

Recording of first Assamese songs on Gramophone

Centenary celebration event organized

Prafulla Chandra Borooh, who lost his parents at an early age, was the first Assamese Gramophone record singer whose first four songs were recorded by His Master's Voice Gramophone Company in 1924



Eminent singer Loknath Goswami delivering the centenary lecture at the Lakhiram Barua Sadan, Dighalipukhuri on Friday. — UB Photos

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 27: The commemorative event of 100 years of the first Assamese songs recorded on Gramophone by the late Prafulla Chandra Borooh was organized at Lakhiram Barua Sadan here today.

Noted personalities from the fields of music, literature and culture attended the programme and discussed the significance of the day and the works and contributions of Borooh.

One of the highlights of the centenary celebration event was the playing of Prafulla Chandra Borooh's recorded songs on the Gramophone.

Highlighting the significance of music in people's lives, Satriadhar of Auniati Satra, Dr Pitambar Deva Goswami, who inaugurated the event, mentioned how Prafulla Chandra Borooh, through his Gramophone recordings, showcased the richness of the region's musical heritage.

Expressing his gratitude to the gathering for inviting him to inaugurate the event, he also emphasized that individuals who show respect to their parents and teachers grow into successful and exemplary human beings.

"The programme organized by the family stands as a fine example of such values in action," he said.

Singer and cultural activist Loknath Goswami delivered the centenary lecture.

In his address, Goswami briefed the gathering about Sangeetacharya Lakshmiram Borooh and Prafulla Chandra Borooh.

He said Prafulla Chandra Borooh, who lost his parents at an early age, was the first Assamese Gramophone record singer whose first four songs were recorded by His Master's Voice Gramophone Company in 1924.

"The very first Assamese Gramophone record songs were *Kiyano Pahora Asomiya Hera Sirokal Asila Swadhin*,

Phulo Phulile Jonaiye Hahile, Hriday Bidari Uthe Soto Bedonare and *Asama Nirupama Janani Aie*, he said.

"Prafulla Chandra Borooh had to convince the British officers in HMV (His Master's Voice) Gramophone Record Company in Calcutta that Assamese songs will sell on their own merit and were not inferior to Bengali songs," he added.

He also said that Prafulla Chandra Borooh went on to record four more songs each, in the second and third recordings of Assamese songs on Gramophone in 1928 and 1930.

Former IAS officer Swapnil Barua highlighted various aspects of Prafulla Chandra Borooh's life beyond his contributions to music. He discussed Borooh's firm stance on the issues he raised in the Parliament.

Asam Sahitya Sabha president Surjya Kanta Hazarika and lyricist Kirti Kamal Bhuyan also spoke on the occasion. Atreyee Borooh Thekedath, joint

secretary of the centenary celebration committee and granddaughter of Borooh was also present.

Two senior artistes, Dr Amiya Mohan Das and Dr Lakhya Hira Das, were also felicitated on the occasion for their contributions. Dr Lakhya Hira Das could not attend the programme due to some health reasons.

Earlier, while Dilip Kumar Kalita, vice president of the centenary celebration committee, delivered the welcome address, Jahnabi Phookan, joint secretary of the committee and granddaughter of Borooh, briefed the gathering about the objective of the programme.

In her address, she dwelt on the importance of the celebration, not only for the family but also for the people of the State, as it holds great historical importance in the Assamese music industry.

The programme started with a Borgeet performed by Gautam Saikia.