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Need to rewrite history to free it from distortions, says Union home minister Shah

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NEW DELHI: Home minister Amit Shah on Thursday said he often receives complaints that the country's history has been tampered with and distorted and the "allegations could be true". Evoking the need to rewrite India's history to free it from distortions, he said, "Who stops us from correcting it now? Who stops us from writing the correct history?" Stating that a nation which does not derive pride from its glorious past and does not garner inspiration from its heroes can never create a bright future for itself and cannot create better citizens, Shah said, "If we do this, we will see that the true history of India will be established and the lies will vanish spontaneously. In India we have a government today which will continue to encourage such endeavours. We will work towards reviving India's glorious history."

He was speaking at the plenary session of the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan, the legendary Ahom general who had not only protected the North East, but the entire South East Asia. Urging historians and history students to identify 30 great empires of India and 300 warriors, Shah said writing extensively on these warriors who showed exemplary valour to protect the motherland will bring out the truth and the distorted historical narratives will vanish on their own.

Commemorating the legendry Lachit Barphukan who secured a decisive victory against the mighty Mughal army of Aurangzeb that too with a relatively smaller army of the Ahom rulers in Assam in 1671, which is popularly known as the 'Battle of Saraighat', the home minister said that after the crushing defeat foreign invaders from Delhi could never gather the courage to invade Assam again.

Highlighting that the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan unveils a new episode of India's history in which rulers in Assam defeated Muslim invaders in different ages and secured sovereignty of their motherland and that the entire civilization is grateful to him, Shah said, "From Maharaj Prithu of Assam who defeated Bakhtiar Khilji in 1206 to Lachit Barphukan who defeated Mughals in 1671, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has today unveiled the stories of all the valorous heroes of Assam before the students of history to research and explore in this event."

Shah added that in the times in which Lachit Barphukan raised his sword against the Mughals, Chatrapati Shivaji in the south of India, Guru Govind Singh in the north, Veer Durgadas Rathore in Rajasthan waged the same battle against the same enemy. He said that even today the best cadet in the National Defence Academy is awarded with the Lachit Barphukan award.