

Lachit Borphukan

Lachit Borphukan, a man whose heroic exploits ought to be embalmed not only in the hearts of the Assamese community as a whole, but deserves the respect and admiration of all Indians, for his valor, character and high sense of patriotism for his motherland. Lachit Borphukan was born in November 24 in the year 1622 in Charaideo, the first capital of the Ahom kings. He crossed sword with the mighty Mughals, and humbled them with his bravado in the battle of Saraighat, thereby thwarting the desperate effort of the Mughal army to exert the dominion into the north eastern frontiers.

Before the confrontation of the Ahoms and the Mughals in the battle of Saraighat, in the battle of Araibol hills near Dadara North Guwahati, the two sides tasted their prowess in the year 1669 AD. The combined forces of the Mughals and the Rajputs under Raja Ram Singh however got the better off than the Ahoms, as they came out triumphant against the numerically smaller Assamese army. The Mughals were in unfamiliar terrain, and so preferred to take on Lachit Barphukan in an open battle, while Lachit with his guerrilla tactics had seized the initiative at times. But he ultimately caved in under the onslaught of the mammoth forces of the Mughals and the Rajputs.

Lachit Borphukan was not one to be overawed by the mighty Mughals who held their domain over a considerably large territory in the Indian subcontinent. He took upon the challenge against the Mughals, and was the commander in chief in the battle of Saraighat. The Mughals were well equipped, but they failed to make inroads towards the chivalrous Ahom army in the first phase of the war. Lachit was a staunch patriot, and nobody from the enemy ranks could make him succumb to vile temptations.

During the thick of the battle of Saraighat, Lachit did not think twice when he beheaded his uncle for dereliction of duty, exclaiming that his uncle was not bigger than the country. His uncle was given the responsibility to construct an earthen wall as a means of fortification, in a bid to foil the enemies attack. The lethargic attitude of his troops more so his uncle in executing the task in hand besieged him with rage, and to drive home the message that no one is greater than the country, he took the life of his own uncle. But his message was clear, and the troops took the task seriously, and completed the fortification process

In the course of the battle Bir Lachit fell ill, but he did not allow his frailty to get the better of him, least it dampened the spirit of his forces. His zeal, and never-say die spirit ultimately put the Mughals on the backfoot as they took to

their heels. The Mughal commander in chief Ram Singh particularly in defeat heaped accolades on the astute leadership and belligerence of Bir Lachit.

It is indeed sad that we the Assamese community as a whole has not given this great son of the soil his due, he truly deserved. It is so important for us not only to cherish the memories and accomplishments of this great warrior and staunch patriot, but we need to inculcate in us the spirit of this great soul to make us a better son of our motherland

Ashif Ahmed 30/08/2022
Written by

Ashif Ahmed District Transport officer, Baksa