

## LACHIT BORPHUKAN

Lachit Borphukan was one of the most valiant fighters of Indian history. He was born on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1622 at Charaideo, Assam. He was a great general who fought against the Mugal. His father was Momai Barbaruah, a top ranking officer under Ahom king. Assamese history cannot be complete without the name of Lachit Borphukan. As a warrior of warriors, he always holds a special place in history.

Chakradhwaj Singh, the Ahom king appointed Lachit as the Borphukan of Guwahati in 1667. Assam or the Ahom Kingdom was under the command of Ramsingha, the famous Rajput general, at the time of the 1671 Battle of Saraighat. Mugal Emperor Aurangzeb sent the Mughals to seize Assam in 1671 and he defeated them at the battle of Saraighat. Assam was nearly captured by the Mughals, but the Warrior's Captainship prevented them from doing so.

There are tales of valor in every state or community. In the history of Assam, the state also had a Brave Commander in Chief. The day before the battle, he erected a substantial boundary of sand soil to block the roads. This was so that the Mughals could be forced to march through the river Brahmaputra's waterways, as a result of their excellent naval combat capabilities.

In order to complete the job within one night, Borphukan assigned the task to his Maternal Uncle. In spite of this, his uncle somehow neglected his duties. He found that his uncle and men were asleep leaving the work unfinished. Lachit at once drew his sword and killed his uncle. After this incident, Lachit became Assam's national hero after beheading his uncle for his betrayal and saying, "Dexot koi Mumbai Dangor Nohoi".

Guwahati was chosen as the chief point for opposing the enemy and ramparts were erected at strategic places. Intermittent fighting on land and water continued for nearly two years during 1669 and 1670, but Ram Singha failed to break through the strong Ahom defense. The Ahoms however, suffered a serious setback at Alaboi where Ram Singha's forces ambushed an Ahom regiment and killed ten thousand of them on a single day.

The decisive battle was however, fought at Saraighat on the waters of the Brahmaputra in the early part of 1671, Lachit Borphukan was ailing at the time, and Ram Singha had nearly succeeded in breaking through the naval defense of the Ahoms. But, with high fever in his body, Lachit got himself carried to his battle boat and inspired such courage among his soldiers that Ram Singha's forces were routed in no time. Ram Singha had to accept defeat and left Assam on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1671. Lachit died soon after probably because of excessive physical and mental strains.

For deep patriotism, bravery, dutifulness and determined leadership, Lachit succeeded in restoring and upholding the freedom of his country and his people in the teeth of opposition from the mighty Mugal army.

No wonder, Lachit Borphukan has become a symbol of Assamese patriotism and always remain a hero of Assam's history.

Age -41 Years.  
Gender-Female.  
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