



[Prabir Kumar Sengupta 1930 - 2024]

We are deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of Mr. Prabir Kumar Sengupta (BE Electrical. 1952) on 18th April 2024.

Mr. Sengupta was a multitalented man, a brilliant student, gifted musician and a family patriarch who leaves behind 3 children, 5 grandchildren and a great grandchild in India and the USA.

He was born in undivided Bengal to an accomplished and literary family from Bikrampur and spent his childhood years in Mymensingh and Pabna. He started to play the sitar at the age of 7 under the tutelage of Shri Jyotish Choudhry (disciple and student of Vilayat Khan). He continued playing, as a gifted amateur into his 90s, delighting audiences both small and large in India as well as abroad. Later in his career he once averted a union strike by using his sitar playing to bond with union leaders over their common love of music.

At an early age he was selected to be fast-tracked academically and stood 3rd in school-leaving matriculation exams in all of undivided Bengal.

After graduating in Electrical Engineering from Shibpur B E College, he joined Heavy Electricals Ltd. (now BHEL) and could rightfully claim to be one of the founding engineers who built BHEL into a self-sufficient indigenous asset. He was the first batch of engineers to be sent to the UK to acquire know-how to set and start the operations of HEL. He trained subsequent generations of engineers in the 60s and 70s. He was posted at Bhopal, Jhansi and Farakka, and finally retired after 3 decades of service as a General Manager.

After his retirement, he took on several consulting projects to impart his expertise to other entities. Over 8 decades he practiced the sitar every day, playing in the "gayaki" style of Vilayat Khan gharana. He took great pride in his children, grandchildren and great grandchild, and his marriage of 70 years to Indrani (nee Gupta). He had a unique ability to connect to people of all ages and backgrounds, and his loss is keenly felt by all whose lives he touched.

He was a proud engineer and musician and leaves a void in the hearts of those he left behind, who console themselves by reflecting on a life well lived with many contributions.

From his family: Sharmistha Dasgupta, Rita Gupta, Anindya Sengupta

Reported by Biplab Mukhopadhyay [BE EE 1967]