



Assam's Charaideo Moidams

Why in News?

The Centre has decided to nominate the **Charaideo Maidams** in Assam for the [UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#) this year.

- There is currently **no World Heritage Site** in the category of cultural heritage in **Northeast India**.
- The nomination of the Charaideo Maidams has attained significance at a time when the country is celebrating the **400th birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan**.

What is Charaideo Maidams?

- The **Charaideo Maidams**, represents the late medieval (13th-19th century CE) **mound burial tradition** of the **Tai Ahom** community in Assam.
- It enshrines the mortal remains of the members of the Ahom royalty, who used to be buried with their **paraphernalia**.
 - After the 18th century, the **Ahom rulers adopted the Hindu method of cremation** and began entombing the cremated bones and ashes in a **Maidam at Charaideo**.
- Out of 386 Maidams or Moidams explored so far, **90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved**, representative of and the most complete examples of mound burial tradition of the Ahoms.

What are the Key Facts About Ahom Kingdom??

- **About:**
 - Established in 1228 in the [Brahmaputra valley of Assam](#), the Ahom kingdom retained its sovereignty for 600 years.
 - The kingdom was founded by **Chaolung Sukapha**, a 13th century ruler.
 - The Ahoms ruled the land till the province was annexed to British India in **1826** with the signing of the **Treaty of Yandaboo**.
- **Political Setup:**
 - Ahoms created a new state by suppressing the older political system of the **bhuiyans (landlords)**.
 - The Ahom state depended upon [forced labour](#). Those forced to work for the state were called paiks.
- **Society:**
 - Ahom society was divided into **clans or khels**. A khel often controlled several villages.
 - Ahoms worshipped their own tribal gods, yet they accepted the Hindu religion and the Assamese language.
 - However, the **Ahom kings did not completely give up their traditional beliefs** after adopting [Hinduism](#).
- **Military Strategy:**
 - The full contingent of the Ahom Army consisted of **infantry, navy, artillery, elephantry, cavalry and spies**.
 - The main war weapons consisted of bows and arrows, swords, Javelins discus, guns, match-locks and cannons.
 - The **Ahom soldiers were experts in [guerilla fighting](#)**. They also learnt the technique of **constructing boat bridges in the Brahmaputra**.

Who was Lachit Borphukan?

- Born on 24th November, 1622, Borphukan was known for his **leadership in the Battle of Saraighat, 1671** in which an attempt by **Mughal forces** to capture Assam was thwarted.
 - The battle of Saraighat was fought on the banks of the **Brahmaputra in Guwahati in 1671**.
 - It is considered as one of the greatest naval battles on a river which **resulted in the victory of Ahoms over the Mughals**.
- He was the inspiration behind strengthening **India's naval force and revitalising inland water transport** and creating infrastructure associated with it due to his great naval strategies.
- The **Lachit Borphukan gold medal** is awarded to the best cadet from the **National Defence Academy**.
 - The medal was instituted in 1999 to inspire **defence personnel to emulate Borphukan's heroism and sacrifices**.

[Source: TH](#)