

Lachit Borphukan

The Great Ahom ruler

Lachit Borphukan, who was born on 24 November 1622 and died on 25 April 1672 was one of the great patriot and freedom fighter, who fought against the Mughals to protect his homelands.

He was the chief commander of the Ahom forces in the famous battle of Sarai-ghat. He was born in Charaideo to the Ahom family and was the youngest son of Momai Tamuli Borbarua. Lachit Borphukan was chosen as Borphukan by Chakradhwaj Singha. Lachit Borphukan, father, Kunti Moran was the commander in chief of the Ahom army. Lachit is considered to be one of the most revered personalities in Assamese history.

Battle of Sarai-ghat:

The battle of Sarai-ghat was fought on the banks of the Brahmaputra in the Guwahati region. It was the last battle in the last major attempt by the Mughals to extend their empire into Assam. The battle was fought in 1671 between the Mughal Empire, led by Raja Ramsingh and the Ahom kingdom, led by Lachit Borphukan, on the Brahmaputra River at Sarai-ghat.

The Ahom army defeated the Mughal army by brilliant uses of the terrain, clever diplomatic

negotiations to buy time, guerrilla tactics, psychological welfare, military intelligence and by exploiting the weak navy force of the Mughal forces.

The Mughals wanted Ahom to honour the Asmar Ali treaty of 1639. Mughals were prepared to compensate Ahom well. However, Ahom did not want to give up their western part of the kingdom.

Atan Burchagohain suspected that the commitment given by Ram Singh will not be eventually honored by the Mughal emperor. Also giving Coochahati would have amounted to providing Mughals with a hold on the Brahmaputra valley and a launching pad for attacks on the eastern part of the kingdom. He was able to persuade the other commanders and the Ahom rejected the proposals.

At the failed diplomacy, the Mughals launched a massive naval attack on the river at Saraihat.

The Ahom soldiers had not recovered from their earlier defeat and Lachit Borphukan and their admiral were both seriously ill. Ahom were losing the will to fight and some started retreating.

At the crucial moment in the battle, when the Mughals were about to land at Andharubali, the Borphukan send katas to all the land and naval forces to attack.

Lachit asked his troops to carry him on a boat. Seven boat advanced against the Mughals fleet. Seeing their leader entering the wall of war had an electrifying impact of the Ahom soldiers.

A large number of small Ahom boat entered the river quickly and smashed into the Mughals warship. Mughals large boat could not maneuver dexterously against the attack from small boats.

The triangle in the Brahmaputra River, between Itakhuli, Kamakhya and Aswakocanta was filled with man and boat and the Ahom resorted to a combined front and rear attack. The Mughal admiral Munnaوار Khan, smoking a hookah was killed by a gunshot from the back, throwing the Mughals out of gear. The Mughals were pursued to the Manas river, the Ahom kingdom western boundary.

Lachit died a year later. After a few years, the Mughals briefly recaptured Cooch Behar, but in 1682 Ahom won it back. Since then the Brahmaputra valley never became a part of Mughal Empire.

The Battle of Soraighat effectively ended the Mughal presence in Assam and the Mughals would no longer wage war against the Ahom kingdom.

Conclusion: The magnificent Ahom general was finally defeated by an illness that killed him shortly after his victory at Saraighat. Swargadeo Udayaditya Singha constructed the Lachit Maidam at Hoolungapara 16 km from Jorhat in 1672 as his last resting place for Lachit Borphukan.

Assam celebrates Lachit Divas every year to commemorate Lachit Borphukan Heroism and the victory of Assamese Army ~~at~~ Saraighat on 24 November.

The Battle of Saraighat is commemorated annually in Assam on 24 November as Lachit Divas to honour Lachit Borphukan. His patriotism, bravery, dutifulness and determination are enshrined in the history of Assam.

Assamese patriotism can be attributed to Lachit Borphukan.

SUBMITTED BY —

Name - Demphu Bono.

Age - 22 years.

Gender - Female.

Contact No - 7086414399

Udaguri,