

Essay

LACHIT BORPHUKAN

Ahom King Pratap Singha appointed Lachit Borphukan as the commander - in chief of the Ahom army under the first Borbarua Momai Tamuli, to lead upper Assam during the 17th century. Young Lachit was taught philosophy, arts, and military skills as was customary in Ahom society.

Ahom King considered him for the position of Soladhara Barua (spear-bearer) as a result of his dedicated work and dedication. A Principal Secretary would be the modern equivalent of the position. Ahom King Chakradhwaj Singha gradually appointed Lachit to other major positions such as Superintendent of the Stables of Royal Horses and Superintendent of the Household guards before being appointed as the

Commander of the Ahom Army.

By the time of Lachit Borphukan's appointment as commander, the Mughals had occupied Gurahati and had forced the Ahoms to sign the humiliating peace treaty of Ghilajharighat in 1663 which imposed harsh conditions on the Ahom Kingdom. King Chakradhwaj Singha resolved to rid the entire region from Mughal occupation, a will that would be carried out by Lachit Borphukan.

On 24th November each year, Lachit Divas is celebrated statewide in Assam to commemorate the heroism of Lachit Borphukan and the victory of the Assamese army at the Battle of Saraighat.

Lachit Divas is celebrated to promote the ideals of Lachit Borphukan - the legendary general of Assam's history.

The best cadet from the National Defence Academy is awarded the Lachit Borphukan gold medal. It was first instituted in 1999 following an announcement by General VP Malik saying the medal would inspire defence personnel to emulate Borphukan's heroism and sacrifices.

Lachit Borphukan is known for his leadership in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat that thwarted a drawn-out attempt by Mughal forces under the command of Ram Singh to take over Ahom kingdom.

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