

Lachit Borphukan



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## Introduction

The Hindu civilization has given birth to many sages and warriors over its long history. This is a story one of the greatest sons mostly known within Assam only. Unfortunately is unknown amongst most of Indians. In India, the Ahoms in Assam were only rulers who defeated the mughals seventeen times. Lachit Borphukan was one of the greatest commanders of Assam. Under his leadership the Ahoms won the Battle of Sonegaon in 1671. In his last and decisive battle, inspite of his illness, he inspired a dispirited Ahom naval force to fight against mughals this made him a national hero.

## Biography of Lachit Borphukan

Lachit Borphukan was one of the most valient fighters of Indian history. He was born on 24 November 1622 at Charaideo,

Assam. His father name was momai Borbaruah a top ranking officer under Ahom king, -the Ahom King appointed Laeht as -the Barphukan of Guwahati- in 1667. He death on the 25 April 1672.

## The History of Ahom

1665 AD - Ahom kingdom - "Who will be the Barpukan" - This question was asked by Raja chakradhwaj singha to his ministers and prime minister Atan Buragohain. After a lot of discussion everyone's eyes fell on one person Laeht. From today Laeht will be our Barpukan. By declaring thus Raja chakradhwaj singha made Laeht head of -the Ahom army. Barpukan is not a name but was a title of the Ahom army chief. Ahom army was extremely organized

• Deka led ten soldiers

Borca led twenty soldiers

Sainkia Led hundred soldiers

Hazarika led thousand soldiers

Rajkosa led three thousand soldiers

Pukam led six thousand soldiers

and the Borpukam led entire army.

But to understand the importance

of the Lahei Borpukam we

need to know the history of Ahom.

In approx 1228 AD the

Tay Ahom dynasty was established

in Assam. They originally came from

Mugammar. This dynasty always

resisted Islamic Sultanate like

Khilji, Tughlaq, Ilyas Shahi Lodis and

Bengal Sultanate. Unfortunately

in an attack in 1638 AD by the

Mughal dynasty they lost and took

a hit.

After in 1658 AD Aurangzab become Mughal emperor. In 1661 AD he sent his trusted general Mir Jumla and Dilaw Khan first to Bengal then to Assam to expand the empire. The unity of Ahom kingdom by which they had successfully resisted all the invasions was now weak and they were beaten. Some forts were lost without even a fight. Ahom king Jayashaw Singha had to retreat and lost a large part of territory in fight. He had to agree to humiliating treaty in which he not only had to give money, land, ware, elephants but also his 6 years old daughter to the mughal harem. Jayashaw Singha could not take this humiliating defeat and died soon after.

After him Chakradhwaj Singha became the king and from there starts story of Laibit Boropukar.

Lachit Borphukan one of greatest men of Assam.  
 He soon became -the royal shawl  
 bearer which used to be a senior  
 position in the ministry. with time  
 he also got other senior posts like  
 head of -the royal stable, kings head  
 body guard etc. There were many  
 challenges after becoming Bomphukan.  
 On one hand a huge united Mughal  
 army with experienced generals  
 like Shusista Khan and Dilaw Khan.  
 And on the other hand a defeated  
 and divided Ahom army. The next  
 4 years were spent in organizing  
 the army and weapons. Recruiting  
 new soldiers, building boats for  
 the navy, upgrading weapons, ac-  
 quiring cannons, strengthening forts  
 etc. Mughal had no idea about  
 these preparations as a friendly  
 front was being presented at the  
 same time thus displaying political maturity.

In 1667 AD the head of Gauahati fort was changed from Rashed Khan to Afroz Khan who was hedonist. He demanded Assamese girl to be presented to him. This incident angered the Ahoms and motivated them to fight against the Mughal. Lachit decide to take back Gauahati from the mughals. He had a good navy and a network of spies but lacked a cavalry. Even after month of siege Gauahati protected by Itakuli fort could not liberated. Then they plan B where a few soldiers under Ismail Siddiqui (Bagh Hazarika) entered the fort at night and put water in the mughal cannons. Next morning Lachit's army attacked Itakuli and won it.

## Battle of Saraighat

Lachit raised the army and preparation were completed by summer of 1667. His army successfully retook Gauahati.

from the mughal forces. Emperor Aurangzab (born on November 3, 1618) after being informed of the defeat at Guwahati sent an expeditionary force from Dhaka under Ram Singh. Due to the numerical and technological inferiority of the Ahom forces Lachit resorted to guerrilla which successfully weithered away from the mughal army. Knowing fully well that Ahom forces would easily be defeated if their commander was removed. Ram Singh resorted to subterfuge. An arrow carrying a letter by an arrow carrying a letter by Ram Singh was fired into the Ahom camp. If letter reached Chakradhwaj Singha. The letter stated that Lachit had been paid 1 Lakh rupees to evacuate Guwahati. Furious that his commander was allegedly in negotiations with the enemy, the king started doubting his sincerity,

but his prime minister Atan Buragohain convinced him that this was a trick by the mughals to make Chatmadasay Singh dismiss the commander who successfully fought the mughals so far.

Having exhausted all avenues Ram Singh made his way to Guwahati with a naval flotilla sailing upwards of the Brahmaputra river in 1671. He came upon an Ahom flotilla led by Laohit Borphukan & ~~gave~~ himself to rally his troops offered to be taken to safety by one of his troops. Laohit furiously threw some of them into the water bodily despite being severely ill, loudly proclaiming that he would "die fulfilling his duty to his king and country, even if it mean he had to do it by himself". Inspired, Laohit's soldiers rallied and a desperate battle ensued on the river Brahmaputra.

Laohit Borphukan was victorious.

The mughals were forced to retreat from Gauhati. The mughals were pursued to the Manas river, the Ahom Kingdom's western boundary. The Borphukan instructed his men not to attack the retreating army.

Lachit Borphukan would die in 1672. His remains lie in rest at the Lachit maidam constructed in the same year by King Jayaditya Singha at Hoolungapara 16 km from Jorhat.

This could not be the end of mughal incursions into Ahoms would permanently end the prolonged Ahom-mughal conflict.

## Legacy of 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

array at the Battle of Saraighat.  
 Laeht Diras is celebrated to promote  
 the ideal of Laeht Borphukan - the  
 Legendary general of Assam's history.  
 The best cadet from the national  
 Defence Academy is awarded the Laeht  
 Borphukan gold medal. It was first  
 institute in 1999 following an announce-  
 ment by General VP Malik saying  
 the medal inspire defence personnel  
 to emulate Borphukan's heroism and  
 sacrifices.

## The End

We are proud to be Assamese. We  
 are residents of Assam. Where Mughals  
 also defeated by our Assam people.  
 There are many ~~poem~~- Assamese poets  
 who have written various poem  
 about Bir Laeht's country love. Once  
 they are —

৩। গুণ্ঠন দেবি  
 দেবি বৈ পূর্ণসুখী রাজপদঃশুধ  
 মিথুন অনুগ দেবি আমুলা শীঘ্ৰ।  
 দেবীন কুঁতুল কুল কেটুনি হৃষি ॥