



DR. ZOII NATH SARMAH

FORMER REVENUE MINISTER OF ASSAM

PERSONAL DETAILS

Place of Birth: Dariapara, Rangamati, Darang, Assam

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EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- **Ph.D. in Management (HRD)**, Gauhati University (GU)
- **MBA (Finance and Human Resource Management)**, Gauhati University (GU)
- **M.Com (Accountancy)**, Gauhati University (GU)
- **LL.B. (Topper)**, Gauhati University (GU), 1983

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Z.N. Sarmah is a prominent personality and public figure in Assam, known for his strong social base. He was inspired by his father, Late Shri Padma Nath Sarmah, a freedom fighter and active young volunteer in India's Independence Movement.

Dr. Sarmah actively engaged in political and public welfare activities, commencing his journey as a student leader in 1970. He played a pivotal role in initiating the **Assam Movement** from Mangaldai, specifically addressing the issue of Bangladeshi immigrants.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Dr. Sarmah hails from a middle-class family with a background rooted in the Sangh Parivar. His father, Late Padma Nath Sarmah, an active Svayanasevak and also he join in Jana Sanghs led by Shyama Prasad Mukhrjee in the year 1952. Late Mr. Sarmah was a Freedom Fighter. He participated in Independence Movement actively and was a front line volunteer in Quit India Movement at 1942. Father of Dr. Zoii Nath Sarmah remains a constant source of inspiration for Dr. Sarmah's pursuit of excellence in both academia and public life, always prioritizing the welfare of the state's people. Dr. Sarmah himself serves as a role model for young and aspiring youth in his home constituency of Sipajhar and other parts of Assam.

POLITICAL CAREER

Dr. Sarmah's political career saw him elected to the **Assam Legislative Assembly** from the Sipajhar constituency. He represented this constituency for an uninterrupted period of **20 years**, until 2006. He is a highly popular political leader in Assam, enjoying significant support, cooperation, and confidence from diverse segments of society, transcending caste, community, and religious boundaries.

POLITICAL AFFILIATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- **Co-founder** of the **Asom Gana Parishad (AGP)**, a regional political party that is currently a partner in the NDA Government.
- **Vice President** of AGP since its inception.
- Elected to the Assam Assembly for the first time in **1985** from Sipajhar LAC. He continuously retained the Sipajhar LAC seat as an AGP candidate for **four consecutive terms** until 2006 (1985-90, 1991-96, 1996-2001).

POSITIONS HELD IN GOVERNMENT

1. Apart from serving as the **Chief Whip of the AGP Legislative Party** (1985-1987), he held **Cabinet Minister** positions for two terms in the Prafulla Mahanta Ministry.

First Term Portfolio:

- Irrigation
- Assam Accord
- Parliamentary Affairs
- Public Grievances
- Revenue

Second Term Portfolio:

- Revenue
- Rehabilitation
- Parliamentary Affairs

2. He also served as the **Spokesperson for the Government of Assam**.
3. While in opposition, he was a **Member of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** for three terms.

PARTICIPATION IN STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Dr. Zoiinath Sarmah was a prominent student leader from his school days through his university years:

- **General Secretary**, Students Union, Mangaldai Government Higher Secondary School (1971-73)
- **General Secretary**, Mangaldai College (1974-75)
- **President**, Mangaldai Sub-division Students' Union (1975-76)
- **President**, Darrang District Students' Union for three consecutive terms (1976-77, 1977-78, and 1978-79)
- **Central Executive Member**, All Assam Students' Union (AASU) (1975-85)
- **Chief**, All Assam Students' Union (AASU) Volunteer Force

ROLE IN THE ASSAM MOVEMENT

Dr. Sarmah was a torchbearer of the **Assam Movement**. At his initiative, the **Foreigners Movement** began in Mangaldoi in the Darrang District and subsequently spread across the entire state of Assam. The issue of foreigners was taken up by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) due to his bold initiatives.

During the Assam Movement, he was arrested **21 times**, including under the National Security Act (NSA), and was held in preventive detention for over **12 months**. He was a prominent spokesperson for the Assam Movement and led it as the Chief of the AASU Volunteer Force (*Sassasevak Bahini*).

Opposing groups, including the Congress Party, Left Front, and the All Assam Minority Students Union (AAM-SU), widely publicized in national newspapers and magazines (including India Today) that Dr. Sarmah was a representative of the RSS within AASU.

● PRESENT INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

Dr. Sarmah is also an accomplished academician and institution builder. He has established a group of educational institutions in Assam:

- **NERIM (North Eastern Regional Institute of Management)**, a premier B-School in the North East Region, affiliated with Dibrugarh University.
- **NERIM Law College** for 5-year B.A.LL.B.(H) and LL.M., affiliated with Dibrugarh University.
- **NERIM College of Computer Science**, affiliated with Dibrugarh University.
- **NERIM Commerce College**, affiliated with Gauhati University.
- **NERIM College of Social Work**, affiliated with Dibrugarh University.
- **Dr. Anita Baruah Sarmah College of Education**, affiliated with Gauhati University.
- **Sipajhar B.Ed College**, affiliated with Gauhati University.
- **Mangaldai Maharishi Vidyalaya**, a senior Secondary School, affiliated with CBSE.
- **Mangaldai District Computer Centre**.

● CONCLUSION: DR. ZOII NATH SARMAH'S ENDURING LEGACY

As of today, Dr. Zoii Nath Sarmah remains a frontline and prominent leader within the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and one of its most senior spokespersons. Beyond his political acumen, Dr. Sarmah is recognized as a dedicated party organizer, an active public leader, and an influential social reformer. He is widely known for his significant role and contributions to anti-alcoholism initiatives across the state. Furthermore, his deep-rooted public relations extend to students, farmers, and rural women, particularly in his efforts towards their empowerment and self-reliance.

Within his constituency of Sipajhar, Dr. Sarmah is best known for a remarkable achievement: facilitating the direct appointment of over 32,000 rural youths during his tenure as a Cabinet Minister. This initiative significantly impacted the lives of many and solidified his connection with the grassroots.

His continued public presence is marked by frequent participation as a prominent debater on almost all major regional TV channels, where he engages in panel discussions covering a wide array of social, economic, political, and academic issues. This consistent engagement further underscores his influence and relevance in public discourse.

In summary, Dr. Zoii Nath Sarmah's career is characterized by a multifaceted dedication to public service, encompassing political leadership, social reform, educational development, and a steadfast commitment to the well-being of the people of Assam. His enduring contributions solidify his position as a respected and influential figure in the state's public life.