lt.Gen.(Retd.) Ajai Singh,PVSM	5 th Jun, 2003	3 rd Jul, 2008
24	Shri Shiv Chandra Mathur	4 th Jul, 2008	25 th Jun, 2009
25	Shri K. Sankaranarayanan	26 th Jun, 2009	26 th Jul, 2009
26	Shri Shyed Sibtey Razi	27 th Jul, 2009	10 th Dec, 2009
27	Shri Janaki Ballav Patnaik	11 th Dec, 2009	Till date

**PREMIERS OF ASSAM
FROM 1937 TO 1947**

Sl No	Name	From	To
1.	Sir Muhammad Sadullah	01 st Apr, 1937	04 th Feb,1938
2.	Sir Muhammad Sadullah	05 th Feb, 1938	18 th Sep,1938
3.	Sir Gopinath Bardoloi	19 th Sep, 1938	17 th Nov,1939
4.	Sir Muhammad Sadullah	17 th Nov, 1939	25 th Dec,1941
5	Governor's Rule under Sec.93. Act of 1935	25 th Dec, 1941	25 th Aug,1942
6.	Sir Muhammad Sadullah	25 th Aug,1942	23 rd Mar,1945
7.	Sir Muhammad Sadullah	23 rd Mar,1945	11 th Feb,1946
8.	Shri Gopinath Bardoloi	11 th Feb,1946	14 th Aug,1947

CHIEF MINISTERS OF ASSAM SINCE 1947

Sl No	Name	From	To
1.	Shri Gopinath Bardoloi	15Aug,1947	06 Aug,1950
2.	Shri Bishnu Ram Medhi	09 Aug,1950	27 Dec,1957
3.	Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha	28 Dec,1957	06 Nov,1970
4.	Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury	11 Nov,1970	30 Jan,1972
5.	Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha	31 Jan,1972	12 Mar,1978
6.	Shri Golap ChandraBarbora	12 Mar,1978	04 Sep,1979
7.	Shri Jogendra Nath Hazarika	09 Sep,1979	11 Dec,1979
8.	President's Rule	12 Dec,1979	5 Dec,1980
9.	Syeda Anowara Taimur	6 Dec,1980	30 Jun,1981
10.	President's Rule	30 June, 1981	13 Jan. 1982
11.	Shri K.C. Gogoi	13 Jan,1982	19 Mar,1982
12.	President's Rule	19 Mar,1982	27 Feb,1983
13.	Shri HiteswarSaikia	27 Feb,1983	23 Dec,1985
14.	Shri Prafulla Kr. Mahanta	24 Dec,1985	28 Nov,1990
15.	President's Rule	28 Nov,1990	30 Jun,1991
16.	Shri HiteswarSaikia	30 Jun,1991	22 Apr,1996
17.	Dr. Bhumidhar Barman	22 Apr,1996	14 May,1996
18.	Shri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta	15 May,1996	17 May,2001
19.	Shri Tarun Gogoi	17 May,2001	Till date

CHIEF SECRETARIES, ASSAM

Sl No	Name	From	To
1.	W.J. Reid, ICS	April, 1912	1914
2.	B.C. Allen, ICS	1915	1917
3.	J.E Webster, ICS	1917	1919
4.	A.W Botham, ICS	1920	1925
5.	G.E. Soames, ICS	1926	1930
6.	W.A. Cosgrave, ICS	1931	1933
7.	J.A Dawson, ICS	28 th Nov, 1933	6 th Sep 1936
8.	H.G. Dennehy, ICS	7 th Sep, 1936	1 st Jan, 1948
9.	Shri S.P. Desai, ICS	1 st Jan, 1948	16 th Oct, 1950
10.	Shri A.D. Pandit, ICS	16 th Oct, 1950	16 th Oct, 1951
11.	Shri S.L. Mehta, ICS	16 th Oct, 1951	19 th May, 1952
12.	Shri S.K. Dutta, ICS	19 th May, 1952	20 th Apr, 1961
13.	Shri A.N.M. Saleh (During training of Shri S,K, Dutta,ICS)	26 th Nov, 1955	13 th Aug, 1956
14.	Shri A.N. Kidwai, ICS	20 th Apr, 1961	9 th Dec, 1968
15.	Shri N.K. Rustomji, ICS	10 th Dec, 1968	28 th Aug, 1971
16.	ShriDharmananda Das, IAS	29 th Aug, 1971	30 th Jun, 1975

17.	Shri K.G. Rlyer, IAS	9 th Jul, 1975	10 th Jul, 1975
18.	Shri B.K. Bhuyan, IAS	10 th Jul, 1975	3 rd May, 1976
19.	ShriRana K.D.N. Singh, IAS	3 rd May, 1976	6 th Jul, 1977
20.	Shri S.M.L Bhatnagar, IAS	6 th Jul, 1977	18 th Nov, 1978
21.	Shri R.S. Paramsivam, IAS	18 th Nov, 1978	1 st May, 1980
22.	Shri B.S. Sarao, IAS	14 th Nov, 1979	6 th Jan, 1980
23	Shri Ramesh Chandra, IAS	1 st May, 1980	11 th Dec, 1983
24.	Shri P.H. Trivedi, IAS (During leave of Shri Ramesh Chandra, IAS)	9 th Aug, 1982	11 th Dec, 1982
25.	Shri A.K. Palit, IAS	1 st Dec, 1983	1 st Jul, 1985
26.	Shri P.P. Trivedi, IAS	1 st Jul, 1985	23 rd Jan, 1986
Sl No	Name	From	To
27.	Shri J.C. Nampui, IAS	15 th Feb, 1986	1 st Nov, 1986
28.	Shri A.K. Saikia, IAS (Acting)	1 st Nov, 1986	1 st Jul, 1988
29.	Shri S. D Phene, IAS	17 th Jul 1988	17 th Mar, 1989
30.	Shri A.P. Sarwan, IAS	17 th Mar, 1989	28 th Feb, 1990
31.	Shri H. N. Das, IAS	28 th Feb, 1990	28 th Feb, 1995
32.	Shri A. Bhattacharjee, IAS	1 st Mar, 1995	11 th May, 1996

33.	Shri T.K. Kamilla, IAS	12 th May, 1996	19 th Aug, 1997
34.	Shri V.S. Jafa, IAS	20 th Aug, 1997	22 nd Mar, 1998
35.	Shri P.K. Bora, IAS	23 rd Mar, 1998	31 st Jul, 2002
36.	Shri P.K. Dutta, IAS	1 st Aug, 2002	31 st Jul, 2003
37.	J.P. Rajkhowa, IAS	1 st Aug, 2003	31 st Oct, 2004
38.	Shri S. Kabilan, IAS	1 st Nov, 2004	22 nd Dec, 2006
39.	Shri P.C. Sarma, IAS	22 nd Dec, 2006	31 st Mar, 2010
40.	Shri N.K. Das, IAS	31 st Mar, 2010	30 th Jun, 2013
41.	Shri P.P. Varma, IAS	30 th Jun, 2013	30 th Sep, 2013
42.	Shri Jitesh Khosla IAS	30 th Sep, 2013	Till date

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- HEALTH/MEDICAL REPORT - 850 copies (1894-1952)
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SOME OLD & RARE BOOKS:

- Earthquake reports of Assam (1897),
- Quetta Earthquake reports (1935),
- Captain Welsh’s Expedition to Assam in 1792, 1793, 1794;
- Captain Jenkin’s Journals of Upper Assam from 20th Feb. 1838;
- Political Diaries of the Agent to the Governor-General,
- Tour diaries of the Deputy Commissioner of Naga Hills 1870-1872,
- Selection of the papers regarding the hill tracts between Assam and Burma and on the Upper Brahmaputra (1873),
- Military reports on the Brahmaputra river system (1914),
- Round Table Conference, proceedings of sub-committees (1930 to 1932), etc.
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