



JANASANYOG, ASSAM  
CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR

PRESS RELEASE

No. 345/2022

**Union Finance Minister Sitharaman inaugurates 3-Day 400th Birth Anniversary of Lachit Barphukan in New Delhi**

**Every Indian must know about the display of courage, valour of Lachit, the “total patriot”: Sitharaman**

**Appreciate attempt of CM Dr. Sarma in making Lachit Barphukan a household name throughout India: Union Finance Minister**

**Had it not been for Lachit, cultural identity of not only Assam but that of entire Southeast Asia would have been ravaged by the Mughals: CM**

**Holding Lachit Divas in Delhi a humble attempt at according this great patriot his rightful place in history: Dr. Sarma**

**Dispur, November 23:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in presence of Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, on Wednesday inaugurated the 3-day celebrations of the 400th birth anniversary of the 17th century Ahom Army General Lachit Barphukan at Vigyan Bhawan organized centrally in New Delhi today.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Sitharaman congratulated Chief Minister Dr. Sarma for making a comprehensive attempt for the first time in making the rest of the country aware of a personality as towering as Lachit Barphukan. Referring to Lachit as a "total patriot", she said it is important for every Indian to know about his indomitable display of valour and courage, along with strategy, in the battlefield.

The Union Finance, making an appeal to the Government of Assam to organise similar events highlighting the Ahom era in various parts of the country said that she would request the Union Ministry of Culture to co-operate with the State government in this regard.

Union Minister Sitharaman also cut the ribbon to mark the inauguration of an exhibition displaying artefacts starting from the reigns of Kumar Bhaskar Varman. Appreciating the tradition of writing chronicles, called “buranjis”, and the architectural uniqueness as is found in the “moidams” of Charaideo, she requested Government of Assam to take all necessary measures for the preservation and protection of this cultural heritage.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, paying rich tributes to the great Ahom army general, said that the saga of courage, patriotism and sacrifice displayed by Lachit Barphukan is undoubtedly one of the most glorious chapters of Indian history. It was Lachit's leadership and generalship in the battle of Saraighat of 1671 that ensured the continuation of Ahom rule, which in turn led to the preservation of indigenous Assamese identity and culture, the Chief Minister stated. Had the Ahoms



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succumbed to the invading Mughals, the unique cultural identity of not only Assam but that of the entire Southeast Asia would have been different. It is, therefore, important that Lachit Barphukan is accorded his due place in history in the manner other great warriors and monarchs of ancient and mediaeval period have been accorded.

The Chief Minister also lauded the Ahom rule for providing political stability and unity to Assam for the first time, that too in a period when instability and destruction of indigenous Indian cultural identity by the Islamic invaders had become the norm in other parts of the Indian subcontinent. Despite such glorious saga, however, the Ahom rule and generalship of commanders such as Lachit Barphukan have not been discussed, written or researched upon by prominent historians, the Chief Minister said. He also expressed hope that the initiatives such as these would go a long way in reversing this trend.

The Chief Minister further said that the initiative to centrally organize Lachit's birth anniversary in the national capital would make the people of India realize that "India had better kings and monarchs than Aurangzeb."

The Chief Minister also spoke about measures such as the upcoming grand-memorial at the Maidam of Lachit Barphukan in Jorhat district, installation of a statue of the great Ahom general at the premises of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, among others.

Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also expressed his gratitude to Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman for gracing the inaugural ceremony of the 3-day event with her presence. Referring to her a well-wisher of the people of Assam, the Chief Minister said her presence, and the scheduled presence of the Union Home Minister tomorrow and that of the Prime Minister day after tomorrow, are manifestations of the importance, the current dispensation at the Centre attaches towards the overall uplift of the Northeastern region.

Later in the day, a panel discussion on the subject "Ahom saga of hope, skills and courage", moderated by former Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua and participated by eminent personalities such as Lt. General Rana PratapKalita, Former Director General of Police Prakash Singh, Kapil Kapoor, Samundragupta Kashyap, Kuldeep Patowary and Chandan Kumar Sarma, was held at the same venue.

**Ayan Hazarika/November 23, 2022**