

Dr Bhattacharya inspired generations of writers

Seminar commemorates the birth centenary of Dr Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya in Delhi

A CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Nov 19: Dr Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya was one of the finest scholars of modern India and easily the most influential writer to the extent that he inspired and impacted generations of writers and poets of Assam, said Dr K Sreenivasarao, secretary, Sahitya Akademi here on Tuesday.

"Dr Bhattacharya silently and singlehandedly transformed the 20th-century Assamese literature landscape," Dr Sreenivasarao said in his inaugural address at the two-day-long seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of Dr Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya.

Dr Sreenivasarao said that Dr Bhattacharya shaped and redefined Assamese literary talents and the real highlight of his career was the way he encouraged and nourished talented men and women to become master storytellers.

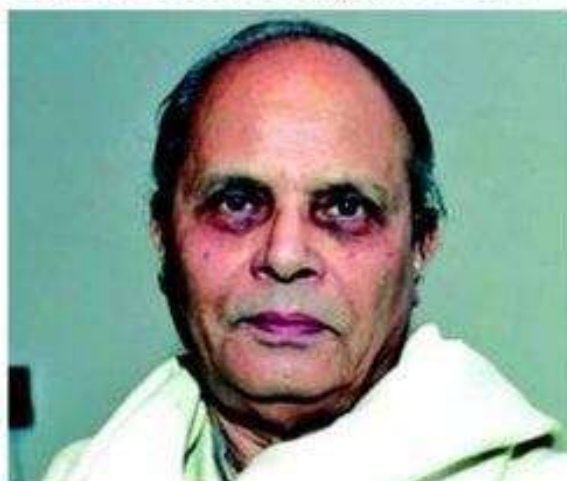
"He introduced new trends in poetry and prose and made literary creations hugely popular among the youth of Assam and he sprung forth, as it were, a new generation of storytellers and poets, who went on to radically change how the stories are told and consumed," Dr Sreenivasarao.

Referring to some of the works of Dr Bhattacharya, the Sahitya Akademi secretary

said that *Mrityunjaya* showcased to the entire world the impact of the Indian independence movement and the contribution of the Northeastern region to the movement through the story of a few young men and their attempts to throw away the shackles of British imperialism.

"Two collections of short stories, *Satshari* and *Kalang Ajio Bay* established him as an efficient portrayer of fleeting as well as enduring passions and emotions of the people belonging to lower middle-class society and exploited peasants and workers," he said.

» SEE PAGE 2



Dr Bhattacharya ...

(Contd from page 1)

“Dr Bhattacharya espoused an egalitarian society. His literary personality exuded humanism, humanitarianism and egalitarianism,” said Dr Sreenivasarao.

Several eminent personalities, writers, and academia were present on day one of the seminar. Eminent scholars participating in the seminar also presented papers on various aspects of Dr Bhattacharya’s works in detail.

Former Asam Sahitya Sabha president Kuladhar Saikia said that the legacy of Dr Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya is far beyond his lifetime.

“Every poem, story and novel he has written, there was a touch of humanity. It was the core value of his writings,” said Saikia who also presented a paper on “Legacy of Dr Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya: A Tribute to a Literary Legend.”

President of Sahitya Akademi Dr Madhav Kaushik, vice president Prof Kumud Sharma, eminent scholars and writers including Prof Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, Diganta Biswa Sarma, among others were present in the seminar.