

Noted statesman, writer, poet Hem Barua edited 'Posowa' collection released
'Posowa' was a trend-setter & Hem Barua still a symbol of swabhiman of greater Assamese nationality: Pradip Barua



Sabha president Dr. Saikia, chief guest Pradip Baruah and others releasing 'Pasowa'. The editor of the collection Dr. Paramananda Majumdar is seen on extreme left.

“What Zubin Garg is for Assam’s new generation today, i.e., ‘heart-throb’, it was Hem Barua for us during 50s and 60s of the last century. What not he was? An immaculately wise, well-read, widely-tavelled man and a sensitive modern poet, mesmerising travelogue-writer, and most importantly a parliamentarian with tremendous sense of responsibilities during the very beginning phase of the post-independence India, Hem Barua was indeed a role model for the then college and university students like us,” said Pradip Barua, the editor of Dr Bhabendra Nath Saikia-founded Assamese monthly journal ‘Prantik’ while releasing the collection of ten issues of ‘Posowa’ at a solemn function held at the Radhagovinda Barua Hall in the Sabha’s Guwahati office premises on last December 19, 2021. It may be mentioned here that the Assamese monthly journal ‘Posowa’ was published and edited by Hem Barua in 1948 and the Sabha has recently published the collection of its ten issues. The meeting chaired by the Sabha president Dr Kuladhar Saikia, was attended by Dr Paramananda Majumdar, noted scholar and critic of literature who happens to be the compiler-editor of the ‘Posowa’ collection. In his speech as the chief guest of the function, Pradip Barua recalled how Hem Barua had arranged an intimate session between the then Prime Minister of India and the general secretary of Cotton College regarding the Guwahati Refinery. The meeting finally resulted into the Central Government’s positive nod for establishing Guwahati Refinery in 1962, said Pradip Barua.

The meeting was anchored by Devajit Bora, the convenor of the Sabha’s publication sub-committee, and besides delivering welcome address he felicitated both Pradip Barua and Dr Majumdar. The North America Sahitya Sabha former general secretary and presently the coordinator Jonali ... Pangging, who was also present on the occasion to accord the Sabha president Dr Saikia with the honour of their lifelong membership and a plaque of felicitation, was also felicitated with *gamosa*. Dr Paramananda Majumdar, in his speech, spoke in brief about the significance of ‘Posowa’ in promoting a batch of then young, talented writer who later on proved to be giants in Assamese literature. He also gave a brief account of bringing out the collection by the Sabha of which he was involved with right from the beginning.

Three other items presented at the function deserve special mention and these were an articulate and illuminating speech on the travelogues in Assamese literature by Hrishikesh Barua, the editor of ‘The Cottonian’ of Cotton University, tremendously impressive reading out of a portion of Hem Barua’s astonishing travelogue ‘Saagor Dekhisaa’ by Ananya Saikia of Handique Girls’ College, and, the last but not the least, actress Aaisengpha Barua’s mind-blowing recitation of Hem Barua’s immortal poem ‘*Momotaar Chithi*’. This series of the programme was anchored quite impressively by the talented Cotton University student Tridip Bhagawati.