

*Biodata*

**SHRI PRAFULLA CHANDRA BOROAH**

**A. EARLY LIFE**

1. Born on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1900 at Dhuburi in Assam.
2. Last Mother, Jahnabi Devi in 1905 and Father, Sangeetacharyya Lakhmiram Boroah, the first exponent of music in Assam in the Post-Sankaradeva era, in 1914 at Tezpur.
3. Having lost parents early in age with no means of livelihood and a house to dwell in, had schoolings at Tezpur , Shillong , Dibrugarh and passed Matriculation in 1918 from Mangoldoi Government High School, passed I.Sc. In 1920 from Cotton College read upto 4<sup>th</sup> year B.Sc. in Ripon college and after a gap of some two years – all at the expense of the relative and others.
4. A self made man in the true sense of the term having started life from scratch to become the owner of several tea gardens and other properties.

**B. CULTURAL**

1. A composer of music, singer and a stage actor since boyhood, earning name and fame in schools and Cotton and Ripon College, Was acclaimed at one time as a top ranking vocalist and a violinist not only in Assam but also in the cities of Benaras and Calcutta. Also got teachings on musical notations, both Indian and Western in his early years from his great musician father and later from the renowned musicians like Rai Chand Boral, Monta Ghosh, kana Kristo etc.
2. One of the founders of the benaras University Music Society in 1913 and was a regular invitee to the functions of the University to sing and/ or to play violin to the public.
3. His musical and other talents attracted the attention of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Charles A. King, Principal of the Engineering College of the Benaras Hindu University. The former made his admission into the Engineering Degree Course free and latter allowed a rent-free single-seated room in the hostel to facilitate his practice of music besides paying Rupees Ten monthly from his (Principal's) own pocket. The principal also used to come to his room at times for hearing of his playing violin on Western music.
4. Period 1918-25 saw him topping the list in the competitions in singing, recitation, stage acting and playing violin and winning in number of medals, trophies and prizes. During those years, he was indispensable to the famous Ban Stage of Tezpur for staging dramas. His singing voice was very rich and the range he could then cover was full two octaves with ease.
5. Translated many Bengali Dramas into Assamese and staged them in Ban Ranga Mancha at Tezpur and a few at the kumer Bhaskar Natya Mandir at guwahati.
6. President of the Music Conference of the Dhuburi Session of the Asom Sahitya Sabha and the inaugurator of the Cultural Conference of the Tezpur Session of Assam Sahitya Sabha.

7. First Assamese gramophone Record Singer whose first four songs were published by His Master's Voice Gramophone Company in 1924. His Second and third singing of record's four in each occasion, were published by the same company in 1928 and 1930 respectively. Some of the recorded songs were KIYANO PAHORA ASAMIYA HERE CHIRAKAL TUMI ACHILA SWADHIN, AJI BONDOKI CHADERE SAMAGATA BEERATA NARANARYANA RUPA (Opening sing of 41<sup>st</sup> Session of Indian National Congress held at Pandu in 1926) , ASOMA SUSHMA KAMARUPA JAYATU JANANI DHARITRI DUHITA all tuned by himself.
8. A constant compansion of Jyotiparasad in the early part of Latter's composition of songs in the line of the indigenous Bia-nam Ai-nam tunes which revolutionised the sphere of Assamese song and many of which went beyond the four walls of Assam to enrich the Indian music as a whole. The memorable last song of the film *joymati* – Luitare pani jabi- O Boi was tuned by him. Jyotiprasad requested him to give such a tune to the song that it could make viewers of the film Leave auditoriums with tears in their eyes and joytiprasad was in high praise of him to find the tune fulfil his dream.
9. The first batch of artists who acted in the first, Assamese film *joymati* appearing in the role of Borgohain in 1935, his younger brother Phunu Borooah appearing as Godapani, sons jayanta Kumar and Ranjit Kumer as Lai and Lechai and their and there ,maid and boy servants in minor roles.
10. The first broadcast the first Assamese Radio Drama *Been Boragi*-from the Calcutta station of All India Radio in 1936.
11. While in jorhat jail(1942-46) he wrote a Drama on the theme of 1942 Political Movement, viz, BONDI, and got it performed by his co-prisoners at an improvised stage set up within the jail premises which received high appreciation from the leaders like Garamur Satradhikari Sri Krishna Chandra Dev Goswami, , Gopi Bordoilo, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Bishnu Medhi, Dr Hare Krishna Das, Bimala Chaliha, Debeswar Sarma, Omeo Kumer Das and so on and so forth.
12. The first president of Assam Branch Indian peoples' Theatre Association, Shillong(1944-45).
13. Honoured as a veteran artist at a function held by Sibsagar Natya Samaj on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1971.
14. Chairman of the Assam Flim (Finance & Development) corporation Ltd, a uniqe venture of the Government of Assam, since its inception in 1974.
15. One of the recipients of the Silpi Divas Samity Award at its first Award-giving ceremony in January 1975.
16. Honoured as a veteran artist with a few other journalists and artists of assam on the occasion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of Radha Gobinda Barua by the R.G Barua Smrity Rakhya Committee in July 1984.

### C. SOCIAL

1. The single biggest donor in Assam to have doted 100 bigas land to the Bhoodan Movement launched by Vinobaji in or about 1960.

2. Donor of the Asom sahitya sabha's famous building, viz, Sangitacharya Lashimram Borooh Sadan at Guwahati which stands for propagation and development of musical and cultural activities in Assam.
3. Donor of Hiranya prava Memorial Library & Museum at sibsagar College.
4. Founder Vice-president and doner and soon after President of Sibasagar College, Founder-President of Sibsagar Girls College, Sibsagar commerce College, Gorgaon College and Sonari College Besides being doner of a big High School building at Baruanagar and helped in the establishment of Dikhowaukh High School building at Baruanagar and helped in the establishment of Dikhowaukh high School and also a few others. The reputed Sri Sankardev Samaj Namghar carries his name as one of the main donors and its architect.
5. The Founder-Borsenapati of the Asom jatiya Sramik bahini,an organization founded by him, whose aims and objects were to inculcate the dignity of labour and to help in finding work for the work-hungry people for their economic emancipation.
6. As a Freedom Fighter contributed vitally to the Mahta Commission for enquiring into the 1983 holocaust and illegal election in Assam.
7. Chairman, Reception Committee of the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of Assam High School Teachers' Association at Sibsagar in 1968.
8. President, at Sibsagar Tribal Cultural Association.
9. President, and life Member of Sri sankardev samaj, Sibsagar.
10. President, Asom Madokata Nibarani Sangha.

#### **D. INDUSTRIAL**

1. One of the oldest Members of the Assam Tea Planters' Association and the Assam Branch Indian Tea Association.
2. Member of the Tea Board of several terms and its Vice-President for one term.
3. Director, Assam Tea corporation Ltd for one term.
4. Director, Assam Industrial Development Corporation Ltd, for Several Terms.
5. Director, Assam Financial Corporation Ltd for Several Terms.
6. Director, Assam Petrochemicals Ltd at Namrup for a couple of terms.
7. Member of the National Credit Council formed by the Government of Indian in 1974.
8. Led Tea Delegations to almost all countries of Europe, North and East Africa at different times besides attending several FAO Conferences of the United Nations Organisation in London, Rome, Kampala and New Delhi on behalf of the Government of India and the Indian Tea Industry.
9. Chairman of Several committees formed by the Central and state Governments, viz, "Borooh Committee on Tea Industry", "Indian Tea Association Enquiry Committee on Refugee Rehabilitation" and "Assam State Electricity Board Enquiry Committees."
10. Responsible for Introduction of Tea Science Course at the Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, outstepping Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
11. Director, Mangoldai jute Mills ltd.

12. Managing Director, Baruanagar Tea Estate Private Limited.
13. Managing Director, Ratanpur(Assam) Tea & Industries Pvt.Ltd.
14. Managing Director, Kakadonga Tea Estates Private Limited.
15. Managing Director, Kunwaribari Tea Estates Private Limited.
16. Director, Aidaupukhuri Tea Estates Private Limited.
17. Director, Baruakhat Tea Company Private Limited.
18. Director, Eastern Tea Brokers Private Limited.
19. Director, South Darjeeling Tea Company Limited.
20. Director-In-Charge, Veegal Engines & Engineering Ltd, Calcutta.
21. Controller-In-Chief, Assam Surgical Products Limited, Sibsagar.

#### **E. POLITICAL**

1. Attended the Special Session of the Indian National Congress at Wellington Square in Calcutta on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1920 when the programme of Mahatma Gandhi's Non cooperation with Government Was placed for consideration.
2. Joined the Indian National Congress in September, 1920 and was first amongst all students of Calcutta and thereby of the Indian to strike college on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1921 at the call of Mahatma Gandhi/ Indian National Congress.
3. President of Mangaldai District Congress Committee in 1922 and several times president of sibasagar District Congress Committee.
4. The Secretary of Music, Reception and Procession sub-Committee of the Pandu Session of the Indian National Congress in 1926 and a member of the Executive Committee of the Reception Committees of the Jalukbari Session of the Indian National Congress.
5. Underwent Imprisonment, Internment, externment, detention etc. as a Freedom fighter for a total period of over four years between the period 1921 to 1946.
6. Member of Parliament (lok Sabha) from 1957 to 1967.
7. In the Second lok Sabha (1957-62) was ranked as one first ten of the Members of the house in the matter of putting questions and in the third lok Sabha(1962-67) was first having had the honour of putting 12,000 questions out of which 6,000 were admitted, and left long behind the second in order, who to his credit, had 4,000 admitted questions.

#### **F. GENERAL**

1. Director, purbanchal Bank Ltd, for long since its inception.
2. Member, Gauhati University Court.
3. Chaired the Second Session of the Seminar on Tea Industry NE India Council for Social Science Research in November 1975.
4. Member, Assam State Advisory Board for Freedom Fighters Since its inception till 1983.
5. Member Rashtriyajan House Building Cooperative Society Ltd, New Delhi.
6. Member Editorial Board of the weekly *Parliamentary Times* published from New Delhi.

7. Adviser to the Reception Committee of Sixth of All India Geeta Sanmilan held at Basisthashram, Guwahati in February 1985.
8. Life Member of the Asom Sahitya Sabha and was facilitated as an Honoured Guest at its Bihpuria Session in February 1985.