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Literary awards for Assamese and Bengali poets-

Guwahati: The first Padmanath Memorial and Ramanath Memorial literary awards 2010 would be presented to eminent Assamese poet Ajit Barua and noted Bengali poet Bijit Kumar Bhattacharya, respectively, on Sunday here.

The awards would be presented at a function where the Padmanath Vidyabinod Memorial Lecture would be delivered by prominent Assamese litterateur and Sahitya Akademi awardee Hare Krishna Deka.

The Ramnath Biswas Memorial Lecture would be delivered by distinguished Bengali Poet and academician of Kolkata Tarun Mukhopadhyay, the Foundation's spokesman Sukumar Bakchi told reporters here.

The awards given for the two poets' lifetime contribution towards Assamese and Bengali poetry, respectively, carries a cash prize of Rs 51,000 each and a citation, Bakchi said.

The awards instituted by the Ramanath Bhattacharya Foundation of Mumbai have the highest monetary consideration among the Bengali organisations giving literary prizes, he added.

Ajit Barua, a retired IAS officer, is also the recipient of the prestigious Sahitya Akademi, Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad, Assam Valley, Assam Sahitya Sabha, Ganesh Gogoi awards.

University teacher Bijit Kumar Bhattacharya, hailing from Hailakandi in Assam, is a prominent poet of the North Eastern India and has written several books on poetry and different issues highlighting the literary works of the region.

Padmanath Vidyabinod was a professor of the historical Cotton College in Guwahati and was instrumental in the establishment of the Assam Research Society besides being a founder member of the Assam Sahitya Sabha, Bakchi said.

Ramnath Biswas was actively associated with the freedom struggle and had globetrotted the world on a bicycle writing over 30 travelogues, he added.