

# Lachit Borphukan

Lachit Borphukan was a general of the Ahom Dynasty who fought bravely against the Mughal Empire and was successful in stopping them from taking control of the entire Ahom kingdom. He was born on 24th November 1622 and died on 25th April 1672. 'Borphukan' was a rank in the Ahom kingdom and was bestowed upon deserving men. Thus, Lachit Borphukan indicates his rank. He was earlier known as Lachit Deca.

Lachit was also the commander-in-chief of the Ahom kingdom. He is also known to have perfected the art of Guerrilla Warfare.

- Lachit Borphukan was the youngest among the children of Momai Tamuli Borbarau who was also the Commander-in-chief of the Ahom army and his mother, Kunti Mohan. The conflict of the Mughals with the Ahom kingdom was not new and had already been initiated in the year 1615 which continued for a long time.
- On the completion of his studies, Lachit was given the rank of Soladhara Barua in the Ahom kingdom followed by other important positions before he finally became the commander-in-chief.
- This was the time when the Mughals had already taken control of Guwahati which led to some unfortunate events but was taken up by Lachit Borphukan in the later years.

## History of Lachit Borphukan- The Battle of Saraighat, 1671

The **Battle of Saraighat** is one of the most important events in Indian history as it highlighted the significance of naval forces and also led to the reinforcement of our country's naval force and inland water transport. The major reason behind this inspiration was that the Battle of Saraighat took place on the banks of river Brahmaputra in Guwahati in March 1671.

The Battle of Saraighat is renowned as one of the greatest naval battles fought on a river which was won due to the utmost dedication and sincerity of Lachit Borphukan towards his king and his kingdom. All the attempts by the Mughals to deceive the Ahim king were foiled and eventually Lachit Borphukan, despite his ill health was able to resist the Mughals' attempt to occupy his kingdom.

Though the defeat in the Battle of Saraighat, at the hands of the Ahom army did not stop the Mughals from attacking the kingdom. They again approached and forcefully occupied Guwahati from 1679 until 1682.

## Lachit Divas

Lachit Divas is celebrated every year on the birthday of Lachit Borphukan, i.e 24th November. It is celebrated in the entire state of Assam to honor the bravery and extraordinary efforts put in by Lachit Borphukan in winning the battle of Saraighat.

- The main idea behind celebrating the Lachit Divas is to encourage the principles of Lachit Borphukan who was a legend in his own way.
- He was the brave commander-in-chief of the Ahom army who truly led by example and led his kingdom to victory.

## Lachit Borphukan Gold Medal

To recognize and commemorate the bravery of Lachit Borphukan in all the battles that he fought for his kingdom including the Battle of Saraighat, the **Lachit Borphukan Gold Medal** was brought into existence in 1999. This medal is awarded to all those cadets of the National Defence Academy who perform at their highest level.

- The Lachit Borphukan Gold medal is a reminder of Lachit's sacrifices and the amount of dedication and bravery he displayed being the commander of the Ahom army.
- It is a step towards inspiring and encouraging the defense personnel to give their best for their country.

Apart from the gold medal, a 35 feet statue of the legendary Lachit Borphukan was also inaugurated in 2016 in the middle of the river Brahmaputra, in Guwahati by the former chief minister Tarun Gogoi.

## Tips to write Lachit Borphukan Essay

Recently, 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan was celebrated on 24th November 2022. The Assam Government launched a web portal and app to appreciate the life of Lachit Borphukan in form of submissions of essay on Lachit Borphukan. Some of the notable points for the essay are :

- Lachit Borphukan is famously known as the Shivaji Maharaj of northeast India.
- He fought the Saraighat battle and defeated Aurangzeb.
- The Assam chief minister also called Lachit Borphukan as the Assam's ablest sons.
- Lachit Barphukan Maidan in Jorhat is being constructed in his honor.