

Lachit Borphukan - A Warrior of Assam

Lachit Borphukan is known for his leadership in Battle of Saraighat. He was the Commander in Chief of the Ahom Kingdom Army. He was born on 24 November 1622 in the Ahom Kingdom Located in present Assam. His father's name was Momai Tamuli Borbarua (Governor of Upper-Assam and Commander in Chief of the Ahom Army) and his mother's name was Kunti Moran.

The Battle of Saraighat was a turning point in Indian history, and it cemented Lachit Borphukan's reputation as one of the greatest military leaders in Indian history. Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb appointed famous Rajput general Ram Singha to lead an expedition against Assam. In 1669 Ram Singha reached Assam with more than 18,000 soldiers and the war started. The spasmodic war continued nearly for two years, but Ram Singh failed to break the Ahom's army. By the time of Lachit's appointment as commander, the Mughals had occupied the Guwahati and forced the Ahoms to sign a humiliating treaty named the "Treaty of Ghilajhari Ghat" in 1663. This treaty had several harsh conditions so Ahom king Chakradwaj Singha denied to sign that and resolved to rid the entire region of the Mughal Empire. The Ahom attacked Mughals under the Lachit's commandership. Feroz Khan and many others were incarcerated and Guwahati was free once again.

One day Ram Singha's army killed 10,000 Ahom soldiers, this gives a massive setback to the Ahom soldiers, and they started to feel demotivated. During the last stage of the Battle of Saraighat, when the Mughals attacked by the river in Saraighat, the Assamese soldiers began to lose their will to fight. Some elements retreated. Though Lachit was seriously ill he boarded a boat and with seven boats advanced against the Mughal fleet. He said: "If you (the soldiers) want to flee, flee. The king has given me a task here and I will do it well. Let the Mughals take me away. You report to the king that his general fought well following his orders". His soldiers rallied and a desperate battle ensued on the river Brahmaputra. Lachit Borphukan was victorious. The Mughals were forced to retreat from Guwahati Seeing Lachit's bravery, his soldiers inspired and started doing war with full motivation and defeated Ram Singha. Ram Singha left Assam on 5th April 1671. Lachit dies in 1672 due to illness at the age of 50. With his great braveness, patriotism, and dutifulness Lachit remain a hero of Assam's history. On 24 November each year, Lachit Divas are celebrated in Assam to commemorate the heroism of Lachit Borphukan and celebrate the victory of the Battle of Saraighat.

Lachit Borphukan was a great military leader and an exemplary figure of Assamese society. Lachit is considered to be one of the most revered personalities in Assamese history. In 1671, he led the Ahom army to victory against the invading forces of the Mughal Empire, under the command of Emperor Aurangzeb. The victory ensured the safety and sovereignty of the Ahom kingdom for many years to come. Lachit's success on the battlefield was due to his innovative military strategies and his fearless leadership. He was also known for his honesty, integrity and compassion. These qualities made him a beloved figure among his people. Even today, Lachit Borphukan is remembered as a great hero of Assamese history. His life story continues to inspire people across India.

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