

Lachit Borphukan

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Lachit Borphukan was the worthy son of a worthy father Momai Tamuli Borbarua, the first commander-in-chief of the Ahom army. King Chakradhwaj Singha assigned Lachit Borphukan the task of recapturing Guwahati from the Mughals. Having been trained in military skills from a very young age, Lachit proved to be a great leader and commander at the historic battle of Saraighat against the Mughals in 1671. Lachit Borphukan worked his way up from his first assignment as Soladhar Barua, the Ahom equivalent of private secretary to the Swargdeo (emperor). It was Lachit Borphukan, the great Ahom General who waged a relentless war against the mighty Mughals on the banks of the Saraighat and it was under his command that the Ahom army pushed back the Mughals across Manah river in the famous battle of Saraighat. This battle, known in the history as the battle of Saraighat brought decisive victory for the Assamese. It was the heroism and the sense of duty of Lachit Borphukan that gained for the Ahoms the supreme victory at Saraighat. The historic battle of Saraighat was the last attempt by the Mughals to enter the territory of Assam.

Lachit Borphukan was truly a symbol of courage and patriotism. His pronouncement “Deshat ke mumai dangor nohoi” (My uncle in not greater than my country) would continue to inspire the people of Assam in all ages to come. In fact, he was one of the most valiant fighters of Indian history in the defence of his motherland. Lachit Borphukan was not only a real lover of his country, but also a man of lofty ideals and strong determination. It was Lachit Borphukan who halted the Mughal imperialism in Assam. He was very clever, tactful and hard working from his early days. The secret of his success was his great determination of purpose and obedience to duty.

Every year the people of Assam observe the day of his birth, November 24 as Lachit Divas in the hallowed memory of the great Ahom General Lachit Borphukan. But, Indian history ignored Lachit's exploits until his statue was unveiled at the National Defence Academy (NDA) on November 14, 2000. The best Cadet of the National Defence Academy is conferred the Lachit Medal in his honour. At a time, when various divisive forces are at work to tear asunder the social fabric of the country, the ideals of the hero is felt to be more relevant till date. It is, indeed, a most welcome step in the right direction that the Government of Assam has decided to celebrate the 400 Birth Anniversary of Assam's most celebrated warrior and leader Lachit Borphukan in a befitting manner.