Top 10 Assamese of 2007

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editor 1 January 2008 13574 views

Monthly magazine Jiban has selected top 10 persons of the year 2007 as below:

Indira PP Bora whose tireless efforts have brought sattriya dance to the international stage. In 2007, she toured UK and conducted demonstrations, lectures, workshops in leading universities, museums and prime dance locations. In the same year, she also marked her golden jubilee year of dancing career. She has been an icon in establishing sattriya as career option and developing awareness among the new generation.

Umananda Duwarah of Moran, a curator of cultural heritage. His own museum has over 1,700 gramophone records that include the original voices of Jyotiprasad, Bishnu Rabha and Phani Sarma, besides the original record of the first Assamese recorded song of 1942.

Kanak Gogoi, a self-made engineer-innovator, who developed a device to produce electricity in an innovative way using the speed breaking rumble strips on the roads as the generators. Earlier, he had innovated the aero boat, a two-seater three-wheeler car, power hang glider, water cycle and an amphibious boat.

Justice KN Saikia, whose investigation report on the secret killings of Asom raised sensation in 2007. Justice retired in 1991 as a Supreme Court Judge.

Deepshikha Choudhury , who has won the Nuclear Physics Award 2008 from the American Physical Society. Deepshika's Ph.D disseration developed a new theory to allow measurement of important properties of the neutron, a basic building block of matter. Daughter of Ajit Kumar Choudhhury of Dispur, Deepshika is currently working as a post doctoral Fellow at George Washington University.

Nandini Sarma , a high school student at Kansas, USA. Her research on natural food preservatives, cancer and pathobiology of Herpes Simplex virus infection brought her several awards and recognition. As the grand winner at the 2007 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, Massachusetts' s Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory Near-Earth Asteroid Research (LINEAR) programme in collaboration with US Science Service and with the approval of the International Astronomical Association has named a star (a minor planet/asteroid) in our solar system after her name. The minor planet named Nandinisarma (Number 23228, Name ref.60503, Prov. Des 2000 WQ57) was discovered on November 21, 2000 by MIT-LINEAR. The Yoth Science Foundation of Portugal invited Nandini to participate as a special student guest speaker at their 2007 International Youth Science Forum.

Bidyut Goswami, the Columbia University head coach of men's tennis. The university has announced the establishment of an endowment in his name. Co-Chair of the Columbia Campaign has remarked, "This is one step in ensuring his influence impacts future generations of Colombians." Now in his 27th year as head coach, Goswami has guided the Lions to six Ivy League Championships.

Bhogiram Barman, a youth shopkeeper of Beltola who helped a girl in need by sheltering her, giving his T-shirt and assisting her while all others were either participants or audiences to what turned out to be the most unfortunate incident of the year.

Machang Lalung, who died recently after he was freed from jail a couple of years back. He spent 54 years in jail without trail. Arrested in 1951, Machang came to the notice of the National Human Rights Commission in 2005. A short film on his life has also got international applause this year.

Ranjit Shekar Mooshahary, who has initiated a war against corruption at the public level. This first Bodo IPS officer is now the Chief Information Commissioner of Asom. Earlier, he was the Director General of Border Security Force, the first officer from the North-east who had been posted at the top position. He was also the head of National Security Guards. He has now shown firmness in implementing the Right to Information Act in the State.

editor
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