

## Lachit Borphukan

Lachit Borphukan was born on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1622 Charaideo to Momai Tamuli Borbarua and Kunti Moran. He was also the youngest son and the first Borbarua of Upper Assam and Commander-in-Chief of the Ahom army under King Pratap Singha. He was chosen as Borphukan by Chakradhwaj Singha.

The Mughal-Ahom conflicts first began in 1615 and continued afterwards. It was in this backdrop Lachit grew up in. 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. He held other important positions such as Superintendent of the Royal Household of the Ahom army.

Lachit Borphukan led two battles against an alien Mughal army and is remembered for the daring naval battle of Saraighat in 1671. Due to the numerical and technological inferiority of the Ahom forces, Lachit resorted to guerrilla tactics which successfully withered away from the Mughal army. To this day he is remembered for his bravery and leadership in the face of insurmountable odds.

Lachit Borphukan was victorious. The Mughals were forced to retreat from Guwahati. The Mughals were pursued to the Manas river, the Ahom kingdom's western boundary, while the Borphukan instructed his men not to attack the retreating army.

Lachit Borphukan died about a year after the victory of Saraighat in 1672 on 25<sup>th</sup> April due to natural causes. His remains lie in rest at the Lachit Maidaam built in 1672 by Swargadeo Udayaditya Singha at Hoolungapara 16 km from Jorhat. On 24 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.

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