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Assam ex-CM dies of COVID complications

Cong. veteran led State for 3 terms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Three-time former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi passed away due to multiple organ failure at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) in Guwahati on Monday. He was 84.

The Congress veteran was suffering from post-COVID complications. His wife Dolly Gogoi, son and MP Gaurav Gogoi, daughter Chandrima Gogoi, who lives in the U.S., and other relatives were by his side when he breathed his last.

Mr. Gogoi had been in and out of the hospital, often in intensive care, since he tested positive for COVID-19 on August 25.

Tamed insurgency

In his political career spanning more than 50 years, he represented the Congress as an MP from Assam six times and led the party to a record three straight electoral victories. He was Chief Minister from 2001 to 2016 and is credited with having tamed insurgency that rav-

aged the State.

Born in 1934 in Jorhat district, Mr. Gogoi did his graduation from the J.B. College in Jorhat and LL.B. from the Gauhati University. His father was a medical practitioner at the Rangajan Tea Estate in Jorhat.

He was first elected to Parliament in 1971 from Jorhat. In 1976, he was elected the joint secretary of the All India Congress Committee. Later, he served as the party's general secretary from 1985 to 1990. He became a Minister in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in 1991.

Mr. Gogoi also served as the president of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (1986-90) and was an MLA for four terms. He first represented the Margherita seat in the Assembly. Since 2001, he had represented Titabor.

In his tribute, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, "We have lost a great leader whose contribution to the development of Assam cannot be ignored."