

Press Note
on
S N Bhuyan Centenary Lecture on August 03, 2024

Late Suchendra Nath Bhuyan started his life's journey with humble beginnings. Born at remote Niznarikali village of Kampur area of Nagaon district on July 29, 1924, Bhuyan endured great hardship and several hurdles on his way. He lost his mother when he was only 2½ years of age. But by dint of his sheer grit, determination and merit, he could overcome such hurdles and hardship. He got a merit scholarship when he was in class VII and that helped him in pursuing his studies.

While a student at Nagaon, Suchen Bhuyan joined the freedom struggle and actively participated in the Quit India movement. Entire Nagaon district was then gripped by an unprecedented surge of patriotism. *Indians will decide India's future: Britishers must go. They must quit India.* That was the call. Young Suchen Bhuyan plunged into that movement. His exploits brought him under the police glare and there are innumerable tales of his escapades from the police dragnet.

Suchen Bhuyan moved on and after independence, he came to Guwahati. He joined the prestigious Cotton College and thereafter the Gauhati University, where he obtained his masters in History.

During this period Suchen Bhuyan became attracted towards the communist ideology and became deeply involved in the left movement. In the conference held on November 27, 1947 at Guwahati's Church Field, which is now known as Judges Field in front of the Chief Justice's residence, Suchen Bhuyan was elected as the General Secretary of *Assam Chatra Sanmilan*. However, the communist party came into conflict with the central government. As a result, the communist party was proscribed in the early 1950s; Bhuyan was arrested at Nagaon in 1951 and imprisoned for about 6 months.

After his release, Suchen Bhuyan resumed his studies as above. During this turbulent period, he met Smti. Subhadra Saikia who was also a firebrand left wing student activist. Later on, Suchen Bhuyan married Subhadra Saikia.

Both at Cotton College and in Gauhati University, Suchen Bhuyan was known for his oratory skills besides his academic brilliance, His fiery speeches became legendary. A gifted student leader, Suchen Bhuyan became the first General Secretary of the Post Graduate Students Union of Gauhati University, Because of his organizational abilities, leadership qualities and wide acceptability, he could successfully organize the first inter-college youth festival of Gauhati University which attracted youth participants from even distant Manipur which was then under the jurisdiction of the Gauhati University.

Impressed by his hard work, dedication and oratorical skills, Bhuyan's teachers, particularly, Dr. Surya Kumar Bhuyan and Dr. Birinchi Kumar Baruah advised him to study law. Following the advise of such great men, Suchen Bhuyan joined the then Earle Law College which later on became the Government Law College. He passed the LLB examination in the year 1957. During 1957-58 he trained as an Article Clerk under the renowned lawyer Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed who went on to become the President of India. After he passed the chamber examination, he got himself enrolled as an Advocate under the Bar Council of Assam on August 18, 1958. Since then there was no looking back for Suchendra Nath Bhuyan.

As a lawyer Suchendra Nath Bhuyan rose to great heights and became an eminent counsel. By dint of his hard work and dedication, he built up an extensive practice practically covering all branches of law. A bold and courageous lawyer, Suchendra Nath Bhuyan was at the same time extremely courteous and respectful towards the Bench.

In recognition of his standing at the Bar, Suchendra Nath Bhuyan was designated as Senior Advocate by the Gauhati High Court on September 08, 1978. He was appointed as Advocate General for the State of Assam on two occasions, firstly during 1983-1986 and then again during 1993-1996. He also became the Chairman of the State Bar Council.

Contribution of Suchendra Nath Bhuyan to the growth of the legal profession is immense. The numerous law reports are a testimony to the contribution of Bhuyan to the development of law in this part of the country. A strict but an affectionate senior, he was also instrumental in guiding many young lawyers to establish themselves. He was a legal luminary in the true sense of the term.

On achieving the rare distinction of completing 50 years of practice as a lawyer, Suchendra Nath Bhuyan was felicitated by both the Gauhati High Court Bar Association and by the Lawyers Association, Guwahati with which he was associated till his death.

Suchendra Nath Bhuyan was a humanist to the core. He relentlessly worked for the welfare of the downtrodden and the underprivileged people. A philanthropist, he emerged as a generous donor and helped in building several institutions, both in his native place Kampur in Nagaon district and also at Guwahati.

Committed to national unity and integrity, Suchendra Nath Bhuyan was an embodiment of peace and communal harmony. During those turbulent days, be it the language movement or the anti-foreigners movement, Suchendra Nath Bhuyan stood up fearlessly for the victims of senseless violence and the right to free speech.

Throughout his journey, Suchendra Nath Bhuyan was accompanied by his wife Subhadra Bhuyan who stood by him like a rock through thick and thin. When they started their conjugal life, they faced tremendous odds. They lost their first child when he was hardly one year old as they could not possibly afford better treatment. However, such personal tragedies could not hold them back for long. Together they crossed one milestone after another. Indeed, theirs is a success story worth emulating.

Suchendra Nath Bhuyan died on February 13, 2014. He was 89 years of age.

A revolutionary in his younger days, Bhuyan became an epitome of affable nature, innate goodness and compassionate warmth as he matured in the legal profession.

Though Suchendra Nath Bhuyan is no more, he has left behind an indelible imprint and his life story would remain an inspiration for generations to come.

Suchendra Nath Bhuyan's birth centenary falls on July 29, 2024. To commemorate this event, S.N. Bhuyan Centenary Lecture is being organized by the S.N. Bhuyan Memorial Foundation on Saturday, August 03, 2024 at 4:30 PM in the Srimanta Sankardev International Auditorium, Kalakshetra, Panjabari, Guwahati. Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, Senior Judge

of the Supreme Court of India will deliver the lecture on the topic, *75 years of the Constitution of India: Dr. Ambedkar's vision and social justice*.

A large number of judges, lawyers and distinguished citizens are expected to attend the lecture.

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