



ADRE

Grade III & IV

Assam Direct Recruitment Exam

Volume - 3

General English and Reading Comprehension & Assam GK



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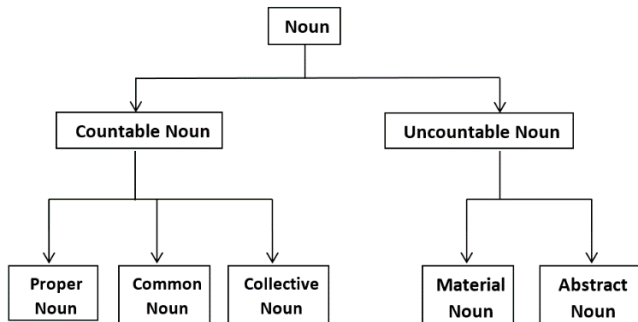
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1 CHAPTER

Noun

A noun is a name of person, place, thing, idea, action, a quantity.

1. Types –



(1) **Proper noun** – Denotes a particular person, place or thing.

Ex. Akshay, Pooja, Ankita etc.

(2) **Common noun** – Is the name given in common to every person or thing of the same class or kind.

Ex: Boy, girl, company etc.

(3) **Collective noun** – Denotes a group or collective of similar individuals considered as one complete whole.

Ex: Class, Staff, Army, Parliament etc.

(4) **Material noun** – Denotes matter or substance of which a thing is made of.

Ex: Iron, gold, silver etc.

(5) **Abstract noun** – Is usually the name of a quality, action or state considered apart from the object to which it belongs.

Ex: Virtue, darkness, kindness, happiness etc.

2. Some other types according to number -

(1) **Singular noun** – Boy, girl, man, car etc.

(2) **Plural noun** – Boys, girls, men, cars etc.

(3) **Countable nouns** – Are the names of objects, people etc. that we can count.

Ex: Book, doctor, horse, apple etc.

(4) **Uncountable nouns** – Are the names of things which we can't count.

They mainly denotes substance and abstract things.

Ex: Milk, Oil, Sugar, Gold, Honesty etc.

3. Noun and the Numbers :-

Singular noun ending	Plural noun ending	Singular	Plural
-s, -ss, -ch, -x, -zz	-es	Man	Men
Ex. Focus	Focuses	Woman	Women
Princess	Princesses	Mouse	Mice
Box	Boxes	Fish	Fish or Fishes
Buzz	Buzzes	A sheep	Ten sheep
-o	-s or -es	Child	Children
Ex. Hero	Heroes	Ox	Oxen

Piano	Pianos	A woman doctor	Several women doctors
Potato	Potatoes	A bookcase	Two bookcase
Consonant +y	-ies	An Indian take away	Two Indian take away
Baby	Babies	A passer by	Several passers by
Hobby	Hobbies	Glassful	Glassfuls
Vowel +y	-s	Spoonful	Spoonfuls
Key	keys		
Ray	rays		
-f	-s or -ves		
Ex. Hoof	Hoofs or hooves		
Dwarf	Dwarfs or dwarves		
Thief	Thieves		
Roof	Roofs		
-fe	-ves		
Knife	Knives		
Life	Lives		
On	a	Ex.	
Phenomenon	Phenomena	Since I had never seen a falling star, seeing one on my honeymoon was real phenomena. (Use Phenomenon in place of Phenomena)	
Criterion	Criteria	As we all know sunrise is a great phenomena. (*) a great Phenomenon (✓)	

(a) Is (Singular) – es (Plural) -

Singular (is)	Plural (es)
Analysis	Analyses
Diagnosis	Diagnoses
Casis	Cases
Thesis	Theses
Crisis	Crises

(b) US (singular) – I (plural)

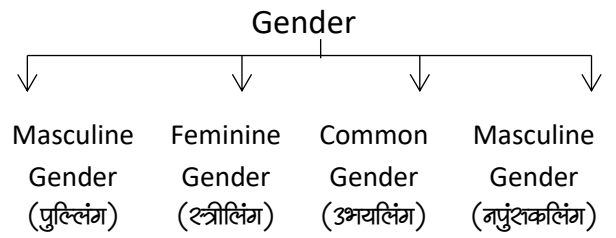
Cactus	-	Cacti
Focus	-	Foci
Fungus	-	Fungi

Nucleus	-	Nuclei
Syllabus	-	Syllabi, Syllabuses
Radius	-	Radii

4. Some nouns that have different meaning in singular and plural form

Singular	Plural
Force (physics term)	Forces (soldier)
Air	Airs (false way of behaving)

Return	Returns (calculation of income)
Iron	Irons (shackles)
Sand	Sands (desert)
Abuse	Abuses (evil words)
Good	Goods (moveable property)
Water	Waters (sea)
Work	Works (literary pieces)
Fruit	Fruits (result)
Wit	Wits (intelligent)



5. Noun and the Gender -

Gender - The Noun which denotes male of female sex is called gender.

Such as – Horse }
 Dog }
 Ox } To denote male sex
 Father }
 Mare }
 Bitch }
 Cow } To denote female sex
 Mother }

- (1) **Masculine Gender** - The noun which denotes male sex is called Masculine Gender.
Ex. Boy, Father, Brother, etc.
- (2) **Feminine Gender** - The noun which denotes female sex is called Feminine Gender.
Ex. Girl, Mother, sister etc.
- (3) **Common Gender** - The noun which does not specify the sex but only indicate a living thing is called Common Gender.
Ex. Baby, Student, Professor etc.
- (4) **Neuter Gender** - The noun which denotes a non-living object or thing with life is called Neuter Gender.
Ex. Tree, inkpot, pen, table etc.

Masculine words	Feminine words	Masculine words	Feminine words
Nephew	Niece	Husband	Wife
Man	Woman	uncle	Aunt
Brother	Daughter	Sir	Madam
Bachelor	Spinster	Bridegroom	Bride
Bull	Cow	Author	Authoress
Cock	Hen	Count	Countess
Grand-Father	Grand-Mother	Land-lord	Land-Lady
Brother-in-law	Sister-in-law	Son-in-law	Daughter-in-law
Director	Directress	Votary	Votaress
Boyfriend	Girlfriend	Chairman	Chair woman

6. Some important Rules of Gender

Rule - 1

There are some nouns which are used to denote beauty, gracefulness, gentleness etc. In this condition, they are considered as feminine gender and it is used as singular pronoun she, her, hers, herself etc, according to the need.

Like as -

The moon, The Earth, Nature, flattery, Spring, hope, virtue, charity, humility, mercy, faith, peace, ship, river, nation, jealousy, liberty, fame, city, country, car, modesty, train, pride, truth, justice etc.

Ex.

- (i) The moon shed her light on the bank. (✓)
The moon shed its light on the bank. (✗)
- (ii) Spring has her own charms and delights. (✓)
Spring has its own charms and delights. (✗)

Rule - 2

If girl/woman/lady/ female, are used before the common gender nouns, then we used singular pronoun of feminine gender she, her, hers, herself according to use.

Like as -

Girl-Friend, Girl-student, Female-child, woman-teacher, woman-doctor, woman-conductor etc.

Ex.

- (i) A girl student should not neglect her home. (✓)
A girl student should not neglect his/its home. (✗)
- (ii) A woman-doctor examines the patient herself. (✓)
A woman-doctor examines the patient himself/itself. (✗)

Rule - 3

There are some nouns which are used to denote strength, firmness, energy etc. In this condition, they are considered as masculine gender and it is used as singular pronoun - he, him, his, himself according to the need.

Like as -

The sun, time, death, winter, wind, summer, thunder, Dear, love, war, wine etc.

Ex.

- (i) The sun shot his bright rays. (✓)
The sun shot her bright rays. (✗)
- (ii) Death always knows his victim. (✓)
Death always knows her victim. (✗)

Rule - 4

There are some nouns of masculine gender which is also used as an adjective for a woman.

Ex:

- (i) Veena is a lover of fine arts.
(ii) She is a master of English.

Rule - 5

Each, every, either, neither etc. words are used as distributive pronoun or adjectives. They are pronouns of common gender, It is generally used singular pronouns - he, him, his, himself of masculine gender. but when female gender it known, the singular pronoun - She, her, hers, herself of feminine gender is used.

Ex.

- (i) Every student should do his duty. (✓)
Every student should do its duty. (✗)
- (ii) Each of us had finished his work. (✓)
Each of us has finished its work. (✗)

Rule - 6

Everything, something, anything and nothing are used as indefinite pronouns in sentence, It is called neuter gender pronouns for these, singular pronouns- it, its, itself of neuter gender are used.

Ex.

- (i) Everything should be kept in its order. (✓)
Everything should be kept in his order. (×)

Rule - 7

For lower animals and non-living things, we used pronouns (it, its, itself) of neuter gender.

Ex.

- (i) He has killed a snake, it is still lying on the road. (✓)
He has killed a snake, he is still lying on the road. (×)
- (ii) We cannot write with this pen because its nib is broken. (✓)
We cannot write with this pen because his nib is broken. (×)

Rule - 8

Collective nouns, jury crow etc. words are denoted the sense of group. It is considered as neuter gender - for these, pronouns (it, its, itself) of neuter gender are used.

Ex.

- (i) The committee will submit its report within six months. (✓)
The committee will submit their report within six months. (×)
- (ii) The team has declared that it will win the match. (✓)
The team has declared that they will win the match. (×)

But the above collective nouns make sense of 'each member' then plural pronoun - they, them, their, theirs, them selves are used for this.

Ex.

- (i) The committee have met and they have rejected the proposal. (✓)
The committee have met and it has rejected the proposal. (×)

Rule - 9

There are some nouns that are used as common gender nouns.

Like as -

Advocate, assistant, cousin, clerk, client, criminal, cyclist, dancer, dealer, doctor, novelist, professor, pupil, secretary, singer, worker, writer, teacher, politician, servant, friend, fool, engineer, helper ... etc.

They are used as masculine and feminine gender according to the need.

Masculine	Feminine
He is my doctor.	She is my doctor.
He is a teacher.	She is a teacher.

7. Important Rules -

Rule 1 - We always use singular verb with uncountable nouns.

- Plural of these words does not exist.
- Some examples of uncountable nouns are –

Rule 2 – Certain noun exist in plural forms

Machinery	Scenery	Information	Luggage
Advice	Poetry	Evidence	Help
Furniture	Bread	Wood	Fuel
Hair	Crockery	Cash	Money

only. Thus 's' cannot be removed from such nouns.

- They take plural verb form.

Like as -

Scissors	Jeans	Tweezers	Shorts
Spectacles	Remains	Congratulations	Pliers
Binoculars	Pajamas	Pants	

Ex.

- (i) Where are my pants ? (Plural)
- (ii) Where are the tongs ? (Plural)

Rule 3 – There are some nouns that indicate – length, measure, money, weight or number. When they are preceded by numeral, they remain unchanged in form.

Like as -

Foot, meter, pair, score, dozen, head, year, hundred, thousand, million, billion, trillion.

- (1) If there is a number before them, then 'S' will not be used.

Ex.

- (i) Three dozens pencils. (X)
Three dozen pencils. (✓)

- (2) If 'of' after them than use 'S'.

Ex.

- (i) Thousand of people died of cholera last year. (X)
Thousands of people died of cholera last year. (✓)

- (ii) I have seven dozens of shoes. (X)

I have seven dozen of shoes. (✓)

Rule 4 – Some nouns are singular in meaning, but they are used as plural nouns and always take a plural verb.

Like as -

cattle, gentry, vermin, peasantry, artillery, people, company, police

Ex.

- (i) The cattle is grazing in the ground. (X)
The cattle are grazing in the ground. (✓)
- (ii) Police has controlled the situation. (X)
Police have controlled the situation. (✓)

Rule 5 – Some nouns like – mathematics, physics, dynamics, ethics, linguistics, meta physics, optics, economics, news, politics, mumps, measles, rickets, athletics, mechanics etc. are in plural forms but used as a singular noun.

Ex.

- (i) Mathematics is the science of quantity.
(ii) Bad news travels fast.

Rule 6 – If the same noun is repeated after preposition, the noun will be singular.
noun (s) + preposition + noun (s)

Ex.

- (i) Town after town were devastated. (X)
Town after town was devastated. (✓)
- (ii) Row upon row of pink marble look beautiful. (X)
Row upon row of pink marble looks beautiful. (✓)

Rule 7 – If a numeral adjective and a fraction are used with a noun, the noun is used with the numeral and the noun will be in singular.

Ex.

- (i) She gives me one (Numeral Adj.) and a half (Fraction) rupee. (Noun) (X)
- (ii) She gave me one rupee and a half. (✓)
- (iii) He gave me two and a quarter rupee. (Incorrect) (X)
He gave me two rupees and a quarter. (✓)

Rule 8 – Don't say "family members / cousin brother or "cousin sister".

Ex.

- (i) The members of the family. (✓)
- (ii) He or she is my cousin. (✓)
- (iii) He is my english teacher. (✓)

Rule 9 - Certain nouns/words are used in colloquial english which is wrong, some of them are following :-

Wrong	Correct
Cousin brother/cousin sister	Cousin
Pick pocketeer	Pick pocket
Good name	Name
Big blunder	Blunder (means a big mistake)
Strong breeze	Strong wind
Bad dream	Nightmare
Proudy	Proud
According to me	In my opinion

8. Grammar Rules for Possessive Nouns

Rule 1

Making singular nouns possessive – Add an apostrophe ('s)

Ex.

- (i) Kitten's toy, Joe's car, James's book/
James's (Singular noun)
- (ii) Women's dresses, sheep's pasture in 'S'. (Plural not ending)

Rule 2

Making plural nouns possessive – Add just an apostrophe to plural nouns that already end in 'S'.

Ex.

- (i) The companies' workers went on strike together.
- (ii) You need to clean out the house's stalls.

Rule 3

Making hyphenated nouns and compound nouns plural –

Ex.

- (i) My mother-in-law's recipe for meatloaf is my husband's favorite.
- (ii) The United States post office's stamps are available in rolls or pockets.

Rule 4

(1) Possessives: Joint or separate ownership –

Ex.

- (i) The administrative assistant completed Arvind's and Rohit's report.
- (ii) We are planning to attend Sam and Teresa's retirement party.
(One party is being held to celebrate both people's retirement, so the party "belongs" to speak to them jointly.)

(2) We use 's with living things –

- Mohit's Car
- Priya's watch
- The bag of Mohan

(3) We don't use 's with –

- Nonliving thing
- Table's leg (X)
- Leg of the Table (✓)

Rule 5

When two nouns are in apposition, the possessive sign ('s) is added to the latter only.

Ex.

- (i) I am going to Ram Lal's, my friend's village. (X)

I am going to Ram Lal, my friend's village. (✓)

Rule 6

The double possessive should not be used –

Ex.

- (i) Ram's sister's marriage is on 2nd November. (X)
The marriage of Ram's sister on 2nd Nov. (✓)
- (ii) The President's brother's wife died yesterday. (X)
The wife of President's brother died yesterday. (✓)

Rule 7

Possessive sign is also used with the following pronouns –

Anyone	Anybody	Nobody
Somebody	No one	Each other
Everyone	Everybody	
One another	Someone	

Ex.

- (i) The student should follow the suggestions of their teacher and not somebody else. (X)
The student should follow the suggestions of their teacher and not somebody else's (✓)

Rule 8

When the two nouns are used after one of the possession or ownership is not shown by possessive sign ('s) but it is shown by proposition of –

Ex.

- (i) One of my friend's wife was killed in an accident. (X)
The wife or one of my friends was killed in an accident. (✓)

Exercise

1. Though we have reached at the high (A)/ level of progress in the field (B)/ of medicines, many(C)/ million of period of malaria (D).
2. We have visited many (A)/ firms this year but only one of them is (B)/ suitable for our work, which you admire (C)/ is Naman's, Shivam's and Rohan's(D).
3. The employees greeted the (A)/ manager and his husband with charming (B)/ smile so as to try to make (C)/ the condition less vulnerable (D).
4. The economics of the project makes it (A)/ impossible to the experience (B)/ of great opportunities which can achieves the (C)/ world class performance in the reported approach (D).
5. When our beloved teachers and seniors (A)/ came across to me, we caught one (B)/ another hands and talked for (C)/ many hours after a very long time (D).
6. After a complaint was filled (A)/ the police teams was given the photograph (B)/ of the accused from (C)/ the CCTV footage recorded at the hotel (D).
7. This company cannot work properly (A)/ because it never recruits any talented (B)/ sale representative the most (C)/ important pillar in making profits in the market (D).
8. My parents stop my brother-in-law (A)/ going out late at night because (B)/ the situations are not so (C)/ much good in this area now-a-days (D).
9. My sister(a)/ has read (b)/ pages after pages of the bible (c)/ No error (d).
10. The manager put forward (a)/ a number of criterions (b)/ for the post (c)/ no error (d).
11. I like (a)/ the poetries (b)/ of Byron and Shelley(c)/ No error (d).

12. The driver showed (a)/ great talent in keeping (b)/ the damaged car under control (c)/ no error (d).
13. When I entered the bedroom (a)/ I saw a snake crawling (b)/ on the ground (c)/ no error (d).
14. It is very difficult (a)/ to chase (b)/ a huge score in the (c)/ fourth inning (d)/ no error (e).
15. It is a big blunder (a)/ but we had (b)/ to ignore it (c).

Answers

1. (d) use millions instead of million
2. (d) use Naman, Shivam and Rohan's instead of 'Naman's, Shivam's and Rohan's.
3. (b) her husband
4. (a) Make
5. (c) another's hands
6. (b) team
7. (c) sales representative
8. (a) use 'brother-in-law's' instead of 'brother-in-law'
9. (c) page after page
10. (b) criteria is plural of 'criterion'
11. (b) poetry (uncountable noun), hence it is singular and it does not have any plural form.
12. (b) Use 'Skill' instead of talent.
13. (c) Use 'Floor' instead of ground.
14. (d) Use 'Innings' instead of inning.
15. (a) Blunder means big mistake. Hence big blunder is superfluous.

25

CHAPTER

Assam at a Glance



Assam at a Glance

Particulars	Details
Capital	Dispur
Largest City	Guwahati
Total Area	78,438 sq. km
Geographical Location	Latitude: 24°N–28°N Longitude: 90°E–96°E
Total Population (Census 2011)	3,12,05,576
Male Population (2011)	1,59,39,443
Female Population (2011)	1,52,66,133
Literacy Rate (Total)	72.19%
Male Literacy Rate	77.85%

Female Literacy Rate	66.27%
State Fabric	Muga Silk
State Beverage	Tea
Number of Districts	35
Sub-divisions	80
Development Blocks	219
Revenue Circles	184
Zilla Parishads	26
Total Towns (Census 2011)	214
Total Villages (Census 2011)	26,395
Lok Sabha Constituencies	14
Rajya Sabha Seats	7

Vidhan Sabha Constituencies	126
Police Stations (as of 31.03.2018)	314
Major Minerals	Coal, Petroleum, Natural Gas, Limestone, Dolomite, Sillimanite, Iron Ore, Glass Sand, Ceramic Clay, Uranium

Major Tribes	Bodo Kachari, Mising, Deori, Rabha, Tiwa (Lalung), Khamti, Sonowal Kachari, Tai Phake, Dimasa Kachari, Karbi, Barman, Hmar, Kuki, Rengma Naga, Zeme Naga, Hajong, Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, Mech
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State Symbols of Assam

Category	English Term	Assamese Term
State Song	<i>O My Dearest Country</i>	<i>O Mur Apunar Dekh</i>
State Motto	Hail Mother Assam	<i>Joi Aai Axom</i>
State Seal	Government of Assam	<i>Axom Sarkar</i>
State Language	Assamese	<i>Axomiya</i>
State Literary Society	Assam Sahitya Sabha	<i>Axom Xahitya Xobha</i>
State Festival	Bihu	<i>Bihu</i>
State Dance	Bihu Dance	<i>Bihu Naas</i>
State Flower	Foxtail Orchid	<i>Kopou Phul</i>
State Tree	<i>Dipterocarpus macrocarpus</i> (Hollong)	<i>Hollong</i>
State Animal	One-horned Rhinoceros	<i>Gor</i>
State Bird	White-winged Wood Duck	<i>Deo Haah</i>

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CHAPTER

Ancient History of Assam

Prehistoric Assam

- Prehistoric Assam refers to the period before written records existed in the region. This period is also known as Stone age.

Stone Age

Period	Timeline	Key Sites	Features	Economy/Life
Paleolithic	c. 2,00,000 BCE onwards	Rongram Valley (Garo Hills)	Hand axes, cleavers (quartzite, basalt)	Nomadic hunter-gatherers
Neolithic	c. 3000–1000 BCE	Daojali Hading, Sarutaru, Selbalgre	Polished celts, cord-impressed pottery, rice evidence	Agriculture, semi-permanent settlements

Key Point:

- Daojali Hading - Most important Neolithic site in NE India.

Megalithic Culture

- Megalithic culture involves large stone structures built for burial and commemorative purposes.
- **Regions:** Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao (North Cachar Hills), Cachar and Khasi–Jaintia Hills
- **Traits:** Burial practices, ancestor worship, social hierarchy

Types of Megalithic Structures in Assam

Menhirs (Standing Stones):

- Single upright stones erected as memorials
- Found in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills
- Associated with death commemorations and social status

Stone Circles:

- Circular arrangements of stones marking burial or ceremonial sites
- Indicate communal activities and social organization

Stone Alignments:

- Rows of stones arranged in linear patterns.
- Purpose likely ceremonial or astronomical.

Dolmens:

- Table-like structures with capstone supported by uprights.
- Used as burial chambers.

Key Megalithic Sites

- **Karbi Anglong District:** Rich concentration of menhirs and stone circles
- **Dima Hasao (North Cachar Hills):** Various megalithic structures with burial associations
- **Cachar District:** Megalithic remains indicating cultural continuity
- **Khasi–Jaintia Hills:** Though in Meghalaya now, culturally connected to prehistoric Assam

Burial Practices

- **Primary Burial:** Bodies buried in flexed position within stone chambers
- **Secondary Burial:** Bones collected after decomposition and reburied
- **Grave Goods:** Pottery, stone tools, and ornaments placed with the dead
- **Cremation:** Evidence of both burial and cremation practices

Mythological History

Danava Dynasty

- **Founder:** Mahiranga Danava
- The dynasty originated among the **Kirata chiefs.**

- Mentioned in the **Kalika Purana**, though **no archaeological evidence** has been found.
- Line of rulers: **Mahiringa** → **Hatakasura** → **Sambarasura** → **Ratnasura** → **Ghatakasura**
- **Last ruler:** Ghatakasura

Bhauma (Naraka) Dynasty

- The dynasty succeeded the Danava dynasty as the legendary ruling house of Pragjyotisha.
- It was founded by Narakasura, who established the dynasty after defeating Ghatakasura (according to the *Kalika Purana*, 10th century).
- Sources: *Mahabharata*, *Kalika Purana*, *Yogini Tantra*
- **Bhagadatta in the Mahabharata**
 - ✓ Bhagadatta, the ruler of Pragjyotisha, presented rare and valuable gifts to Yudhishtira during the Rajasuya Yajna.
 - ✓ He supported Duryodhana in the Kurukshetra War by contributing troops, including the Chinas and Kiratas.
 - ✓ Bhagadatta fought on Duryodhana's side in the Kurukshetra War and was killed by Arjuna.
 - ✓ His son Vajradatta was later defeated and killed during Yudhishtira's Ashwamedha Yajna.

Asura (Sonitpur) Kingdom

- Also known as the Sonitpur Kingdom, it is referenced in Hindu epics and Puranic traditions.
- It is historically associated with present-day Tezpur in Assam and with Banasura Hill in Kerala.
- **Lineage:** Marichi → Kashyap → Hiranyakashipu → Prahlad → Bali → Banasura
- **Banasura Highlights:**
 - ✓ A devoted follower of Shiva.
 - ✓ Father of Usha, who married Aniruddha.
 - ✓ Defeated by Krishna, but his life was spared.

Political History (Ancient Assam = Pragjyotisha → Kamarupa)

- Ancient Assam was known as Pragjyotisha and later as Kamarupa.
- Its recorded political history begins with the emergence of organized dynastic rule.

Varman Dynasty (350–650 CE)

- The Varman dynasty emerged in the ancient region of Kamarupa around the mid to late 4th century CE.
- The Varmans were the first major ruling dynasty of ancient Assam.
- They rose to power during the period of the Gupta Empire.
- The Varmans and the Guptas were contemporary powers, ruling different regions of the Indian subcontinent.
- The Varmans successfully consolidated control over Kamarupa, laying the foundation of their rule in present-day Assam.

Key Rulers

- **Pushyavarman:**
 - ✓ Founder of the Varman dynasty.
 - ✓ The Allahabad Pillar Prasasti of Samudragupta mentions Kamarupa as a frontier kingdom that owed allegiance to the Guptas; although the ruler is not named in the inscription, he is identified by historians as Pushyavarman.
- **Balavarman I (c. 405–420 CE)**
 - ✓ Kalhana's *Rajatarangini* refers to Amritaprabha as a princess of Kamarupa.
 - ✓ Buddhism had entered Kamarupa prior to the visit of Hiuen Tsang, as reflected in Amritaprabha's patronage of Buddhist institutions in Kashmir.
- **Mahendravarman:**
 - ✓ The first king of Kamarupa to perform the Ashvamedha Yajna, thereby asserting his sovereignty.
- **Bhutivarman**
 - ✓ Bhutivarman became the first ruler of Kamarupa to extend its western boundary beyond the Karatoya River.
- **Bhaskaravarman**
 - ✓ He ruled for nearly fifty years (c. 600–650 CE) and is regarded as the most illustrious ruler of the Varman dynasty.
 - ✓ Facing the threat posed by Sasanka of Gauda, Bhaskaravarman formed an alliance with Harshavardhana of Thanesar, a common adversary of Sasanka.

Bhaskaravarman Highlights

- Defeated Sasanka with the support of Harshavardhana.
- Issued the Nidhanpur copperplate grants.
- Hosted the Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang during his visit to Kamarupa.
- Died without an heir, marking the end of the Varman dynasty.

Visit of Hiuen-Tsang

- The Chinese pilgrim Hiuen-Tsang visited Kamarupa during Bhaskaravarman's reign.
- He praised the king's hospitality and described the kingdom as peaceful and prosperous.
- Agriculture: abundant fruits, including jackfruit and coconut.

- The population worshipped the Devas and performed sacrifices; Buddhism was not widely followed.

Salastambha Dynasty (655–900 CE)

- The rulers of this dynasty are described as Mlechchha rulers in historical sources.
- They succeeded the Varman dynasty and consolidated political authority in Kamarupa.
- The Bargaon Copper Plates of Ratnapala of the Pala dynasty provide the principal genealogical account of all twenty-one Salastambha rulers.
- The dynasty served as an important link between the Varman and Pala dynasties, ensuring political continuity in Kamarupa.

Key Rulers:

Ruler	Period	Key Features
Sri Harshadeva	c. 725–750 CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Reign marked a glorious phase in Kamarupa's history➤ Mentioned in the Pasupati epigraph of Jayadeva II of Nepal➤ Conflict indicated with Western Chalukyas (Samangad inscription, 752 CE)➤ Kamarupa briefly became a suzerain power from Sadiya to Ayodhya and from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal
Harjaravarman	c. 815–835 CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Known from Hayunthal Grant and Tezpur Rock Inscription➤ First Kamarupa ruler to assume titles such as Maharajadhiraja and Paramabhataraka➤ Built temple of Hetuka Sulin and structures at Haruppeswara➤ Patron of architecture and public works (Harjarapukhuri tank, Tezpur ruins)
Vanamalavarmanadeva	c. 835–865 CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Kingdom extended to north-eastern hills and south-eastern Bengal➤ Devout Shaivite
Jayamala / Virbahu	c. 865–885 CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Also known as Virbahu
Balavarman III	c. 885–910 CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Last important ruler of the Salastambha dynasty
Tyaghasingha	c. 970–990 CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Final ruler of the Salastambha dynasty • Died childless➤ Officials appointed Brahmapala as successor

Pala Dynasty of Kamarupa (c. 900–1100 CE)

- The last major ruling dynasty of ancient Assam.
- To ensure dynastic continuity, a ruler was chosen from the Naraka (Bhauma-Naraka) lineage, regarded as legitimate and traditional.
- The rulers adopted the suffix *Pala*, likely influenced by the Palas of Bengal, while occasionally using *Varman* to assert continuity with earlier Bhauma-Naraka rulers.

Key rulers:

- **Brahmapala:** Founder of the dynasty; bore the title *Maharajadhiraja*; known mainly from later records and inscriptions.
- **Ratnapala:** Established the capital at Durjaya; defeated the ruler of Gauda; issued important land grants.
- **Indrapala:** Strengthened political authority through a marriage alliance with the Rashtrakutas; exercised control over Pundravardhana.
- **Gopala:** Known from the Gachtal inscription; connected to the Rashtrakuta lineage through his mother.
- **Harshapala:** A relatively weak ruler; lost parts of Pundravardhana but retained control over the core territories of Kamarupa.
- **Dharmapala:** Last powerful ruler of the dynasty; extended authority beyond the Karatoya River; shifted the capital to Kamarupanagar; patron of the *Kalika Purana*.
- **Jayapala:** Defeated by Ramapala of Bengal; North Bengal territories were lost, while Kamarupa remained intact.
- **Vaidyadeva:** Former Pala feudatory who later conquered Kamarupa; issued the Kamauli grant.

Administrative Structure of Kamarupa

1. Territorial Divisions

- ✓ **Bhukti:** Largest administrative unit (province), governed by a Bhukti-pati.
- ✓ **Vishaya:** Subdivision of a Bhukti (district), administered by a Vishayapati.
- ✓ **Mandala:** Smaller unit within a Vishaya, managed by local chiefs.
- ✓ **Gram:** Village, the basic administrative unit, headed by a Gramika.

2. Royal Officials and Titles

- ✓ **Mahasamanta:** Powerful feudatory exercising authority under royal suzerainty.
- ✓ **Samanta:** Lesser feudatory owing military service and revenue to the king.
- ✓ **Mahapratihara:** Chief of royal guards and an important palace official.
- ✓ **Mahadandanayaka:** Chief judicial authority and military commander.
- ✓ **Sandhivigrahika:** Minister responsible for diplomacy and matters of peace and war.
- ✓ **Dandapashika:** Police official responsible for maintaining law and order.

3. Revenue System

- ✓ **Land Revenue:** Primary source of income, collected as a share of agricultural produce.
- ✓ **Brahmadeya:** Tax-free land grants given to Brahmins, recorded in copperplate charters.
- ✓ **Agrahara:** Revenue-exempt villages granted to learned Brahmins.
- ✓ **Devadana:** Tax-exempt land grants made to temples and religious institutions.

Social and Cultural Life of Kamarupa

1. Social Structure

- ✓ **Varna System:** The Brahmanical four-fold varna system existed but was adapted to local conditions.
- ✓ **Tribal Integration:** Indigenous tribes were gradually incorporated into the caste framework, while some retained distinct identities.

- ✓ **Brahmins:** Held high social status, received land grants, and conducted religious rituals and education.
- ✓ **Kshatriyas:** Ruling and warrior class; royal dynasties legitimised authority through claims of Kshatriya lineage.
- ✓ **Mixed Communities:** Emerged through interaction between Aryan settlers and indigenous groups.

2. Religious Life

- ✓ **Hinduism:** Dominant faith, with widespread worship of Shiva, Vishnu, and Shakti.
- ✓ **Kamakhya Temple:** Major centre of Shakti and Tantric worship and an important pilgrimage site.
- ✓ **Buddhism:** Coexisted with Hinduism; Xuanzang noted the presence of Buddhist monasteries.
- ✓ **Religious Tolerance:** Rulers patronised both Hindu temples and Buddhist viharas.
- ✓ **Tantrism:** Kamarupa emerged as an important centre of Tantric practices and literature.

3. Education and Learning

- ✓ **Sanskrit Scholarship:** Highly developed tradition; inscriptions reflect refined Sanskrit usage.
- ✓ **Buddhist Monasteries:** Functioned as centres of religious and secular learning.

- ✓ **Gurukula System:** Prevailed in Brahmanical education and training.
- ✓ **Intellectual Contribution:** Scholars contributed to Sanskrit literature, philosophy, and religious thought.

Economic Life of Kamarupa

1. Agriculture

- ✓ Agriculture was the primary occupation of the population.
- ✓ Rice was the staple crop, supported by the fertile alluvial plains of the Brahmaputra valley.
- ✓ Irrigation was limited; agriculture largely depended on monsoon rains.
- ✓ The fertile soil contributed to high agricultural productivity, noted by Xuanzang.

2. Trade and Commerce

- ✓ Riverine trade along the Brahmaputra served as the principal trade route linking Kamarupa with Bengal and other regions.
- ✓ Trade networks connected the region with China through northern land routes and with Bengal through western routes.
- ✓ Major exports included forest produce, silk, and aromatic substances.
- ✓ Punch-marked coins were used, while cowrie shells became common as a medium of exchange in later periods.

Important Inscriptions of Kamarupa

Inscription	Location	Ruler / Dynasty	Language / Script	Key Information
Umachal Rock Inscription	Guwahati	Pushyavarman (Varman dynasty)	Sanskrit / Gupta script	One of the earliest epigraphic evidences of Kamarupa; refers to Pushyavarman as the founder of the Varman dynasty.
Barganga Rock Inscription	Near Guwahati	Pushyavarman (Varman dynasty)	Sanskrit / Gupta script	Describes the territorial extent of the kingdom up to the Lauhitya (Brahmaputra) River.
Nidhanpur Copper Plate	Sylhet (Bangladesh)	Bhaskaravarman (Varman dynasty)	Sanskrit	Records land grants; provides genealogy of the Varman rulers and details of administrative divisions.