(1) **Ahom rule** :- The Ahoms are the members of the Shan branch of Grate Tai or Thai family of south-East Asia. The Shans were so called because they first inhabited a land named Tyai-Shan on the bank of the river Tarim which flowed to the north of Mongolia and China. The Ahom ruled Assam from 1228 AD to 1826 AD, an uninterrupted Period of long six hundred years, a period unprecedented in the annals of the history of the world. The Ahoms established a strong and stable Government, gave peace, prosperity and happiness to its subjects and successfully resisted many foreign invasions.

(2) **Barbarua and Barphukan** :- The office of the Barbarua and Barphukan created by Pratap Singha in the early part of the 17th century were not hereditary and could be filled up by any member of certain specified families excluding those of the hereditary Gohains. The Babarua was the Chief
executive officer and the head of the judiciary, who, however, could not act independently of the Gohains. He was allotted territories lying outside the jurisdiction of the Gohains in upper Assam along with the service of 14,000 *Paiks* who were bound to render service to the king as well as in times of emergency.

(3) **Barphukan** :- The Barphukan was the Viceroy who had his Head Quarters first at Kaliabor and then at Kajali. Initially, he governed the tract between the Brahmaputra and the Kalang in Nowgong, but later, with the extension of Ahiom Suzerainty, his jurisdiction also extended, till it included the entire western Part of the Kingdom from Kaliabor to Goalpara. He then lived at Gauhati and conducted the political relations with Bengal and Bhutan. He enjoyed the service of 100 attendants and was allotted 1,000 Puras of land. Such Prerogatives together with wide and autonomous power induced Barphukan to attempt to acquire suzerain power.
(4) **Baishya Mel**:- Baishya Mel refers to a deliberating body which took certain major decisions in regard to trade and commerce of Ahom Kings with neighbouring countries. Sometimes it took up some social matters for discussion.

(5) **Dangaria**:- A title originally applied to the three great Gohains or Cabinet Ministers, the Burhagohain, the Bargohains' and the Barpatragohain but later to any man belonging to the old Assamese nobility or acquiring respectability.

(6) **Kingship**:- According to the Ahom theory of kingship, "he whose fore-fathers were never rulers, can hardly be expected to be a king." As such, no one could, under any circumstance, ascend the throne, unless he was a Prince of the royal blood and a direct-descendant of Sukapha on the male lines.
(7) **Barpatra Gohain** :- One of the senior Cabinet Ministers. This office was created in the reign of the Dihingia Raja.

(8) **Paik System** :- The Ahom State did not have a regular army. Its militia system comprised the men drawn mainly from the non-ruling classes and non-slaves. The *Paiks* or *khels* used to fight as militia men to expend and defend the Ahom territory during war. At the time of peace their service was utilized for public works such as road and bridge building, temple building and the likes. For his service to the state, a *paik* got 2 Puras or nearly 3 acres of land from the state. The entire adult population in the age group of 15-60 had an obligation of a periodic militia service to the state. The *Paiks* were organized on a unit basis, each unit comprised of three *paiks*, each to serve the state for four months.

(9) **Mekhela** :- The traditional dress used by women normally at home. Sometimes this term is intentionally used to malign the image of male personality.
(10) **Ryotwari system**: The colonial rulers introduced qualitatively different land revenue system as opposed to the Pre-colonial *Paik* system, which was known as Ryotwari system in all district of the Brahmaputra valley with the exception of Goalpara which retained zamindari system. The primary objective of the new revenue system was to collect revenue to strengthen colonial rule in Assam.

(11) **Patta**: The official document containing the names of land holders, which is given periodically normally after census.

(12) **Khisiri**: A type of popular meal which was introduced as a mid day meal in primary schools in Assam as part of social welfare schemes.