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Lachit Borphukan

"We come from a history of brave, strong-willed soldiers, whose blood still runs in our veins."

There are stories that we read in books, newspapers, some stories come from browsing the Internet and some remain unheard and unknown. Those stories come out to be the most heartfelt reality of the country. Lachit Borphukan is one of those browsed and unheard figure, an unsung martyr. It is to keep up with that noble tradition, we see 24th November, being celebrated as 'Lachit Divas' statewide in Assam, where we commemorate the heroism of this heroic son of Bharat Mata, Lachit Borphukan.

This valiant warrior who successfully repelled the forces of the Mughal Empire further east, is known only within Assam.

Early life :-

Originally named as Lachit Deba, Lachit Borphukan, the fierce and indefatigable Ahom commander, was born during the 17th century at Betoni in the Golaghat district of modern Assam. His father, Momai Tamuli Barbarua, was the 'Governor' of the kingdom and also 'Commander-in-Chief' of Ahom army under King Pratap Singha, during his reign from 1603 to 1639. Momai Tamuli ensured that his son Lachit was properly educated in the disciplines necessary for nobility.

After completion of his formal education, Lachit was appointed as the scarf bearer of the Ahom Swargadeo, a post equivalent to that of a private secretary. From his father, Lachit had inherited an unwavering sense of duty, involvement and loyalty. He now immersed himself completely in the preparations for the war. He was a harsh taskmaster, but very sincere to his job that he didn't hesitate to behead even his uncle, who was found to be negligent on duty during an important situation of war.

He said: "ତୁମେ କରିବାର କରିବାର କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା"

The story about this above quote is as follows: During the preparations for the battle, he ordered the fortification to be constructed within one night and employed his maternal uncle as the supervisor. His uncle was a lazy guy and assumed that it is not possible to complete the task overnight and delayed the work. When Lachit came for inspection, he found that the work was not progressing satisfactorily. When asked for an explanation, his uncle failed to provide any satisfactory explanation. Lachit became so angry and beheaded his uncle saying "ତୁମେ କରିବାର କରିବାର କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା"

Conveyed Titles of Borphukan :-

Lachit was so signed in his work that soon his excellent performance in the military training paid and he got appointed as "Ghora Barua". Later, he got appointed as Commander of the Simulgarh Fort, located at the South Bank of Brahmaputra. Then, he became Superintendent of the Royal Guards during the reign of Chakradhwaj Singha. But until then, the most prestigious rank he bagged was "Borphukan" by King Chakradhwaj Singha.

The War :-

At the time when the whole of India was facing the invasive Islamic intrusion, Assam was not an exception. In 1662, Mughal General Nawab Muazzam Khan attacked Gargaon. He got defeated by Ahom King Jayadhwaj Singha. Finally, Muazzam was forced to sign a humiliating treaty with the King. During this time, Lachit was posted at Kaliabore. In 1667, Chakradhwaj Singha appointed Lachit, the Commander-in-Chief of Ahom Kingdom. The growth of immense power of Ahom kingdom under Lachit, enraged Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir. At this time in 1668, he sent a strong contingent of army of the Mughal under Raja Ram Singh Kachwaha of Amber. He brought a massive Mughal troop opposite to Borphukan's few thousands soldiers. The Battle of Saraighat in 1671 was the culmination of many small fights between two armies. Lachit led the war, and defeated the massive Mughal front, crushing them to an enormous defeat. The valor of Lachit made the Mughals worry about the future and made them initiate diplomacy, which got rejected.

The final battle of Saraighat in 1671, showcases the tremendous bravery of Lachit Borphukan on the battleground. Despite being ill, he single-handedly crushed the Mughal army and made them suffer a comprehensive defeat.

Finally in 1672, Lachit died at Kaliabore.

Conclusion:-

During the last phase of the battle of Saraihat in 1671, when Mughals were attacking the Assamese forces through the river in Saraihat, many soldiers lost the will to fight; it was Lachit's determination and brave call to all the soldiers that made them fight till the last breathe. Still now, his bravery is sung among the heroes in the national defense academy, where the Lachit Gold medal is conferred to the best passing out cadet since 1999 honoring his valor.

Our P.M. Narendra Modi, once in his speech said,

"On his birth anniversary, I salute Lachit Barphukan. He is India's pride & his valor during Saraihat war can never be forgotten".

Thus, the unsung hero of India reminds us of theangs of gaining independence.

Jay Sind! Jay Sri Shom!

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