

Lachit Borphukan : A great Hero Ahom General

Born on 24th November, 1622, Lachit Borphukan was known for his leadership in the 'Battle of Saraighat,' 1671 in which an attempt by Mughal forces to capture Assam was thwarted. To this day he is remembered for his Bravery and Leadership in the face of insurmountable odds.

Lachit Borphukan was born to Momai Tamuli Borbarua and Kunti Moran. His father was the Commander-in-Chief of the Ahom Army. Upon completing his education in humanities and military strategies, Lachit was given the responsibility of serving as the Soladhara Barua (Scarf-Bearer) a modern day equivalent of a private secretary to the Ahom King. King Chakradhwaj Singha appointed Lachit as the Commander-in-Chief of Ahom Army.

Lachit's patriotism and devotion to his land is best described by the battle of Saraighat where he even went to the extent of beheading his own uncle for the sake of his land. During the preparations for fortification to be constructed within one night and employed his maternal Uncle as the supervisor. Late in the night when Lachit came for inspection, he found that the work was not progressing and when asked for explanation his uncle tried to cite tiredness as an excuse, at which Lachit became so furious that he beheaded his own uncle on the spot, saying, "My uncle is not Greater than my Country". The remains of this mortification are still known as "Momai-Kota Garh" or "the fortification where the uncle was beheaded".

In spite of his illness, Lachit had himself carried on a boat and seven boats accompanying him. The Ahom Army defeated the Mughal Army by brilliant uses of the terrain, clever diplomatic negotiations to buy time, guerrilla tactics, psychological warfare, military intelligence and exploiting the sole weakness of the mughal forces-its Navy.

But this great general of the Ahom Army was finally defeated by illness that killed him very soon after the victory at the Battle of Saraighat. His last remains lies in rest at the Lachit Maidam built in 1672 by Swargadeo Udayaditya Singha at Hoolungapara 16kms from Jorhat.

On 24th November each year Lachit Divas is celebrated in Assam as State Holiday to commemorate the Heroism of the great General Lachit Borphukan.

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