

## Professor Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya (21 January 1936 - 29 January 2023): His Academic Career and Contributions

Bimal K. Kar<sup>†</sup>

### Abstract

Dr Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya breathed his last on 29 January 2023. This historical article charts to pay tribute to his professional career and contributions, who worked silently towards laying the foundation and building the geography of North East India.

**Keywords:** Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya; Urban Geography; Settlement Geography; Historical Geography; Political Geography; Assamese Literary Contributions

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## Introduction

It remains well-documented that North East India is one of the remote regions of India connected to the mainstream by a narrow corridor of 22 km, known as the 'Siliguri Corridor' or the 'Chicken's neck' (Bhattacharyya et al., 2023; Bhattacharyya, 2005; Taher and Ahmed, 2001). In this remote region bearing limited resources, many academicians have contributed towards building the academic landscape of the region (for instances, Barpujari, 1990; Bareh, 2004; Bhagabati et al., 2001; Bhagabati, 2023; Bhuyan, 1940, 1964, 1987, 1990; Taher and Ahmed, 2001). Dr Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya, an aphonic scholar, was also one of them (Kar, 2023). Indeed, his contributions in diverse sub-fields of geography— settlement, urban, historical and political geography and the literary landscape made him one of the distinguished North Eastern geographers. In doing so, during his more than four decades-long association as a teacher in the Department of Geography at Gauhati University, he made intellectual contributions to the aforesaid sub-fields of geography. Being one of his students in the mid-1980s, I came into close contact with him after I gained the opportunity to join the Department as a lecturer in 1993 when he was Head of the Department (Kar, 2023). As a mark of my sincere tribute to my teacher, I now endeavour to present a brief sketch of his academic and professional career and contributions to geography, academics and society. While Figure 1, pastosed by one of Assam's renowned freelance (calligraphy and painting) artists, Mr Deep Jyoti Talukdar, reflects the respectful personality of Professor Bhattacharyya; the courteous persona of Professor Bhattacharyya is visible in Figure 2.

The article begins with a brief description of Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya's childhood and schooling. It then goes on to discuss his higher education and academic career. Following this, it discusses Bhattacharyya's doctoral research,

service career, research guidance, publications, academic activities and family life.

## Childhood and Schooling

Born in a very poor family in an infamous small village named Ichadaghariya (a village originally settled with great desire by ten households mostly belonging to the Brahmin community) in Pub Barigog Mouza near Rangia in Kamrup district of Assam on 21 January 1936, Professor N.N. Bhattacharyya spent his childhood in a village environment. He was the seventh child of his father late, Rabi Nath Bhattacharyya and his mother late, Ambika Devi. Professor Bhattacharyya started his education at Kaniha M.V. school and did his high schooling at P.B. Kaniha venture high school, bearing abysmal infrastructure. In 1953, after passing the Class IX examination, he moved to Guwahati and got admitted to Class X at Kamrup Academy, where he successfully passed his matriculation examination in 1954.

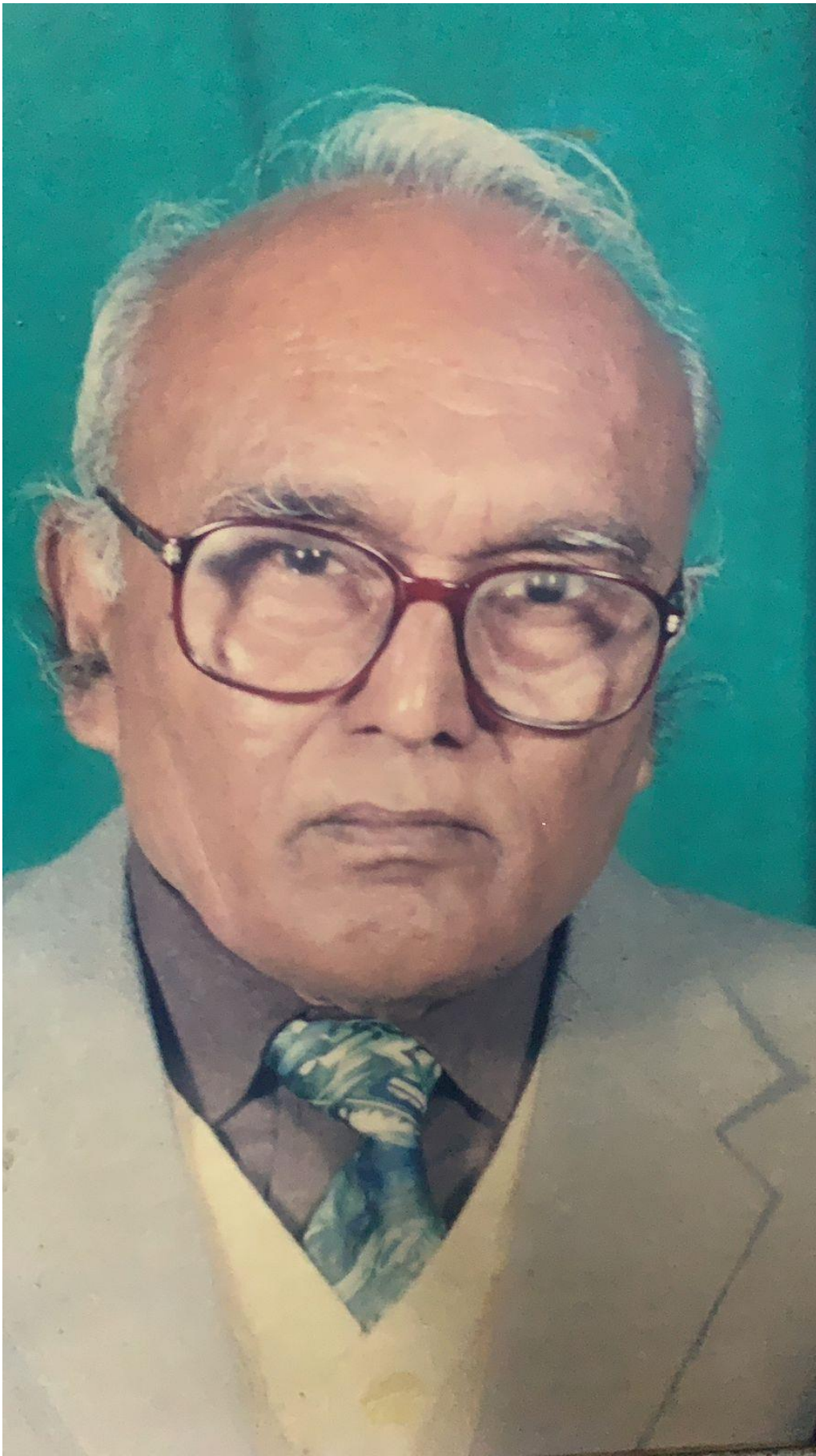
## Higher Education and Academic Career

After matriculation, Professor Bhattacharyya started his further education in the science stream at Cotton College, Guwahati and passed the I.Sc. examination in 1956. He then got admitted to Gauhati University to pursue a B.Sc. course in Geography (Honours) along with Anthropology and Geology as pass subjects and obtained his B.Sc. degree with first class first position in the year 1959. Sometime after graduation, he joined a Master's course in geography at Gauhati University and came out successfully with first class first position in 1961. As per the provision, he prepared a dissertation on A Study in Urban Geography of Gauhati Town in place of a special paper as a part of his Master's course. With this work, he developed a keen interest in carrying out further research in urban geography. He had a stint of a school teaching career at Kaniha Barigog High School of Kamrup district in a regular post as a science teacher before his admission for post-graduation in Gauhati University.



Figure 1: Professor Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya

Source: Mr Deep Jyoti Talukdar (used with full permission from the artist)



**Figure 2: Professor Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya (21 January 1936-29 January 2023)**  
Source: Author

**Doctoral Research**

Although Professor Bhattacharyya started doctoral research at Gauhati University in the early 1960s to work on the changing urban morphology of Gauhati city under the guidance of Professor H.P. Das, the founder Head of the post-graduate Department of Geography, and later in Queen Mary College, University of London, under internationally renowned urban geographer Professor Arthur E. Smailes, he could not continue with his research work due to some personal problems. However, the opportunity of interacting with Professor Smailes in London greatly helped him strengthen his conceptual understanding of conducting research in urban geography. Later, he decided to pursue his doctoral research at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, under the supervision of his then-teacher-like colleague Professor D.K. Singh, who

served in the Department of Geography, Gauhati University, from around 1961-1973. Accordingly, he carried out his research work during 1973-1977 on *Gauhati: A Study in Urban Morphology* and was awarded a PhD from Utkal University in 1978. Apart from throwing light on the growth and changing face of Gauhati city from a historical perspective, this comprehensive research work is primarily devoted to understanding a number of several dimensions of the city’s urban morphology through empirical data and empirical data analysis.

The entire research work was presented in eleven chapters covering 339 pages, including 26 tables, 34 figures and 11 plates. The overall structure and approach of the research work would be more clearly understood from the chapter plan as given below:

Chapter 1	Introduction: Aim and objectives of the study, Methods of morphological study, Organization of the Study
Chapter 2	Historical Background
Chapter 3	Geographical Setting of the City
Chapter 4	Growth and Changing Face of Gauhati: Ahom, British and Post-Independence Periods
Chapter 5	Morphology of the City Today
Chapter 6	Urban Morphology: Networks
Chapter 7	Urban Morphology: Building Fabrics, Housing and Residential Structure
Chapter 8	Urban Morphology: Shopping Centres and Community Facilities
Chapter 9	Urban Morphology: Industrial Landscape
Chapter 10	Land-use Pattern and Urban Communities, Functional Areas, City Zones, Intensity of Urban Land-uses, Density of Houses, Distribution of Population, Movement of Population within City Limit
Chapter 11	Summary and Conclusion

The contribution of the whole research work may also be appreciated from the concluding remarks of Professor Bhattacharyya, which goes like “The morphological analysis developed here opens a wide field of research in two lines. In the first place, it needs to be connected with a full investigation of the associated patterns of land use and building types in order to produce a complete interpretation of the urban landscape. Secondly, it could be extended to cover other towns of Assam and India under similar geographical conditions. Although Gauhati is a small provincial capital city in accordance with its

function as a regional service centre, its long history has rendered the physical arrangement of its built-up area more interesting. It also serves to demonstrate the morphological analysis in evolutionary lines. It is hoped that the study would stimulate the interest of urban geographers of this part of the country where the geographical inquiry of such problems is still at its preliminary stage” (see also, Kar, 2023).

### **Career at the Department of Geography, Gauhati University**

While pursuing doctoral research, Professor Bhattacharyya got appointed as a Lecturer in the Department of Geography, Gauhati University, on 2 January 1963. In fact, he was among the very few who got the opportunity of direct appointment as a University teacher. Later he got promoted to the post of Reader on 8 June 1981 and Professor on 14 October 1990. As he was not much involved in the organisational activities of various professional bodies of geographers in different parts of the country and outside, Prof. Bhattacharyya devoted his maximum time to teaching and research in the Department. During his more than three-decades-long illustrious teaching career at Gauhati University till his retirement on 31 October 1997, Professor Bhattacharyya adorned the position of Head of the Department during 1991-1994. As a senior faculty, he also served as a member of the Gauhati University Court, Executive Council and Academic Council. During his long University career, he mainly used to teach Biogeography, Human Geography, History of Development of Geography, Settlement Geography, Urban Geography, Cultural Geography and Political Geography. After he retired from services, the University utilised his academic experience as a guest teacher for the benefit of the students and researchers in the Department for about three years. Later, he also served as a visiting Professor of Geography at Manipur University for about three months (Kar, 2023).

### **Research Guidance**

Professor Bhattacharyya started guiding research (both M.Phil. and PhD.) since 1982 following his promotion as a Reader in the Department. Altogether sixteen PhD and twelve M.Phil. students earned their degrees under his supervision. Most of the research works guided by him have been associated with settlement and urban geography, historical geography, political geography, and population and cultural geography. The first two scholars who obtained their degrees under him in 1989 were Sailendra Barthakur for his thesis *Rural-Urban Interaction*

*in the Brahmaputra valley* and Kamal Kumar Jhunjhunwala for *Rural-Urban Interaction and Pattern of Lingages in the Khasi-Jaintia Hills Area*. Both the scholars attempted to quantitatively assess the nature and degree of spatial interaction between rural and urban areas in the respective areas of Assam and Meghalaya, including delimitation of the zones of urban influence.

Charu Saharia Nath obtained the third doctoral research under his guidance in 1991 for the research entitled *Post-Independence Rural Transformation Pattern in Darrang District*. This research work is devoted mainly towards understanding the causes, the pace of transformation of the rural landscape and emerging socio-economic development in the traditional agrarian society of Darrang district in the post-independence period.

Bhaben Chandra Kalita was the fourth scholar who carried out his doctoral work under Professor Bhattacharyya's supervision and gained his PhD in 1994. The title of the PhD thesis was *Administrative Systems of Karbi Anglong District, Assam and its Socio-Political Relevance from Karbi Perspective: A Politico-Geographical Analysis*. This work mainly focused on the transformation of the administrative system in the Karbi Anglong district and the emerging socio-political transformation among the Karbis.

The fifth PhD work supervised by Professor Bhattacharyya was on *Spatial Organization of Settlements in Sipajhar Region of Darrang District, Assam* which Jadav Chandra Nath carried out and earned the degree in 1994. This research examined the nature of the distribution of rural settlements in the study area and assessed their impact on socio-economic development in the area.

Professor Bhattacharyya supervised the sixth PhD thesis titled *Geopolitics of North-East India: A Strategical Study*, researched by Joysankar Hazarika, who accomplished the degree in 1995. This research was broadly concerned with the understanding of the geopolitical significance of the North-East region of India and the emergent boundary conflicts.

Millie Kakati was the seventh scholar who researched *Greater Guwahati: A Study of Urban Land Use Pattern* and earned her PhD in 1995. This work was primarily devoted to understanding the prevailing spatial variation in the residential status of the city localities concerning civic amenities, drainage conditions and dwellers' perceptions.

Professor Bhattacharyya scored a hat-trick in 1997 when three of his scholars gained PhD under him. Mazibur Rahman was the eighth scholar. The thesis title was *Settlement Pattern of Dhubri District: A Geographical Analysis*. This study examined understanding the origin, growth and distribution pattern of settlements in the district and their role in socio-economic development. In the same year, Sarojini Chaudhury, then Lecturer in History, Rangapara College, Rangapara, earned her PhD for her thesis titled *Historical Geography of Darrangi Kingdom in the Medieval Period (1600-1826)* under the joint guidship of Professor Bhattacharyya and Professor D.Chutiya, Department of History, Government Sanskrit College, Guwahati, Assam.

Again in 1997, Tandrili Choudhury gained her PhD under Professor Bhattacharyya as the tenth scholar who pursued her study on *A Socio-Economic Study of the People of Darrang District, Assam: An Anthropogeographical Approach (A Case Study of Chapai Mauza)*, albeit it was supervised under the joint guidship of Professor A.N.M. Irshad Ali of the Department of Anthropology, Gauhati University. This research investigated the ethnic makeup and the associated ethnic relations and demographic characteristics in the Chapai Mauza area.

Roselin Jahan was the eleventh PhD scholar under Professor Bhattacharyya who studied *Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Muslims of Nagaon and Morigaon Districts: A Geographical Analysis* and accomplished her degree in 1999. This research aimed at understanding the growth and distribution patterns of the Muslim population in Nagaon and Morigaon Districts, examining their demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

The twelfth doctoral scholar researching under Professor Bhattacharyya was Dibakar Sharma, who embarked on to study *Housing Problems of Nalbari District: A Geographical Analysis* and gained his degree in 2002. This study investigated the factors controlling housing conditions and assessed the prevailing household amenities in the densely populated Nalbari district.

Bhupendra Talukdar was the thirteenth scholar who undertook his doctoral research under the guidance of Professor Bhattacharyya. Talukdar worked on *Electoral Politics and Voting Behaviour in Assam Legislative Assembly Elections, 1952-2001* and gained his PhD in 2005. As the title indicates, within the geopolitical context of Assam, the research examined people's voting behaviour in relation to various socio-economic elements.

Chayanika Sharma undertook doctoral research on Transport Geography titled *The Pattern and Problems of Road Transportation in the City of Guwahati: A Geographical Analysis*. She was the fourteenth scholar under Professor Bhattacharyya, who earned her degree in 2006. This research investigated the growth of Guwahati city and the emerging problems of road transportation and its management. In the same year, Bolin Hazarika also accomplished his PhD entitled *A Socio-Political Study of the Tea-tribe Students of Brahmaputra Valley in Assam*, where Professor Bhattacharyya acted as a co-guide along with Dr Sandhya Goswami, Department of Political Science, Gauhati University.

Political Science researcher Parbati Barthakur researched *The Bodo Tribal in the Changing Socio-Political Landscape of the Brahmaputra Valley: A Study in Political Geography* under the joint supervision of Professor Bhattacharyya and Professor Anuradha Dutta, Department of Political Science, Gauhati University. This study examined the geographical and socio-political factors associated with a political uprising among the Bodo tribal groups in the Brahmaputra valley.

In addition to these doctoral works, Professor Bhattacharyya also supervised twelve M.Phil.

scholars during his tenure in the Department of Geography, Gauhati University, from 1983–1998. Among these, as many as six were in the field of settlement geography—Rabindra Patowari (1983), Sailendra Barthakur (1983), Charu Saharia (1985), Hari Prasad Majumdar (1986), Keshab Chandra Nath (1986), and Surajit Barman (1990); three in the field of population geography—Umesh Chandra Saharia (1993), Rani Devi Bora (1995) and Tosheswar Nath (1997); one in the field of political geography—Bhaben Chandra Kalita (1984); one in the field of urban geography—Chayanika Sharma (1989); and the remaining one in the field of industrial geography—Kamaleswar Kalita (1998). All these studies conducted by 26 researchers under Professor Bhattacharyya's supervision testify to the fact that he maintained consistency in his nuanced research scholarships, mainly in the fields of settlement, urban and political geography.

### **Publications**

Over the decades, Professor Bhattacharyya's publications can be found in the shape of research papers in national and international journals published by Routledge, Taylor and Francis (see, Bhattacharyya and Bora, 1997) and edited books, and other writings (including literary writings) in reference books, textbooks and magazines, newspapers. Based on his expertise, most of the research publications are related to settlement, urban and political geography and floods; these are primarily single-authored. His endeavour of publishing his research works started as early as 1969 in one of the first issues of *North-Eastern Geographer*, a research journal published by the North-East India Geographical Society, Gauhati University, Guwahati. In this journal, from 1969–1994, he accomplished to publish seventeen articles (including two co-authored) in various geographical issues such as *the structure and characteristics of Indian towns, urban morphology of Gauhati; Kamrupa: A study in historical geography (co-authored with M. Taher); rural settlements in the Brahmaputra valley; urban morphology of Mangaldai town; measuring circularity in the shape of Gauhati*

*urban agglomeration; population density gradient of Gauhati city; central places of Darrang district; settlement systems of North-East India; geopolitical setting of North-East India; the geopolitical significance of McMahon line (co-authored with J. Das Chowdhury); rural settlement system in Barpeta region; settlements in North-East India; Geopolitics of North-East India; contemporary geopolitical problems of North-East India; thrust areas of geographical research in North-East India; and origin and growth of urbanisation in India.*

Other publications that appeared in other journals and edited books include linguistic and tribal regions of North-East India (1990); the growth and spatial structure of Gauhati city (1979); and the viability of the states of North-East India (1989).

During the post-retirement period, Professor Bhattacharyya embarked on his journey into the writing of text and companion books, significantly enriching the studies of the regional geography of North-East India and its different states and biogeography published by Rajesh Publications, New Delhi. These are *Biogeography* (2003); and *North-East India: A Systematic Geography* (2005). In addition, under Land, People and Economy Series, his contributions include—*Manipur* (2008), *Meghalaya* (2008) and *West Bengal* (2008); and *Assam: A Systematic Geography* (2011). Earlier, in 1984, Professor Bhattacharyya co-authored with Professor D.K. Singh a physical geography textbook entitled *Rudiments of Physical Geography* published by Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi. Besides these, during early teaching career, Professor Bhattacharyya authored a number of textbooks on geography for school and undergraduate courses of Assam in Assamese. Moreover, after completing his doctoral research, he wrote a research-oriented book titled *Morphology of the Towns of Assam with Special Reference to the City of Gauhati: An Analytico-Synthetic Study* which Mani Manik Prakash published in 1981.

Further, Professor Bhattacharyya made a number of rich contributions to various academic and literary platforms in the forms of



many popular articles in the Assamese language, for example, the ancient geography of Assam, ancient rivers and hills of Assam, the growth of Guwahati city, the emergence of regional politics, philosophies of Sankardeva, the importance of geography education, etc. in various magazines and newspapers like *Bigyan Juti*, *Bhugolika*, *Asom Bani*, *Dainik Asom*, etc. It was because of his literary contributions he was elected as the President of Borigog Sahitya Sabha (2018-2020), a sub-branch of Axom Sahitya Sabha—a not-for-profit, non-government literary organisation of Assam founded in December 1917 aimed at promoting the culture of Assam alongside enhancing Assamese language and literature (Bhagabati, 2023).

#### **Other Academic Activities and Organisational Linkages and Academic Activities**

Although a man of simple and humble personality, Professor Bhattacharyya had been

very actively associated with the North-East India Geographical Society (NEIGS) since the time of its launch as one of the founder life members. Indeed, he served as a volunteer at NEIGS in various capacities working for its growth and development— as a General Secretary (1973-74; 1977-78), Editor of *North-Eastern Geographer* (1977-1982) and President (1990-92). Besides attending many of its conferences held at different places in Assam, he also delivered lectures in the extension lecture programmes organised in different colleges and schools. He had also been associated intensively with North-East India Council for Social Science Research (NEICSSR), Shillong, since its inception and served as Vice-President of the same. He almost regularly used to attend its annual national seminar held at Shillong. Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6 demonstrate his activities mostly at NEIGS.



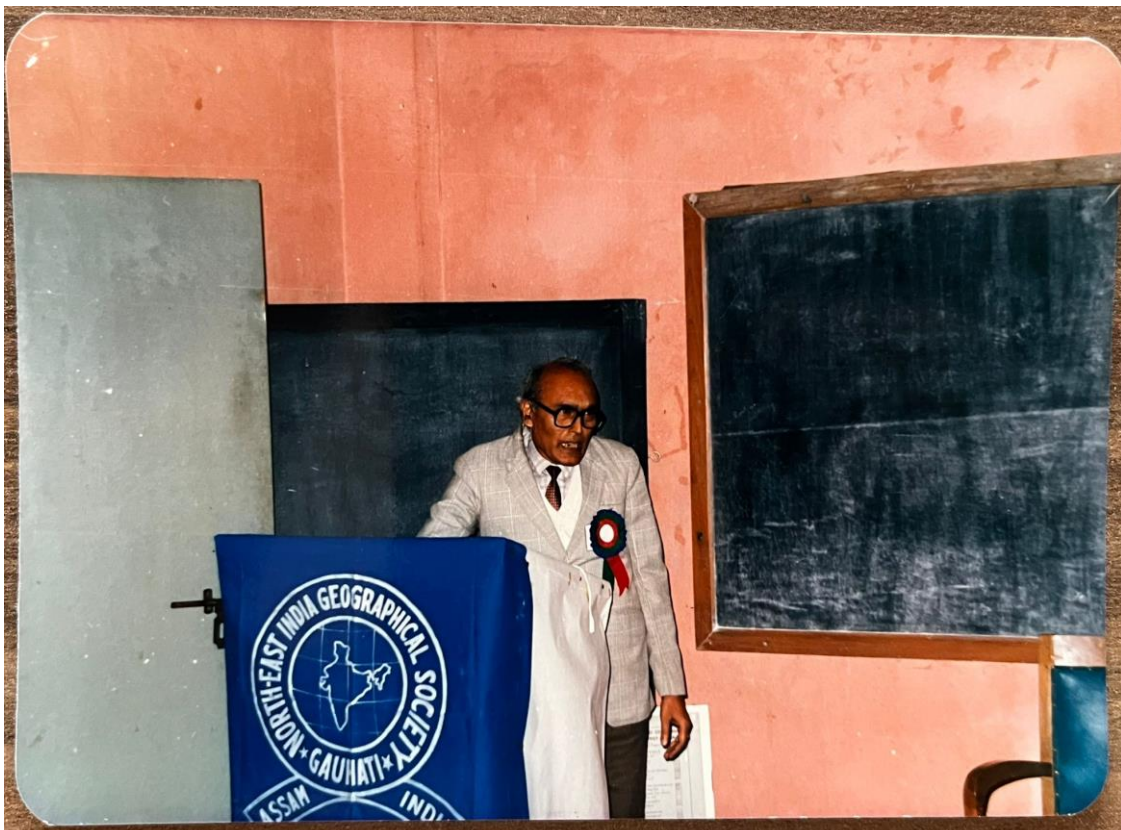
**Figure 3: Professor Bhattacharyya at one of the sessions of North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS), 1991**

Source: Author



**Figure 4: Professor Bhattacharyya Felicitating Visitors at the Department of Geography along with Honourable Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University**

Source: Author



**Figure 5: Professor Bhattacharyya lecturing at one of the sessions of the North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS)**

Source: Author



**Figure 6: Professor Bhattacharyya lecturing at one of the sessions at Golden Jubilee Celebration North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS), August 2018**

### Family Life

Professor Bhattacharyya had a very pleasant and successful family life. He married his wife Mrs Meera Bhattacharyya, on 12 October 1969 who hailed from a highly educated Barthakur family of Jorhat, Assam Mrs Meera Bhattacharyya was the epitome of Girl Power (Bhattacharyya, 2023; 2024) —despite having a bright academic career, she joined a teaching job in a high school at Dalibari (around 6 km from Gauhati University) after all their three children (Rituparna, Pranjal and Prantar) completed at least primary schooling. Mrs Bhattacharyya, who retired after serving the school as a very successful Head Mistress for about 22 years until January 2006, predeceased Professor Bhattacharyya on 24 February 2015. All three children of the Bhattacharyya family are highly educated and well-established in their respective fields. The eldest child (daughter), Rituparna Bhattacharyya, who is a post-graduate in

geography from Banaras Hindu University (BHU), India, is also a doctorate from Newcastle University, UK. Currently, she is a Senior Fellow, Advance HE (formerly Higher Education Academy), UK and Editor-in-Chief (Joint) at Space and Culture, India. She also works as an Adjunct Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati.

Rituparna is a resident of Newcastle with her lead consultant microbiologist husband Dr. Jayanta Biswa Sarma and two bright children (Maitreyee, who completed her Masters in Physics from Imperial College, London is now pursuing PhD at the University of Manchester in the Particle Physics group, working in the field of Neutrino Physics on the MicroBooNE experiment, which is based at Fermilab, Chicago. And Dhritiman is pursuing Biomedical Science at Newcastle University.

The second child (son) Pranjal Bhattacharyya, who is an M.Tech from Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani (Rajasthan) and Assistant Executive Engineer in the Public Works Department (PWD), Guwahati, has been a resident of Guwahati with his post-graduate wife Rupjita Bhattacharyya (business person) and two children (Tanvi and Ritvik).

The youngest child (son) Prantar Bhattacharyya, who is an LL.B. is a Government Advocate, High Court, Guwahati, has been living at his parental house in Padumbari, Guwahati with his graduate wife Pallavi Chakravarty, (homemaker) and a primary school going child (Animesh). Figures 7, 8 and 9 depict pictures of his immediate and extended family members. However, Professor Bhattacharyya, who completed 87 years on 21 January 2023, passed away on 29 January 2023.



**Figure 7: Professor Bhattacharyya with his family (October 2013)**

**Source: Author**



**Figure 8: Professor Bhattacharyya, with his wife, Mrs Meera Bhattacharyya and his daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren (May 2007) in front of Buckingham Palace, London**  
Source: Author



**Figure 9: Professor Bhattacharyya with his extended family members, October 2013**  
Source: Author

**Condolence Messages**

Following his demise on 29 January 2023, condolence messages poured in from various

quarters—personal, organisations and institutions, some of which are displayed in Figures 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.



**NORTH-EAST INDIA GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**  
**Department of Geography**  
**GAUHATI UNIVERSITY**  
**Guwahati – 781014 (Assam, India)**

**From: Prof. Bimal K. Kar**  
 General Secretary  
 Email: [bimalkar@gauhati.ac.in](mailto:bimalkar@gauhati.ac.in)  
 Ph. 98640-39200

Date: 4/02/2023

**To: The Family Members**  
**of Late Prof. Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya**  
 Retd. Professor and Head, Department of Geography  
 Gauhati University, Guwahati (Assam)

**CONDOLENCE MESSAGE**

The members of the North-East India Geographical Society (NEIGS) in a Condolence meeting held Online on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 mourned the sad demise of Prof. Dr. Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya, retired Head of Department of Geography, Gauhati University and former President of NEIGS, who passed away on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at the age of around 87 at Jalukbari residence in Guwahati. Prof. Bhattacharyya had been well-known in the entire north-east region of India as an eminent geographer for his marked contribution in the field of geography during the last more than fifty years among the academia in general and geography fraternity in particular. His contributions in building the academic and professional career of many students of geography of Gauhati University particularly during 1963-1997 and after shall always be remembered. As one of the life members of the NEIGS and its President he worked whole-heartedly for carrying out the academic activities of the Society including spreading and popularization of the subject geography across the region. The NEIGS shall always remember his academic contributions towards promotion of geography education in the state of Assam through his teaching, research and writings.

The members of the NEIGS present in the meeting paid homage to this senior geographer of the region and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul by observing 1 minute's silence. The meeting also expressed profound grief to the members of the bereaved family.

May the departed soul rest in eternal peace!

**Prof. Abani K. Bhagabati**  
 President, NEIGS

**Prof. Bimal K. Kar**  
 General Secretary, NEIGS

*Gauhati University, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2023*

**Figure 10: Condolence Message from North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS)**

**Source: Author**



## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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Ref: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONDOLENCES

To the family members of Late Professor Dr. N. N. Bhattacharyya

(Through Professor Dr. D. Sahariah  
Head, Department of Geography  
Gauhati University, Guwahati- 781014)

We would like to express our condolences on the loss of Professor (Dr.) N. N. Bhattacharyya, renowned geographer, former head, Department of Geography, Gauhati University, Guwahati. He was meticulously associated with several professional societies in Assam, North-East India and rest of the Country. Today, on 30<sup>th</sup> of January, 2023, we, in the presence of all students from the undergraduate program and all the faculty members, sincerely mourned his contributions to the field of geography including biogeography.

May the departed soul rest in peace and let the almighty bless the bereaved family members with the strength to sail through this tough situation. Please accept our sincere sympathies.

Gratefully yours

All the students and faculty members  
Department of Geography  
Goalpara College, Goalpara  
Assam- 783101

**Figure 11: Condolence Message from the Department of Geography, Goalpara College**  
Source: Author

A tribute to my brother-in-law late Dr. N. N. Bhattacharyya Ph. D.

Somewhat timely yet unexpected exit of my brother-in-law from this mundane world jolted me out of twilight torpor. Initially ours was an eye-winking comradeship at the 'varsity. But before long this casual acquaintance metamorphosed into what can be called, a convivial companionship collating on commensalism through the good Samaritan services of my closest classmate late Banamali Kakoti of Howli, Barpeta. My friend late Banamali was in fact the prime go-between in the matrimonial alliance between our two houses. My younger sister late Mira was wedded to Naren Bhatta of Kaniha.

Scholastic profundity coupled with majestic pedagogy was the gravitational pull of late Dr. Narendra Nath Bhattacharyya. His knowledge was as deep as the Pacific and as extant as the Amazon. He was, so to speak, a veritable searchlight of wisdom as contradistinguished from many a flicker of a candle in most of us. Rigorously schooled in the school of Geographical Science, Dr. Bhattacharyya would endear all and sundry by his affable deportment in and outside the department.

On this sacred day of observation of sacrosanct obsequial rites, we convey our deep condolences to Nami, Baba, Maina and their families while praying for the eternal tranquillity of our dear departed.

To know thy exit and to feel it,  
When there is none to heal it,  
Nor numbed sense to steal it,  
Nor apt words to seal it,  
Was seldom said in rhymes!


Rajendra Nath Borthakur & family, Bengaluru

08/02/2023

**Figure 12: Tribute from Professor Bhattacharyya's brother-in-law, Rajendra Nath Barthakur and family**

**Source: Author**





**বড়িগোগ সাহিত্য সভা**  
 জিলা : কামৰূপ (অসম)  
 পিন : ৭৮১৩৮০

সভাপতি  
ফোন নং- \_\_\_\_\_

পঞ্জীয়ন ক্রমাংক : ৪২/৮৬-৮৭

সম্পাদক  
ফোন নং- \_\_\_\_\_

প্রসঙ্গ- প্রতি

দিনাংক ৬০/০২/২০২৩

ডঃ নৰেন্দ্ৰ নাথ ডোঁচৰ্জ্যৰ শোক সন্তুপ্ত  
 পৰিমাণ বৰ্ণ লৈ -  
শোক প্ৰস্তাৱ

ইং ৬০/০২/২০২৩ তাৰিখত সন্মানেৰে আবেলি ৩ বজাত  
 বড়িগোগ সাহিত্য সভাৰ কাৰ্যালয়ত দুই সন্মতি  
 দ্বানীয় শ্ৰীললিত চন্দ্ৰ চৌধুৰী দেৱৰ সন্মতিত  
 বড়িগোগ সাহিত্য সভাৰ এখন সঞ্চালন সভা অনুষ্ঠিত  
 হয়। উক্ত সভাত জ্বালুকবাৰী নিবাসী, বড়িগোগ সাহিত্য  
 সভাৰ প্ৰাক্তন সন্মতি, গুৱাহাটী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ  
 ভূগোল বিভাগৰ প্ৰাক্তন সন্মতি প্ৰাপ্ত সুৰী  
 অধ্যাপক, ডঃ নৰেন্দ্ৰ নাথ ডোঁচৰ্জ্যৰ স্মৃতিত পতীৰ  
 শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰা হয় লগতে স্মৃতিৰ আত্মাৰ  
 চিৰশান্তি কামনা কৰি এক মিনিট সন্মতি মৌন  
 প্ৰাৰ্থনা জনোৱা হয় আৰু শোক সন্তুপ্ত পৰিমাণ  
 বৰ্ণ লৈ সন্মতি প্ৰকাশ কৰি এক শোক প্ৰস্তাৱ  
 গ্ৰহণ কৰা হয়।

স্বাক্ষৰে  
 জয়ন্ত কুমাৰ শৰ্মা  
 পৰিচালক

২০২৩ বৰ্ষ  
 ৬০/০২/২০২৩

Figure: 13 Condolence Message from Borigog Sahitya Sabha  
Source: Author



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

Phone : 03621-270128(O)

# P.B. KANIHA HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

P.O. : Kaniha, Dist.: Kamrup (Assam)  
Pin-781320

From :-  
Ramen Choudhury, M.A, B.Ed.  
Principal  
Mob : 94351 02301 / 86384 78374

Ref :

Date : 30 03 2026

স্মৃতি

ড° নৰেন্দ্ৰ নাথ ডাঙাচৰ্য্যৰ শোক সন্তপ্ত  
পত্ৰিকা বৰ্ণন -  
শোক প্ৰস্তাৱ

ইং ৩০/০৩/২০২৬ তাৰিখ সোমবাৰে সন্ধ্যা ৬ বজাত  
শ্ৰী. শ্ৰী. কনিহা স্কুলৰ আৰ্হীভিত্তিক বিদ্যালয় প্ৰাঙ্গণত শিক্ষক/  
ছাত্ৰছাত্ৰীৰ উপস্থিতিত এখন জাৰীকৰণ সভা অনুষ্ঠিত  
হৈ যায়। সভাত বিদ্যালয়ৰ প্ৰাক্তন শিক্ষক তথা  
পুৰাতন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় জ্ঞান বিজ্ঞান বিভাগৰ ~~শিক্ষক~~  
অবসৰ প্ৰাপ্ত স্নাতক শ্ৰীমান ড° নৰেন্দ্ৰ নাথ  
ডাঙাচৰ্য্যৰ দেৱৰ স্মৃতিত সভাই সজীৱ শোক  
প্ৰকাশ কৰি ১ মিনিট স্তোন হৈ প্ৰাৰ্থনা জনায়  
সেৱা শোক সন্তপ্ত পত্ৰিকা বৰ্ণন জৰুৰে  
প্ৰকাশ কৰি এক প্ৰস্তাৱ গ্ৰহণ কৰা হয়।

৩০  
০৩  
২০২৬  
Principal  
P.B. Kaniha H.S. School  
P.O.: Kaniha

Figure 14: Condolence Message from PB Kaniha Higher Secondary School  
Source: Author

Professor Bhattacharyya had been a successful individual in his teaching and research career in geography at Gauhati University. Indeed, he was well known for his passion towards teaching and research in geography; and his sincerity and dedication towards his students . His

contributions to the growth and development of the discipline of geography in the North East India remain utterly significant. Moreover, the books he authored post his retirement from the Department of Geography have proved to be highly useful resources to many college and university students.

We look forward to the dissemination of his ideals and academic contributions for the generations to come. At the end, I offer my respectful homage to his departed noble soul.

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