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Press Release

**Two-day Birth Centenary National Seminar on Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya
We can understand the broader society of India by reading Bhattacharyya – Madhav Kaushik
Made Assamese literature equivalent to Indian literature – Diganta Biswa Sarma
No struggle of the Assamese society was lost from his sight – Pradip Jyoti Mahanta**

New Delhi. 19 November 2024: On the occasion of the Birth Centenary of eminent Assamese writer and former President of Sahitya Akademi, Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, Sahitya Akademi is organising a two-day seminar on 19-20 November 2024 in Delhi. The inaugural session of the seminar was presided over by Dr. Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi and Ms. Juri Bhattacharyya, daughter of Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya was present as a special guest in the programme. The Key-note address was given by Prof. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta and Sri Digant Vishwa Sharma, Convener of Assamese Advisory Board, introduced the subject of the seminar to the participants. The concluding remarks were presented by Prof. Kumud Sharma, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and felicitated them with the Akademi publications. In his welcome address, he said that Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya was a prominent writer of modern India who influenced many generations of Assam. He created a whole new generation of writers in Assam with his magazine *Ramdheni* and changed the literary landscape of Assam completely. While being the Vice-President and President of Sahitya Akademi, he started a number of new schemes in the Akademi. In his presidential address, Dr. Madhav Kaushik said that Sri Bhattacharyya was an excellent creator not only of Assam but the Indian literature. Considering his creative diversity, he can be given the title of complete litterateur without any hesitation. He further said that Sri Bhattacharyya should also be given the credit for bringing the literature of the North-East to the national scenario. He has influenced not only Assamese literature but also the literature of other languages of the North-East. In his introductory remarks, Sri Diganta Biswa Sarma said that Sri Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya was the creator of modern Assamese literature. He remained inspirational to new writers, which is beneficial for the entire Assamese literature. Ms Juri Bhattacharyya said that her father took active part in the freedom movement, due to which his writings have a lively depiction of the problems of the common people. His novel *Iyaruigam* written on the problems of Naga people is a strong example of this. In his Key-note address Sri Pradeep Jyoti Mahanta said that he was always associated with local social issues and brought his entire society from darkness to light through literature. His literary canvas is so large that no struggle of the society is left out of it. His entire writing is a journey for the welfare of his society and his land. Prof. Kumud Sharma in her concluding remarks said that Sri Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya was deeply influenced by Gandhi. That is why he understood the political/social/economic situation of Assam very closely and had a good understanding of the circumstances. After analysing it carefully, he reached the readers through his writings. Along with unity among Indian languages, he also instilled the consciousness of building a new India.

Today's first session focused on the Enduring Legacy of Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, which was chaired by Sri Vishwas Patil and Sri Kuladhar Saikia, highlighted 'The Legacy of Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya' and Dr. Ratnottama Das highlighted 'Bhattacharyya's Impact on Contemporary Assamese and Indian Literature'. The second session was focussed on the cultural and social impact of Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, chaired by Prof. Karabi Deka Hazarika and Ms Binita Bora Dev Choudhury, Ms Malaya Khaund and Sri Mayur Bora presented their papers.


(K. Sreenivasarao)