

CHAPTER III

GAURIPUR RAJ ESTATE : A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RAJ

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Origin and Extent of the Estate :

Gauripur Raj estate originated from the Nankar received from the Moghul Emperor Jahangir by one Babindra Patra, who was appointed to the post of Naib Kanungo of the thana Rangamati. Since Rangamati was the headquarters of the outlying province of the Moghul Empire in the east, much importance was attached to the post of Kanungoship of the Rangamati thana. The Kanungos were thus invested with special powers in matters of civil, criminal, and revenue affairs of the province.

The post of Kanungoship conferred on Babindra Patra was continued to be held by the members of his family for a period of more than three centuries in succession without break. The Sanads which Babindra Patra and his descendants received from the Moghul Emperor conferred on them large quantity of rent free lands as commission on the rents collected by them from the ryots. The commission was of two kinds, viz., Nankar and Dastur. As has been mentioned in the sanads issued to Babisekhar Kanungo in 1622 A.D. and 1635 A.D. respectively, the rate of Dastur was 2 per cent of the rent collection and 3½ per cent of the

Sayer collection. Of course, the Nankar granted to a Kanungo at the time of his appointment was considered to be his main source of income. A Sanad of 1622 A.D. confirms us that Kabisekhar, who succeeded Kabindra Patra as Kanungo of Rangamati, was permitted to hold Nankar of 4260 bighas of land, which were granted to his father as Nankar fees by virtue of his office. Another Sanad of 1635 A.D. informs us that the grant of land enjoyed by Kabisekhar Kanungo as Nankar fee amounted to 9020 bighas.

These big endowments of hundreds of bighas land enjoyed by Kabisekhar Kanungo by virtue of his office eventually raised his position to a leading zamindar of the region he served. And since the office of the Kanungo-ship of Rangamati was continuously held by the progenies of Kabindra Patra, every succeeding generation added still more quantities of additional Nankar lands to the already extensive property in land. Thus, there was an enormous accumulation of property in land to the credit of the Kanungos of Rangamati¹. It is said that the Nankar land acquired by Kabisekhar Kanungo in the Khuntaghat and Habraghat Parganas alone amounted to 70,000 bighas of land².

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1. Guha, R., Report on an Investigation of the Gauripur Raj Estate Archives, Regional Record Survey Committee, 1953, pp.21-26.
 2. Datta Barua, H.N., Prachin Kamrupia Kayastha Samajer Itibritya, Nalbari, 1941, p.701.

The power thus acquired by the Kanungos of Rangamati was exercised most effectively in securing further additions to their landed property. Parts of this vast extensive properties were distributed amongst the descendants of and relatives to the family of the Kanungo of Rangamati in accordance with the law of inheritance or gift deeds, and these people, who settled scattered in different parts of the district of Goalpara, prepared the political structure for the family to emerge as a potential political force in the region³. Thus, the Kanungos of Rangamati secured assignment for the members of the family to the office of Choudhury in different places of the province. As the office became hereditary the process of absorbing other zamindaries of the established zamindar families was started. In most cases, they were ousted physically. Some of the documents found in the family library of the ex-zamindars of Gauripur bear testimony of a "Sordid drama of dispossession of the weak zamindar by his powerful neighbour of Dharmaraj Choudhuri of Kapsnurma by Gokul Chandra (1687), Dilgit of Noabad Futuri by Kunjamohan (1701), Pasupati of Ghurla by Bal Chandra (1724), Pritam Chowdhuri of Ghurla by Bool Chandra (1733), Jugal Kishore of Jamira by Prithdev (1758)

3. Guha, A., Zamindarkalin Goalpara Jilar Artha Samajik Awastha, Eti Citihatik Dristipat, Dhubri, 1984, pp. 24-25.

and Ranaram and Umanath respectively of Mechpara and Kalumalupara by Durgaprasad (1766)"⁴. It is distinctly mentioned in one of the Sanads issued to the Kanungo family of Rangamati that said Umanath was replaced by Durgaprasad, Waheddader of Aurangabad in 1759, as zamindar of Kalumalupara on the strength of an application by Bool Chandra Kanungo, cousin of the new zamindar Durgaprasad⁵.

In 1778 A.D., Bul Chandra Barua acquired five Parganas of Ghurla, Aurangabad, Makrampur, Jamira and Gola-Alamganj. Though the zamindary became a magnificent one by that time, it was still further enlarged by Bul Chandra's grandson, Dhir Chandra Barua, who purchased the Parganas of Kalumalupara, Noabad Futuri and Dhubri and a share in Taria Pargana⁶. The last named one was a Brahmottar land granted to Ram Prasad Chakravarty by the then zamindars of Taria, Krishna Prasad Choudhury and Bishnu Gupta. It was considered invalid and therefore resumed by the Government in 1848 A.D. It was put up to sale in auction, and at the interval of every ten years it was settled with the zamindar of Gauripur, who

4. Guha, R., Ibid., p.24

5. Ibid.

6. Allen, B.C., Assam District Gazetteers, Goalpara, Shillong, 1905, p.116.

enjoyed it till 1868 A.D. When Dhubri was handed over to the Government⁷.

These zamindaris were put under the Decennial settlement of 1789. It is to be noted here that in the beginning of the Company's rule, the zamindar of Gauripur had to send to the Collector of Rangamati 21 elephants annually as his portion of revenue. In 1774, the revenue in kind was commuted to Cash money of C. Rs.3101/- per annum. It was subsequently raised to Rs.4221/-.

Gauripur estate lay between 25°58' and 26°19' N. and 89°50' and 90°6' E. in the western portion of the district, consisting of seven entire Parganas of Ghurla, Jamira, Makrampur, Gola-Alanganj, Noabad Futuri, Kalumalu-para, and Aurangabad with the part of Taria, and certain Lakhiraj grants, i.e., Srijangram and Adardiya in Khuntaghat Pargana under Bijni Raj estate. The total area of the estate was 355 square miles⁸.

7. DY File No. IV-6 of 1957, Record Room, Dhubri Collectorate, Dhubri.

8. Imperial Gazetteer of India, Vol. XIII, Oxford, 1908, p. 192; paper of Arbitration, Gauripur Raj Estate, March 28, 1913, found in the family of the ex-zamindar of Gauripur.

Financial Resources :

In the time of permanent settlement the jama fixed for 5 Parganas was C.Rs.3,563-4 annas. An amount of C. Rs.469-13 annas was deducted as Sayer compensation. Thus, the estate paid to the Government C. Rs.3,299-11 annas 4 paisas. The income was approximately Rs. 3,104-10 annas. If the figures were entered correctly, the jama fixed for the Gauripur estate was higher than the income. But there is no record to ascertain that the estate was ever sold for arrears. Perhaps the estate was solvent economically⁹. It has been referred to above that the zamindars of Gauripur Raj estate received huge quantities of land as Nankar fee, besides the usual Dastur. Nankar lands were the main sources of their income. According to Buchanan, in the first decade of the nineteenth century, the net collection of the rent from the ryots of the five Parganas originally held by the zamindar was 6,000/-¹⁰. In the beginning of the twentieth century, the annual rent roll of the estate was of 3,34,000/-. The estate derived miscellaneous revenues from forest and other sources to the tune of Rs.32,000/-. The estate paid to the Government Rs.5,299/- as revenue and Rs.25,000/- as local rates¹¹.

9. Mills, A.J.M., Report on the Province of Assam, Second Edition, Gauhati, 1984, Appendix B.P.P. 301-303.

10. F.B.H. Mass No.5, Book 4 in Guha, A., Op cit., p.27

11. Imperial Gazetteer of India, Op cit., p.192.

Thus, the estate enjoyed a fairly huge amount of surplus as income. And as compared to the income, the jama fixed for the estate was extremely low. It was due to the fact that the zamindars in Goalpara were to "keep pace of the marches" under the Moghuls, who thus fixed a nominal tribute as land revenue in respect of Gauripur Raj estate. The British fixed the old tribute as land revenue at the time of the permanent settlement¹².

Genealogy of the Raj family :

In the local accounts, Gauripur Raj family is said to be descended from a Kayastha named Narahari Rai, who was a resident of the village Betheria in Tirhut Mazaffarpur. He left his village for Koch Bihar where he settled in the beginning of the sixteenth century. He is said to have changed his surname from Rai to Barua. Thus, the family descended from him was known as Barua by surname. They were referred to as Bangal Barua by the Ahom kings¹³. In fact, Barua was a class of officials of the royal court of the Koch kings¹⁴.

12. Ibid.

13. Datta Barua, H.N., Op cit., pp.698-699

14. Rai Bahadur Bhuyan, S.K., The Annals of the Delhi Badshahete, Gauhati, 1942, p.151.

Nothing can be known about the inclusion of Narahari Rai to the rank of Baruas. But his grand son Kabindra Patra was appointed to the post of Chief-minister by the great Koch King Nar Narayan. Probably, he was recruited to the service of the Koch King as Barua prior to his appointment as Chiefminister, and, thus, his dynasty came to be known as Barua. Be that as it may, his grand father had two sons, Rama Das and Poyonidhi. Poyonidhi had two sons, Kabi Karnapur and Baninath. Kabindra's name was Baninath. Kabindra and his brother acquired wide knowledge in Sastras. In recognition to their talent the society of the learned intelligentsia conferred upon them the title Kabindra and Kabi Karnapur respectively¹⁵.

Kabindra was assigned by Biswa Singha to guide his sons, Nar Narayan and Sukladhvaj while they were at Kashi for studies. Subsequently he was appointed the Chiefminister of the royal court by Nar Narayan, who became the King of the Koch Kingdom. He is said to have accompanied Chilarai in his successful campaign against the kings of Ahom territory, Manipur, Jayantia, and Tipperah. But Kabindra was dismissed from service by Lakshmi Narayan, who succeeded Nar Narayana to the throne.

15. Datta Barua, H.N., Op cit., p.700.

However, Raghudeb Narayan, who was assigned by Nar Narayan to rule over the eastern part of his Kingdom, welcomed him to his court, and appointed him his Chiefminister. It has already been referred to in the Chater I that Raghu's son Parikshit Narayan was captured by the Moghuls¹⁶. It is said that Kabindra Patra accompanied Parikshit Narayan while the latter was brought before the Moghul Emperor Jahangir as a war-prisoner. Parikshit Narayan left him as his agent to the Moghuls at Delhi.

Immediately after the death of Parikshit Narayan Kabindra Patra was appointed Kanungo of Parikshit's territory, the Koch-Hajo, which was annexed to the Moghul Empire. Further, he was granted large estates as Nankar. Kabindra Patra took leave of the Emperor to return to his country. He was accompanied by Ibrahim Korori, who came to reorganise the newly acquired territory. Ibrahim Korori introduced the Pargana system in place of villages in Koch-Hajo in conformity with the Moghul administrative system. The whole area was designated as villayat-Hajo which was divided into four sarkars, viz., Sarkar Kamrup, Sarkar Dhekeri, Sarkar Dakshinkul, and Sarkar Bangalbhum¹⁷. Rangamati became the headquarters of the Kanungo. Thus, Kabindra Patra's sphere of influence expanded from Rangamati on the west to Gauhati on the east.

16. Supra, Chapter 4.

17. Rai Bahadur Bhuyan, S.K., Op cit., pp.193-94.

It is mentioned in the Kamrupar Buranji "that the Badshah first conferred on Kabisekhar, the son of Kabindra Patra, the post of Kanungo"¹⁸. But the records found in the Gauripur Rajbari bear testimony to the fact that Kabindra Patra was first appointed the Naib Kanungo of thana Rangamati. It is worth mentioning that the sanads issued by the Moghul Badshah to Kabindra Patra and his descendants are the authentic sources of our information regarding the family chronicle of the Gauripur Raj, and much emphasis be given to these papers in our discourse on the chronology of the family. The earliest document preserved in Gauripur Rajbari was a Sanad of 1606 A.D., investing Kabindra Patra alias Baninath with the office of Naib Kanungo of thana Rangamati. This Sanad states :

"The ablest of his contemporaries Baninath should know that the post of Naib Kanungo of thanah Rangamati, Sarkar Dhekeri, has been conferred upon him by his Highness from the time of the death of Bishan Chand. It is required that he should satisfactorily discharge the duties entrusted to him. He should try his best to look the saving of the Government and thus proved the faithful discharge of his duties. He should keep the papers of that place in due form and furnish the Imperial Office with such of them as might be called for. Know this to be peremptory. Dated the 26th Maharram, 2nd year of the reign of His Imperial Majesty"¹⁹.

18. Rai Bahadur Bhuyan, S.K., Kamrupar Buranji, Gauhati, 1930, p.27.

19. Guha, R., Op cit., p.22.

Kabindra Patra had six sons, namely, Raghunath, Kabiballabh, Bishnudeb, Mahadeb, Niranjana, and Nityananda. Of them Raghunath was distinguished by his wide learning and was able to obtain the title Kabisekhar. He became the Kanungo of Rangamati after the death of his father in 1622 A.D. A Sanad dated 1622 A.D. stated that Kabisekhar was appointed Kanungo that year after the death of his father, and was allowed to hold 4060 bighas of Nankar land already granted to his late father. That he was a capable man was confirmed by another sanad which was issued to him in 1046 H(1635 A.D.) by the Emperor Jahangir. Apart from a large quantity of fresh Nankar lands, the Sanad conferred on him the title Raja. He is said to have associated with the administrative affairs of Koch Bihar during the reign of Pran Narayan²⁰.

Kabisekhar had three sons, namely, Srinath, Pusanath, and Harinandan. Of them, the eldest one was known as Kabiratna, who was appointed to the post of Kanungo after Kabisekhar. A Sanad of 1654 A.D. confirms us that Kabiratna was empowered by the Imperial Government to take steps against the refractory zamindars of the region. His performance as Kanungo was praiseworthy, in recognition of which

20. Basu, N.N., The Social History of Kamrup, Vol.II, Calcutta, 1983 (Reprint), pp.171-172; Vol.III, Appendix IV, pp. 44-66.

Sanads were issued to him by Shahjahan and Aurangzeb. But he was in league with the Koch Bihar King Pran Narayan, who rebelled against the Moghuls. For this act of treason he was replaced by Jajanand, the son of his uncle, Kabiballabh. However, Kabiratna's son, Devaraja, secured the favour of the Moghul Emperor, who restored him on the post of Kanungo by issuing a Sanad in 1665 A.D.²¹.

After Devaraj his brother Gokul Chand held the post of Kanungo for some years. He was keenly interested to raise the power and prestige of the Kanungoship of Rangamati. One of the notable events of his tenure was that in 1687 A.D. he took over Mahal Kapsurma from Dharmaraj Chaudhury by paying Rs. 800/- in excess to the former jama. Gokul Chand was succeeded by his nephew Debiprasad, the son of his elder brother, Devaraj. During the tenure of his Kanungoship, the power and prestige of the family had risen to a great extent. Several Sanads issued to Debiprasad bear vivid witness of it. By the Sanad of the 25th year of the reign of Aurangzeb Debiprasad was given the authority to collect Dastur and Nankar of the Parganas Bahirband, Duki, and Bari²². Debiprasad Kanungo was even allowed to

21. Guha, R., Op cit., p.25; Datta Barua, H.N., Op cit., p.702; Basu, N.N., Ibid., p.171.

22. Datta Barua, H.N., Ibid., p.702; Basu, N.N., Ibid., p. 173.

secure forced labour from the ryots, who migrated from his Nankar to a neighbouring Pargana. The Sanad dated the 14th showal 1086 Hijri (1683 A.D.) invested him with such power as —

"you Chaudhuries and Patwaries of Toppa Banker should know that the tenants of Mouzah Dampur, appertaining to the said Toppa are from a long time, according to Sanads, attached to Debiprasad Kanungo of Yamrup, in accordance of his Nankar. At present the tenants have settled in Pargana, Parbotjoar. It is held that even now, as usual, they are to have connection with the said Kanungo on account of his Nankar. It is required that you should consider the said tenants as having connection with the said Kanungo on account of his Nankar and have them under his control that he might realise tax and exact forced labour from them, and should under no circumstances object to their being thus treated. Know this to be peremptory"²³.

According to H.N. Datta Barua and N.N. Basu, Debiprasad Barua was succeeded by Gauriprasad, who was childless, and the succession to the vast estate of the family devolved on Surjya Chandra, the eldest son of Gokul Chand. He was succeeded by Bul Chandra, the son of Bal Chandra, the brother of Surjya Chandra, in 1774 A.D.²⁴. But there is concrete evidence which shows that Tilok Chandra, who was

23. Guha, R., Op cit., pp. 23-24.

24. Datta Barua, H.N., Op cit., p.703; Basu, N.N., Op cit., p. 174.

appointed to the post of Kanungo was removed from his office in 1731 A.D. for "having failed to perform the duties and to pay the Peskash money", which amounted to no more than Rs. 248-8 annas annually, but piled up to total arrear of Rs.10,398-8 annas. He was probably replaced by Bal Chandra Barua in 1732 A.D., who issued a muchalka to the effect that he would perform all the duties of the Kanungo post²⁵.

Bul Chandra Barua succeeded to the gaddi of the Gauripur Raj estate after Bal Chandra. As has been stated by B.C. Allen, Bul Chandra's accession to the headship of the family was in 1778 A.D.²⁶. But there is evidence of documents found in the Rajbari, which threw light on the fact that Bul Chandra exercised his powers as Kanungo in 1766 A.D. On the strength of an application filed by him to the Mughul Government in that year, Ranaram and Umanath, Zamindars of the estates of Mechpara and Kalumalu-para respectively, were dispossessed by his cousin Durga-prasad. Be that as it may, he held the post of Kanungo of Rangamati, and was the principal zamindar of the region till December, 1788, when Baillie took charge of the administration of the district Rangamati²⁷. It is known from

25. Guha, R., *Ibid.*, p.25.

26. Allen, B.C., *Op cit.*, p.113.

27. Bhuyan, S.K., Anglo Assamese Relations, 1771-1826, Gauhati, 1949, p. 167.

the Deva Harapatra of Baloram Chaudhury of Ghuria that he had granted some rent-free lands to Bul Chandra in 1159 B.S. for the maintenance of worship of Goddess Durga. It is further known from a circular of the East India Company that, owing to the failure of Balaram Chaudhury and other Zamindars to submit their revenue at proper time, some arrangements were made about their estates with Bul Chandra Barua. From this it can be assumed that Bul Chandra Barua came to the possession of several new properties²⁸.

Bul Chandra Barua was succeeded by his son Bira Chandra Barua, during whose tenure the estate was brought under the Decennial Settlement under the East India Company. It is said that, by this time, Balit Narayan, the Raja of Bijri estate was subject to ill-treatment at the hands of the British Officials. It was through the mediation of Bira Chandra Barua that the oppressions meted out to Balit Narayan were put to stop by the then Governor General in Council. As a token of reward, the said Raja of Bijri estate granted certain rent free lakhiraj to him²⁹.

28. Datta Barua, H.N., Op cit., p.703; Basu, N.N., Op cit., pp. 173-74.

29. Ibid.

On the death of Bira Chandra, his wife Jay Durga Baruanee adopted Dhir Chandra, the son of Gunananda , 7th in succession from Kabiballabh, brother of Kabisekhar³⁰. Dhir Chandra purchased the parganas of Kalumalupara, Nacbad Futuri, and a share in Taria³¹. He was allowed to use Silver Sticks with his equipage as a mark of his rank and family³². He was succeeded by his son Pratap Chandra. In 1850, he shifted his residence from Rangamati to Gauripur. He is said to have rendered good services to the British Government during the Bhutan war (1864-66) , and it was for this service that the British conferred on him the title Rai Bahadur in 1867. In 1869, he handed over Dhubri to the Government as a free gift for the headquarters of the district when it was transferred from Goalpara town to Dhubri. He also helped the Government with coolies and other provisions for the force engaged in the Garo Hills Expedition³³.

Pratap Chandra died in 1880 leaving no issue to inherit him. His widow Rani Bhabani Priya Baruanee adopted

30. Basu, N.N., Ibid., pp.174-75.

31. Allen, B.C., Op cit., p.116.

32. Letter from Capt. Jenkins, Agent to Governor General, North East Frontier, to Pratap Chandra Barua, No.365 dated 11th June, 1840, found in the family of ex-zamindar of Gauripur Raj estate.

33. Letter from L.C. Abbot, Under Secy. to the Government of Bengal, No. 1284, Calcutta, the 6th March, 1823, found in the family of ex-zamindar of Gauripur Raj estate.

Prabhat Chandra Barua. During his minority Rani Bhabani Barua assumed power as executor to the will made by late Pratap Chandra Barua, and administered the estate till Prabhat Chandra Barua attained majority in 1898. Prabhat Chandra Barua received the title Raja as a personal distinction³⁴. He married twice. First he was married to Rani Sarojabala (1896), who had given birth to three sons and two daughters, namely, Pramathesh Chandra Barua, Prakitesh Chandra Barua, Pranabesh Chandra Barua, Rajkumari Niharbala and Rajkumari Nilima Sundari.

After the death of his first wife, he married Saralabala who had given birth to three sons, namely, Amal, Ajay and Ajit. Prabhat Chandra Barua died on 25th September, 1942.

As the law of primogeniture was followed in respect of succession to the headship of the family, Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua was the last Zamindar of the Gauripur Raj estate. After him the estate declined. He made a will on 30th January, 1940, by virtue of which his sons and daughters born of his first wife became the proprietors of the estate, while the minor sons born of his second wife became the legatees and beneficiaries of the said will.

34. Basu, N.N., Op cit., p.177; Datta Barua, H.N., Op cit., p.703.

Socio-Cultural Contribution of the Rai Family :

Public Works :

The Baruas of Rangamati, as the zamindars were called, were conservative in their outlook. Acquisition of property in land, even by any means, was the characteristic of the family. The family could acquire to their credit vast quantities of lands in the later part of the seventeenth century, and process of acquisition of more lands was continued to the second half of the Eighteenth century. In the midst of such pursuit, some of the members of the family of Gauripur Raj paid their attention to benevolent works of public interest. Dhir Chandra Barua, who was fond of princely pomp and grandeur, opened Sadabrata; and his wife late Tarini Baruanee opened a Chattuspathy at Gauripur to encourage learning in Sanskrit. His son, Pratap Chandra, established a free Middle English School, and a Charitable dispensary at Gauripur. As referred to above, in 1869 he made free gift of Dhubri town land to the Government. His wife Bhabani Priya Baruanee established a Satra at Benaras Ganga Mahal. Twenty five Brahmins were fed there daily, and the cost involved was borne out of the exchequer of the estate.

Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua Bahadur was known for his zeal to public works. In 1899, he raised the Middle English School founded by his adoptive father Pratap

Chandra Barua to High English School. He founded a public library at Dhubri, and named it after H.I.S. Cotton, the then Chief Commissioner of Assam. He was the patron of three Middle English Schools established at Sukchar, Patmari, and Chatrasal respectively, within the territorial limit of Gauripur estate. He awarded scholarship to a group of students for acquiring knowledge in agriculture in Japan. Laksheswar Barthakur, who returned home from Japan after finishing his studies there with the scholarship awarded by him tried to establish a sugar Mill at Tinsukia, but failed. Pratap Chandra spent one-tenth of the estate's exchequer in the public works, viz., education 52 per cent, hospital 16 per cent, Sadabrata 18 per cent, donation 12 per cent, and public health 2 per cent³⁵.

Art and Literature :

Of the zamindars of the Gauripur Raj family, Raja Kabisekhar , Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua, and his son Raj Kumar Pramathesh Barua were the patrons of arts and literature. Kabisekhar is said to be the translator of the

35. Datta Barua, H.N., Op cit., pp.703-704.

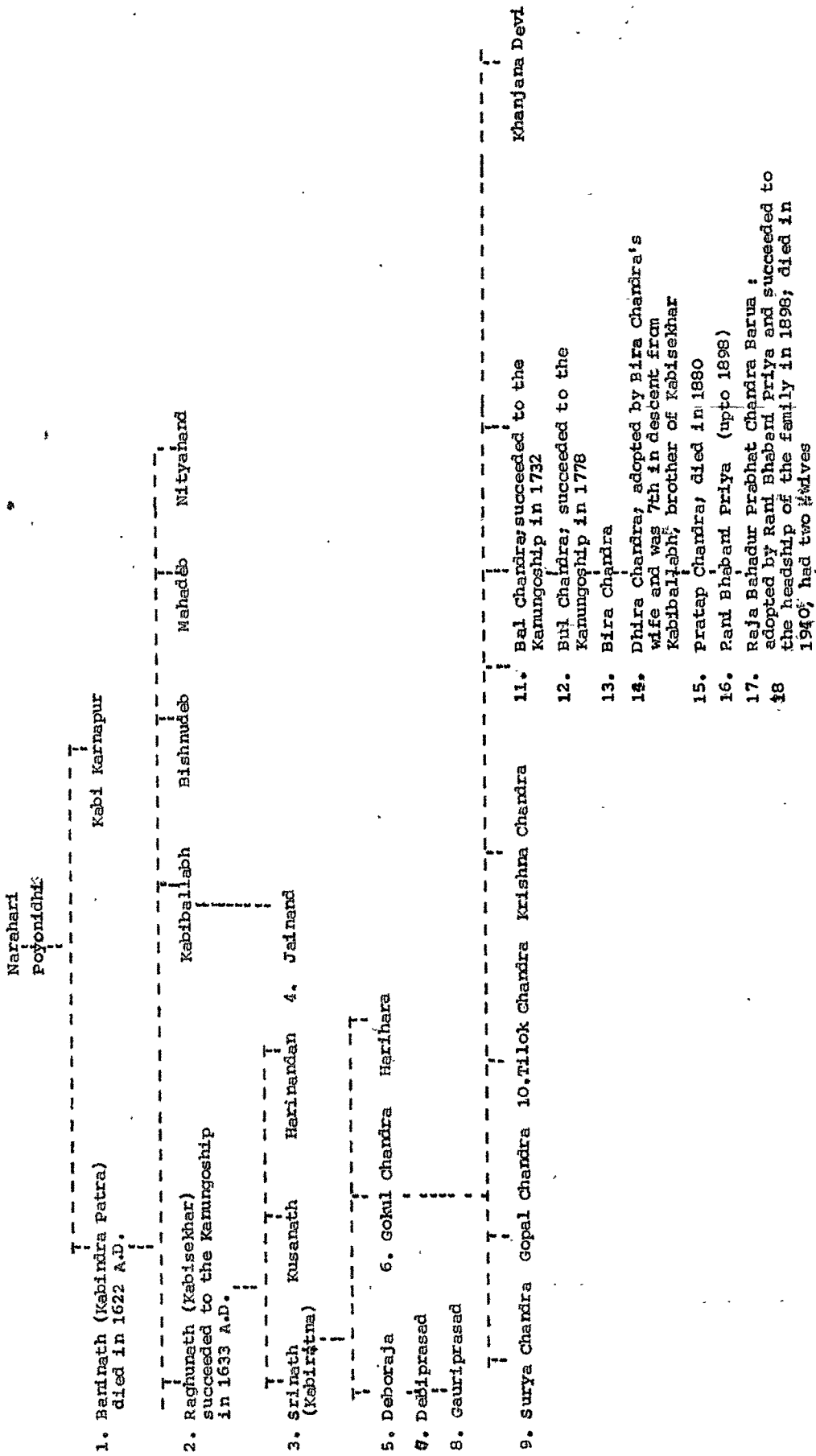
Mahabharata, A manuscript considered by some scholars to be old copy of his translation of the Mahabharata, was preserved in the library of the late Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua Bahadur. Of course, there is controversy about the authenticity of this work. The transcript was edited and published by Gaurinath Shastri as Kabindra birochita Astadas Parva Mahabharata. It is to be noted here that N.N.Basu, who laboured to prepare the genealogy of the family at the initiative of the Zamindar, Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua Bahadur, did not mention Kabindra Patra to be the author of the said work. Thus, it seems to be a matter of conjecture only.

Under the patronage of the Raj family, two other works were published, one by N.N.Basu, and the other by H.N.Datta Barua. These were the Social History of Kamrupa and Prachin Kamrupia Kayastha Samajar Itibritiya respectively. Unfortunately, Basu's chapter on Gauripur Raj family in Social History of Kamrupa and Datta Barua's said work were influenced by the Kayastha cast outlook. Still, the works may be regarded valuable specially for the reconstruction of the genealogical history of the Gauripur Raj family. The Chattuspathy under the patronage of the zamindars of Gauripur became a great centre of oriental studies. Most of the text books prescribed for the Sanskrit Tols in Assam and Bengal were published by it. Ramanath Vidyalkar, who was known for scholarship

in Sanskrit, was the superintendent of this Chattuspathy.

Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua was the patron of English Weekly The Advocate of Assam. His son Pramathesh Barua was one of the pioneers of Indian Film Industry. He got himself associated with the film world as the Director of British Dominion Film Company. Soon after, he ventured on Barua Film Unit as its Director, and produced Aparadhy. Akada was the second film produced by him in the Barua Film Unit (the Barua Film Studio). But the director producer Pramathesh Barua suffered badly in his venture. His studio was sold off, and he joined in the New Theatres Ltd. A series of films, i.e., Ruplekha (1934), Devadas (1935), Grihadah (1936), were produced by New Theatres Ltd. under his direction, and Pramathesh Barua emerged as a top ranking talented director. Jindegi was the last picture he directed under New Theatres Ltd., He abandoned New Theatres Ltd. and was engaged in producing two other films under his direction, viz., Sapmukti and Shesh Uttar. He could maintain fame as director in these two pictures also.

Genealogical Table of the Raj family



of the first wife Sarajbala

of the second wife Sarajbala
Anai Chandra Barua, Ajoy Chandra Barua, Ajit Chandra Barua.

Kumar, Pransthesh Chandra Barua, Kumar
Prakitesh Chandra Barua, Raj Kumari Nihabala
Raj Kumari Nilima Sundri, Raj Kumar Pranabesh Ch. Barua.