

## Birth anniversary tribute to Sahityarathi Bezbaroa



(Left) Sabha President Dr Kuladhar Saikia being greeted by the organisers and (right) Tilak Chandra Mazumdar receiving the award.

Rich tribute was paid to Sahityarathi Laksminath Bezbaroa on the occasion of his birth anniversary at Kamaladevi Todi Bhawan in Nagaon on October 14, 2021, in the premises of Sabha's Nagaon Regional Office. The programme, presided over by Sabha president Dr Kuladhar Saikia, was inaugurated by Dr Sarat Borkotoky, principal, Nagaon College. Noted academician Dr Manju Laskar attended the function as appointed speaker.

After general secretary Jadab Chandra Sharma welcome address, Dr Kuladhar Saikia, in his opening speech highlighted the salient features of the literary genius Bezbaroa and his illustrious personality. "Although Bezbaroa spent most of the time of his life outside Assam, his soul was always closely attached to his motherland. He was indeed an incomparable apostle of modern Assamese literature and we may call the present era of Assamese literature as an era of Bezbaroa," said Dr Saikia. Expressing deep regret for non-recognition of 2000-year-old Assamese script in the Unicod., Dr Saikia said that its time to change the approach for development of language and literature. "Now its the age of science and technology and we have to adopt to new means to initiate such development. All the outputs of Assamese literature must be digitalised for proper conservation and circulation," he pointed out.

The meeting was conducted by Nagaon regional secretary Mrinal Hazarika and Nagon Zila Sahitya Sabha secretary Rebat Kumar Hazarika. It may be mentioned here that the function saw a batch of eminent persons were presented with various awards and honours which were announced during the year 2018-20. These include: Dr Naren Kalita who was presented the title 'Prajnabhushan' and Tilak Chandra Mazumdar who was presented the Dr Miles Bronson Award initiated by North America Sahitya Sabha. Both the awards carried citation, *gamosa*, *cheleng*, packet of books and cash purse, and the awards were handed over by president Dr Saikia, general secretary Jadab Chandra Sharma and Nagon Zila Sahitya Sabha president Paran Kumar Barua.

Moreover, a few other awards were also presented at the function and these were: Best Organiser Award to Kamrup Zila Sahitya Sabha president Nripendra Kumar Bhagawati and talented journalist Diganta Kumar Bhuyan, Best Sakha Award to Surjyawati Sakha Sahitya Sabha (Raha) and Sipajhar Sakha Sahitya Sabha. Nandita Mahanta and Chandana Bezbarua earned appreciation for their rendition of songs. Three district presidents, such as, Paran Kumar Barua (Nagaon), Pratap Hazarika (Marigaon) and Dr Samsul Haque, and 'Akash' sub-committee convenor Swapna Kailia were others who attended the function.