

At a crucial stage of the battle, Lachit fell very ill and was advised not to go out in the battle field, but he realised that if he don't go to the battle field it will demotivate his army and also realized that his duty is to protect his people than his ill health.

He said that "When my countrymen are suffering from invasion, and when my army is fighting and sacrificing their life, how can I think about resting my body due to a mere illness? How can I go to to my home to my wife and children when my entire country is in trouble?"

After facing massive casualties in the war, the confused and tired Mughal army was forced to move back. Unfortunately, Lachit Borphukan died soon after the battle. Lachit Borphukan died in 1672. His remains in rest at the Lachit Maidam constructed in the same year by King Udayaditya Singha at Hoolungapara 16 kms from Jorhat.

On 24<sup>th</sup> of November every year, Lachit Divas is celebrated across the state of Assam to commemorate the heroism of Lachit Borphukan and the victory of the Assamese army at the Battle of Saraighat.

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## Lachit Borphukan

Lachit Borphukan was a general of the Ahom Kingdom. He is remembered for his bravery and leadership. He was born on 24 November 1622 to Momai Tamuli Borbarua and Kunti Moran. His father was the commander-in-chief of the Ahom Kingdom. Ahom Kingdom was established in the year 1228. Lachit Borphukan held important positions such as Superintendent of the stable of Royal Horses and the Superintendent of the Royal Household guards before being appointed as Commander of the Ahom Army.

Lachit Borphukan is known for his leadership in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat that defeated the Mughal forces under the command of Ramsingh to take over Ahom Kingdom. During the Battle of Saraighat, Lachit assigned the task of building an earthen wall for fortification to his uncle. As a strategy for the war for the next day the fort wall needed to be completed before sunrise. Lachit was shocked to see his troop was extremely tired and demotivated and the bridge too was also incomplete. In anger and in fair judgement, he drew his sword and killed his own uncle without a second thought. He justified his act by saying that his uncle was not greater than his country.

This act of selflessness and dedication boosted the morale of the troops, who realized their mistake and charged with full energy and enthusiasm to the battlefield.