Preface

Political geography of Prāgjyotiṣa-Kāmarūpa along with the important names of the places is a very important topic of the History of Eastern India of ancient time. History can not be meaningful without knowledge of Geography during the relevant age. Natural resources particularly the river system, has an important feature to mark for shaping the geographical division and administrative units which had a great impact on the history of Prāgjyotiṣa-Kāmarūpa. Annals of a country can not correctly be evaluated without having an idea of its geographical extension. The extension of Prāgjyotiṣa-Kāmarūpa during the rulers of various dynasties in ancient time formed a glorious chapter in the annals of history of Prāgjyotiṣa-Kāmarūpa. Along with the study of geographical extension of Prāgjyotiṣa-Kāmarūpa an wide range of discussions on the nomenclature for the administrative units, important places related to religion and economy, rivers, hills and mountains known from the inscriptions and literature are given in the foregoing pages added with other details on the political history of the period.

In our college life while studying the history of ancient Assam I have always been attracted to its glorious past. The attraction became stronger when, as a student of post-graduate classes I took up the study of ancient Indian history as a special paper and when I found that Assam, in ancient time known as Prāgjyotiṣa-Kāmarūpa,
has a long history in our glorious past and has contributed largely to the growth of the Indian civilization and culture. She has presented herself as an important part of India, with the unique features of unity in diversity in its true sense.

Prāgjyotiṣa-Kāmarūpa was inhabited by various tribes and continuous migration of the peoples made the Brahmaputra Valley a colourful one. The process of Sanskritisation and the genealogical history of Prāgjyotiṣa-Kāmarūpa is found to have started from very early times, i.e. in the time of Naraka, to be followed by the three powerful royal dynasties, viz. the Varman, the Śālastambha and the Pāla,- all claiming descent from Naraka. Economically the region was too active. Trade and commerce was a regular feature of the economic system. Thus the state of Prāgjyotiṣa-Kāmrūpa was formed since prehistoric period and prospered during the reigns of powerful kings and became an integral part of the Indian sub-continent, both politically and culturally.

So the want of writing history of the kingdom was long felt. The present research study is a scope and all possible efforts have been made to analyse both the history of its political extension and elaborate the details of important place names.

(Anima Dutta)