

Birth centenary seminar on Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 15: Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution, is organizing a two-day 'Birth Centenary National Seminar' on distinguished Assamese writer and former Sahitya Akademi president Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya at the Sahitya Akademi Conference Hall in New Delhi on November 19 and 20.

Distinguished writers, including the president and vice president of the Sahitya Akademi, Kuladhar Saikia, Malaya Khaund, Karabi Deka Hazarika, Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Manoj Goswami, Ratnottama Das, Diganta Biswa Sarma and Vishwas Patil, among others, will take part.

Topics such as 'The Enduring Legacy of Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya', 'Bhattacharyya's Cultural and Social Impact', and 'Dr Bhattacharyya: Shaping Media and Literary Frontiers' will be discussed.

Birth centenary ...

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Bhattacharyya (1924-1997) was a renowned poet, playwright, translator, editor and literary organizer, who was the first and the only president of the Sahitya Akademi from the Northeast. He was one of the pioneers of modern Assamese literature and

the first ever Assamese writer to receive the Jnanpith Award in 1979 for his novel *Mrityunjay*.

Bhattacharyya earned the respect of the entire Assamese modern literary sphere for playing a very crucial torch-bearer's role in discovering, nurturing and promot-

ing young literary talents in Assam from the 1960s as the editor of the historic Assamese literary journal *Ramdhenu*. He served as the president of the Asam Sahitya Sabha during 1983-1985 and was the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel *Iyaruvingam*.