

## **Dr. B. K. Barua College Award, 2016**

### **Dr. B.K.B. College, Puranigudam**

Dr. Birinchi Kumar Barua College Award instituted in 2016 has been a part of our institutional best practice and the highest academic honour offered by the college. Though it was intended to be a continuous annual practice a decision was adopted in 2018 with procedural amendment to make the conferring of the award a biennial activity together with the biennial Dr. B. K. Barua memorial lecture. The rationale behind this award giving practice is to shoulder a social responsibility towards promotion of creative inspiration for those working in the field of socio-cultural and historical studies, inculcation of values through fine arts and folk culture.. Initially the central focus of the award was on the unsung heroes, authors and artists who have not been recognized by the academics in an attempt to evaluate and honour their contributions. A good number of such unrecognized creative minds have been engaged in such literary cultural and historical practices that deserve attention. In the year 2021 the selection committee decided to shift the focus from the conventional areas to the issues of environmental crises and conservation of nature.

The College award merits its importance not for its content but for its keeping alive the memory of Dr. B. K. Barua and the objectives set for promotion of arts and craft far beyond the canon. The award carries a cash of 20,000, a citation, pieces of traditional attire and a collection of books.

### **The Recipient of the first Dr. B. K. Barua College award in 2016:**

Dr. Birinchi Kumar Barua College award was offered for the first time to Chao Lokeswar Gogoi, a renowned folklorist of Assam. Mr. Gogoi has dedicated almost his entire life time and energy to the collection, documentation, analysis of materials collected from diverse ethnic communities. He believes that without participation in the community life and visiting the fields no work on folklore can be authentically carried out. Hence, he tried to understand diverse cultural resources of the folk being a part of their community life rich in beliefs, rituals and material artifice. Thus, Mr. Gogoi to his credit has authored several volumes of the folk culture of Assam, all being based on his first hand data collected from the field. His comprehensive

volumes on folk culture of Assam are the monumental records of socio-cultural life of the Assamese people. His book on Architecture of the Ahom Period is another significant work.

