

Press Note

SURYYA KUMAR BHUYAN MEMORIAL LECTURE at IITG



The Suryya Kumar Bhuyan Endowment Chair on Assam History was instituted in the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences (IITG) in the year 2014 in a drive to encourage historical research on Assam. It is supported by a generous fund from Suryya Kumar Bhuyan Memorial Trust.

The first S.K.Bhuyan Memorial lecture was delivered by the eminent environmental historian Mahesh Rangarajan, Director of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library on the topic “Nature and Nation : History, Identity and Ecology” on 8<sup>th</sup> May’15 at IITG.

In this memorial lecture Dr. Rangarajan elaborated on how ideas of the nation had powerfully reshaped the modern world. Diverse groups unify to make a Nation and draws on this diversity to remake our notion of

and relationship with nature. He also said, “India is especially fascinating as it has long been a cross roads of ecologies and cultures across Asia and the Indian Ocean. We are today heirs to a long and complex history, with kings and folk singers, bards and poets laying claim in more ways than one to an animal, a tree, a river or mountain as icon in the past. In our own age, the idea of a national animal or state bird can be a powerful symbol to not only imagine a common shared past but to try influence the future.”

The lecture session was presided by Prof. Basu Chatterjee. Dr. Arupjyoti Saikia, as the Endowment Professor of the Chair said a few words about S.K. Bhuyan.