Tarikh-e-Aasham: A Study of Ahom-Mughal Conflict in the 17th Century

Ms. Arnisha Ashraf
Assistant Professor, School of Liberal Arts, IMS Unison University, Dehradun

ABSTRACT:
Fateha-e-Ibreya or Tarikh-e-Assam is one of the most important work dealing with socio-political history of Assam. Based on 17th century Medieval period of Assam, this chronicle gives a vivid description of the Mughal-Ahom conflicts. It describes the violent wars that took place between Nawab Mir Jumla and the ruler of Assam and Cooch Bihar during the reign of emperor Aurangzeb between 1661-1663.

KEY WORDS: Mughal, Ahom, Assam, Assamese, Medieval

1.1. Introduction
Fateha-e-Ibreya (victory with a lesson) or Tarikh-e-Assam is a Persian chronicle on the history of the Mughals in Assam. Written by Shihabuddin Talish, this chronicle gives a brilliant depiction of Mughal invasion of Assam under Nawab Mir Jumla, governor of Bengal and the ruler of Assam and Cooch Bihar during the reign of Aurangzeb. Ibne Mohammad Wali Ahmed, popularly known as Shihabuddin Talish was one of the mansabdars of a tiny state of Bengal. He accompanied Mir Jumla in his campaign to invade Cooch Bihar and Assam by the order of emperor Aurangzeb between 1661-1663. This Persian chronicle, completed in 47 days narrates violent conflicts that took place between the Mughals and Ahoms and the difficulties and hardship faced by the former’s army. This is possibly the first book where almost all aspects of Assam have been depicted lucidly. The geographical terrain, climatic conditions, flora, fauna, the people and their dresses and food, the crops grown, etc. have been portrayed clearly. The author has taken good care to record the events exactly as it happened without any exaggeration or underestimation.

The following paper is not just a meagre review of the above mentioned chronicle. It attempts to study the socio-political scenario of medieval Assam and the way the Mughals portrayed the region and its people in their Indo Persian chronicle.