Dibrugarh has earned the encomium of the first town in the North East to have a first English Newspaper, the first branch of a national bank, the first medical school & hospital, the first tea garden, the first oil well, the first coal field. Shri R G Barooah is responsible for the first journal and the Bank.

I have great pleasure to be here at this Installation ceremony of the Statue of Late Shri Radha Govinda Barooah who is rightly called the Architect of modern Assam.

Shri R G Barooah is one among the pioneers of the cultural renaissance of Assam in the fields of higher education, art, culture, language, literature, drama, music, sports, journalism, economics and politics. In the late 19th and early 20th century scholars like Anundaram Barooah, Banikanta Kakati, Krishna Kanta Handique, historians like Kanaklal Barua, Surjya Kanta Bhuyan, writers like Laxmi Nath
Bezbaruah, Chandra Kant Agarwala, Poets like Kamla Kanta Bhattacharya, Ambika Choudhury, Artists like Jyoti Prasad Agarwala and Bishnu Prasad Rabha, Statesmen like Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi appeared in the State's horizon to make Assam a vigorous part of our great Nation. However, one man who enriched Assam by his all-round and brilliant activities was Shri R G Barooah.

Assam at that time was in need of a person who could conceive and create organizations to support these literal, cultural and commercial activities and that person was Shri R G Baruah. A pioneer in journalism, he established the Assam Tribune, the first English Daily of Assam which, even now, is a popular and respected journal carrying out his vision of free and fearless journalism and rendering true service to the people of Assam and thereby earning a place of honour among the newspapers of India.

The history of the Assam Tribune Group of Newspaper shows how in the face of adverse circumstances it could thrive and prosper because of the able and determined guidance and leadership of late R G Barooah. In my earlier career, I was the Managing Editor of two Daily newspapers - one in Oriya and the other in English for one and a half decade and I knew as to how to manage a newspaper against adverse circumstances.

Now coming to Shri R G Barooah's multifarious activities, Shri Barooah gave the traditional Bihu its modern shape and organised a regular annual festival at Guwahati. He organised the All Assam Music Conference every year to patronize the classical Assamese music along with the Satriya music and dance system.

Radha Govinda Barooah gave the North East its first biggest sports complex in the shape of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium of Guwahati. He gave a lot of emphasis on sports. In the economic field he was the guiding force to bring a branch of the imperial bank (now State Bank of India) to Assam which was first set up at Dibrugarh. He was again instrumental in setting up the first Flying Club in 1958 and the Assam Rifles Club. He played a vital role in opening the first Tea Auction Centre at Guwahati and made Assam's Tea popular all over the country. He is rightly called, therefore, the builder of modern Assam. His life story would continue to inspire generation after generation of people of Assam.

I hereby pay my homage to this great soul Shri Radha Govinda Barooah whose memory would remain enshrined in letters of gold in the history of Assam.

With these few words, I declare this statue open. ★