

Renowned Social Activist Dr. Birubala Rabha Passes Away: A Beacon of Change



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KOKRAJHAR: The social landscape of Assam mourns the loss of one of its most prominent crusaders for social justice and women's empowerment, Padmashri (Dr) Birubala Rabha, who breathed her last today morning at a hospital in Guwahati. Dr. Rabha, who had been undergoing treatment at the State Cancer Institute, Guwahati for the past few months, succumbed to her illness, leaving behind a legacy of relentless activism and reform.

Dr. Birubala Rabha was a pioneer in the fight against witch-hunting, a deeply entrenched social evil in Assam. Her tireless efforts were instrumental in the Assam government passing the Prevention of and Protection from Witch Hunting Act in 2015, a landmark legislation aimed at eradicating this barbaric practice.

Recognizing her unwavering dedication to social causes, Dr. Rabha was honored with the prestigious Padmashri for Social Work in 2021. Her commitment to humanitarian endeavors was further acknowledged when she received the 12th Upendranath Brahma Soldier of Humanity Award in 2014 and the Sati Sadhani Award in 2017.

Dr. Rabha's impact extended far beyond the borders of Assam. In 2008, she was felicitated by Reliance Industries Limited in Mumbai as part of their Real Heroes initiative, which celebrates ordinary individuals who perform extraordinary acts of service. Her name also found a place among the 1,000 women peace project in Switzerland, a testament to her global influence in advocating for peace and justice.

Condolences have poured in from all quarters following the news of Dr. Rabha's passing. Leaders of various social organizations, student unions, and eminent personalities across Assam have expressed their grief and paid tribute to her indomitable spirit. Chief Executive Member of Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), Pramod Boro, conveyed his deep condolences, highlighting Dr. Rabha's profound impact on society.

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the demise of eminent social activist Padmashri Birubala Rabha baideo. Her lifelong crusade for women empowerment, social justice & upliftment of the underprivileged has left an enduring mark on our society. She will forever remain a shining beacon of inspiration for us," said Pramod Boro, expressing his condolences.

Leaders including Assam cabinet minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma, Rajya Sabha MP Rwngrwa Narzary, and Bodo Sahitya Sabha president Dr. Surath Narzary, among others, have extended their heartfelt condolences to Dr. Rabha's family. Their messages of solidarity and support echo the sentiments of a grateful community, mourning the loss of a true champion of social reform.

As Assam bids farewell to Dr. Birubala Rabha, her legacy of compassion, courage, and unwavering commitment to justice will continue to inspire generations to come. Though she may have left this world, her spirit lives on in the countless lives she touched and the profound change she brought about.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

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