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CLASS – IX

ENGLISH

BEEHIVE

CHAPTER - 5

A Visit to Kaziranga and Sivasagar

Part - 3

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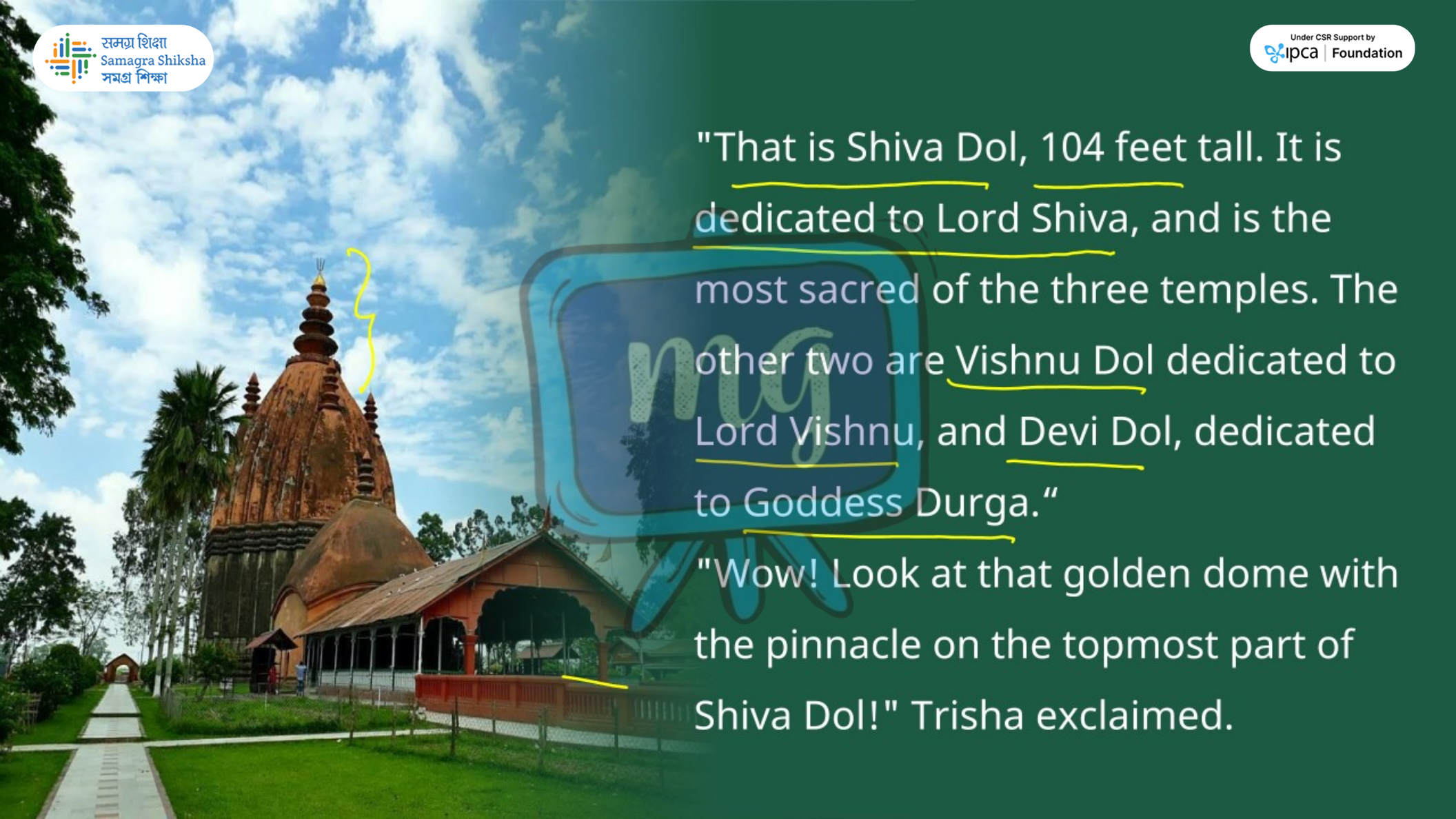
They set out to see the Sivasagar tank. Sivasagar town is named after this tank. It is situated right in the heart of the town.

"Here is the Borpukhuri," said their mother, as they got out of their car to walk towards the tank.

"Borpukhuri?" asked Lohit. "I thought it was called Sivasagar tank."

"It is also known as Borpukhuri. See how big it is! " mother said. "It is a tank dug by Queen Ambika, consort of king Shiva Singha. So it is named after her husband."

"Look at the temple", Trisha said, pointing at the temple on its bank.



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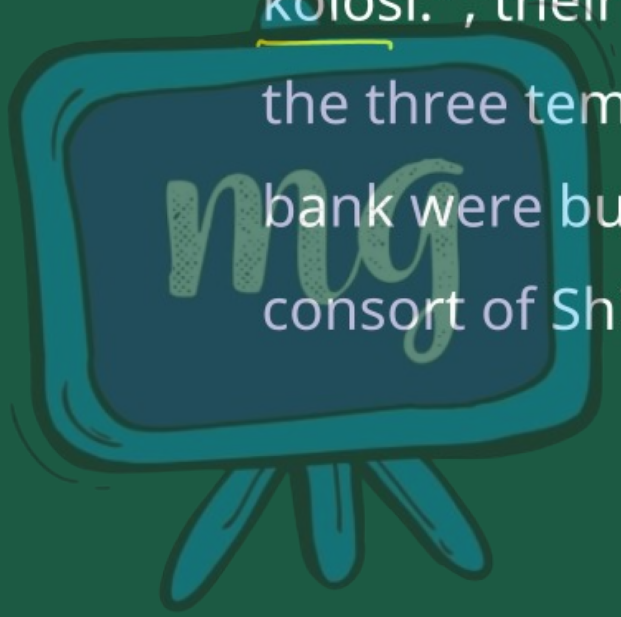
"That is Shiva Dol, 104 feet tall. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva, and is the most sacred of the three temples. The other two are Vishnu Dol dedicated to Lord Vishnu, and Devi Dol, dedicated to Goddess Durga."

"Wow! Look at that golden dome with the pinnacle on the topmost part of Shiva Dol!" Trisha exclaimed.

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"That is seven feet high, and is called kolosi.", their mother said. "And all the three temples you see on the bank were built by Queen Ambika, consort of Shiva Singha."



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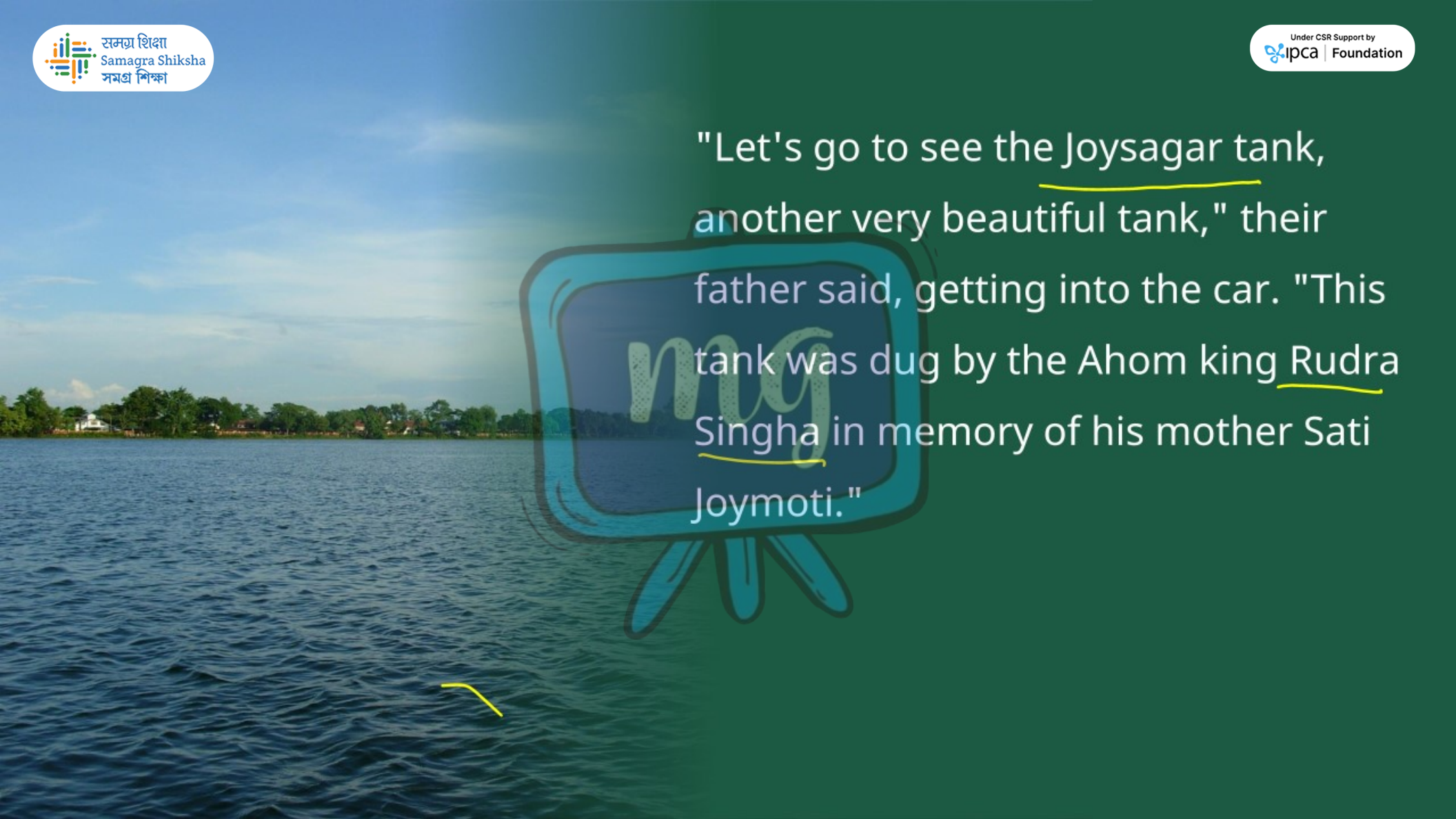






They visited the 'Tai Museum' located on the bank of the Sivasagar tank and were fascinated by the swords, clothes, manuscripts, goblets, plates and other rare antiques of the rulers preserved there.

Manuscripts : পাণ্ডুলিপি
Goblets : পিয়লা
Rare antiques : দুর্লভ পুৰণী বস্তু



"Let's go to see the Joysagar tank, another very beautiful tank," their father said, getting into the car. "This tank was dug by the Ahom king Rudra Singha in memory of his mother Sati Joymoti."

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"Why is she called Sati?" asked Trisha.

"She sacrificed her life for her husband. She was tortured by Lora Roja. This cruel king either killed or maimed young men of his kingdom."

"The Ahoms believed that only a physically perfect person could ascend the throne.

Maimed : অংগক্ষত Ascend the throne : সিংহাসনত উঠা

So Joymoti was taken a prisoner. She was tortured because she refused to reveal the whereabouts of her husband. After being inhumanly tortured for fourteen days Joymoti died."

Whereabouts : অৱস্থিতি বা অৱস্থান

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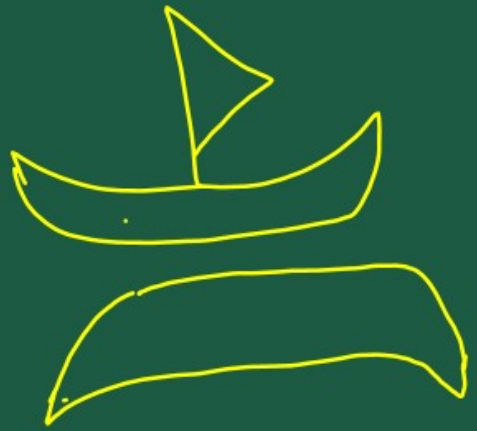
"So sad!" said Trisha. "Could Gadadhar Singha become the king?"

"Yes."

"Oh how beautiful and blue the waters are!" Trisha exclaimed as they walked up to the Joysagar tank. "And here too are temples."

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"Yes," said their mother.

After strolling for a while, their mother said, "We will come back here again tomorrow evening."

They went to see the Rang-ghar. The roof is shaped like an inverted boat.

Inverted boat : ওলোটা নাও



Indigenous : থলুৱা
Amphitheatre : মুকলি প্ৰাঙ্গণ

"The Ahom kings used to sit here and enjoy sports," their father explained.

"You mean a stadium?" Lohit asked.

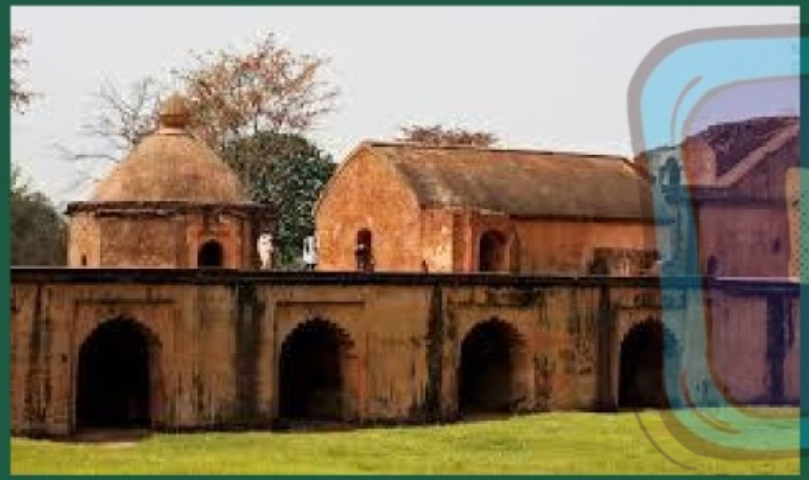
"Actually an amphitheatre. It is an outdoor sports ground. Look at the shape. It is circular. The royal family would come to watch the indigenous games of Assam, like bird fights, buffalo fights," their mother explained.

"You know, at that time because of its structure, this was a unique monument not only in India but in the whole of Asia," father said, as they walked around it.

"Who built it? Queen Ambika?" asked Lohit.

"No, king Pramatta Singha."

Monument : কীর্তিস্তম্ভ



Then they went to the Talatal Ghar.

"It does not look so good," said Lohit, a little disappointed. He was expecting to see something more grand.

"What you see now is the remains of the Talatal Ghar," mother said.

"It had four storeys above ground," father explained, "and three storeys under ground.

Remains : অৱশিষ্ট
Disappointed: নিৰাশ

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There were two secret tunnels. One, which was 16 kilometres long, led to the Gargaon Palace and the other, which was 3 kilometres long, led to the Dikhow river. "

"Really?" said Lohit, quite impressed. "Can we go through one tunnel to the Dikhow river?“ "No, we can't. It is closed now."

Secret Tunnels : গোপন সুৰংগ

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"I wish it were open! It would have been such an adventure for tourists," Trisha said.

They stopped for a while at the Rudrasagar tank.

During their three-day stay they had a good time visiting most of the historical sites in and around Sivasagar town.

Tourists : পর্যটক

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They visited the Gargaon Palace, about 15 kilometres from Sivasagar. It is a four-storeyed building and each floor is built in gradually receding tiers. The top floor has a dome-like roof. As they walked in and around the palace, Trisha said, "Once it must have been a beautiful palace. Who built this?"

Gradually receding tiers : ক্রমান্বয়ে ওপৰলৈ ঠেক হৈ যোৱা
Dome-like roof : গম্বুজ আকৃতিৰ ছাদ

"History says that Suklengmung, the 15th Ahom king, constructed a palace in 1540 with wood and other materials that were not very good. But this present one was rebuilt by king Rajeswar Singha in 1752."

"I will take you to Charaideo," said their father.



"Siu-Ka-Pha, the founder of the Ahom dynasty, made Charaideo his first capital. It is 22 kilometres away from Sivasagar town, and is worth visiting."

"What is there to see? Palaces?" asked Lohit.

"No. It has at least a hundred maidams."

"Maidams?"



"Maidam was a burial ground of the Ahom kings and nobles. Many royal graveyards still exist in this place. The hillock of Charaideo was considered to be sacred by the people of the Ahom dynasty. They believed this place to be the home of their ancestral gods."

Burial ground : সমাধিস্থল
Graveyards : কবৰস্থান

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Both Trisha and Lohit found their visit to Charaideo Maidam very interesting. "The world should know about this maidam," said their mother. "These have tomb vaults just like the pyramids in Egypt. The people know about the pyramids, but not anything about these maidams, which are equally fascinating."

Tomb vaults : মৈদাম

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It was a learning and also an enjoyable experience for both Lohit and Trisha.

"We can come back again next year," Lohit said.

"Next year?" said his mother smiling, "We will go somewhere else next year."

— Srutimala Duara

ASSESSMENT



1 Who built the Rang ghar?

A King Rudra Singha

B Queen Ambika

C King Gadadhar Singha

D King Pramatta Singha

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2 Who built the Gargaon Palace ?

A Suklengmung

B Siu-ka-pha

C Lora Roja

D Raheswar Singha