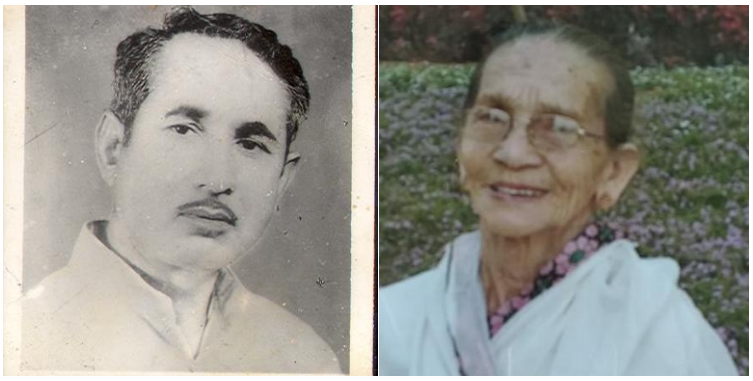
Award and scholarship in the Department of Sanskrit, Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University

1. DHRUBA NARAYAN AND MAKHANI GOSWAMI MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL TO MERITORIUS STUDENT
2. DHRUBA NARAYAN AND MAKHANI GOSWAMI SCHOLARSHIP TO ECONOMICALLY-WEAK MERITORIUS STUDENTS

This award and scholarship has been instituted in the name of the noted Sanskrit teacher, late Dhruba Narayan Goswami (1930-1995), and his socially active wife, late Makhani Goswami (1946-2021). A brief biography of this gracious couple is given below.



Dhruba Narayan Goswami Makhani Goswami

Dhruba Narayan Goswami was born in 1930 in an economically weak but culturally rich Brahmin family in Kathpara Satra, Jakhalabandha, Nagaon, Assam. Following his primary education at Nagaon, he moved along with his parents, late Kumud Chandra Goswami and late Daibaki Goswami to a small village, Magoni Hatibandha paam, near Gohpur, on the north bank of Brahmaputra, Assam, in search of livelihood and to preach their Satriya culture to the people from educationally backward areas. After schooling at Gohpur High School and then receiving a Vyakaransastri degree in 1955 from Sonitpur Prachya Vidyalay, Tezpur, Goswami (popularly known as Sastri) moved to Kashi Hindu Bishwavidyalaya to fulfill his desire for higher studies in Vedic Sanskrit. Unfortunately, in the final year of the program, Sastri was summoned back from home due to an unexpected incident that barred him from receiving a higher degree. However, his zeal for Sanskrit, a subject of immense knowledge about the society and universe, propelled him to devote the rest of his life in Sanskrit education back in his native place. After returning from Banaras, he started his teaching carrier in Besseria High School, near Tezpur, for a brief period. He then joined as a regular Sanskrit subject teacher at Narayanpur Higher secondary school in 1958. Sastri finally retired from his job in 1988. During the professional period, he also served as an honorary Adhyapak in different Sanskrit Tols in Sonitpur and Lakhimpur districts. Sastri served as an honorary Pradhan Adhyapak in Lakhsminarayan Chatuspathi Sanskrit Tol, Narayanpur. He supported many economically poor students financially and scholastically, helping them to secure academic degrees. Sastri was imbibed by the fact that Sanskrit is not only a mere sweet and flawless language but also a source of great philosophy to create good human beings in societies. He often recited the famous sloka:

सुजनो न याति विक्रतिं विनाशकालेपि ।
छेदेपि चंदनतरुः सुरभयति मुखं कुटारस्य ॥

(Meaning: Even at the time of death, good people will not think badly; Sandalwood, even when getting cut by an axe, will make the axe smell sweet).

Sastri was avidly associated with various societies such as Brahma Samaj and Vishwa Hindu Parishad. He offered his scholarly thoughts to eliminate many irrational orthodox and superstitious acts in communities. He was actively involved in uplifting the grass-root education by establishing new schools and improving the quality of existing schools in the educationally backward regions. One such example was his effort to establish the Krishnapur High school in his village. The state government later took over the school.

At a young age, Sastri also participated in India's freedom movement. He possessed a pleasant personality with a positive outlook on life. He lived a simple life with a neat dhuti-kurta as his typical attire. He was eminent for his art of talking, which could bring smiles, value, and inspiration to a person's life. He was also integrated into the cultural life of Assamese society, participated in Ankiya Nat Bhaona and dramas in the village clubhouse.

Dhruba Narayan Goswami started his married life in 1957 with Makhani Goswami, the only daughter of Late Nanda Nath Goswami, an eminent barrister of Assam. The married life was fulfilled with one son and two daughters who are now well established in their respective professions. Mrs. Goswami, who passed the Hindi Visharad exam, was also a highly popular, socially active lady, promoting Vedic culture among the people, as evident from her major financial contribution to establish the Veda Vidyalaya at Ghahigoan, Sonitpur Assam. She helped neighborhood women to be self-dependent by weaving and craftwork. She encouraged education for the poor students staying with her from remote areas to complete their education. Mrs. Goswami was a great supporter of her husband's social life, particularly in her contributions to schools, temples, and village development. This gracious couple was instilled by the philosophy:

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः। सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः। सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु। मा कश्चित् दुःख भाग्भवेत्॥
ॐ शान्तिः ! शान्तिः ! शान्तिः॥

This award and scholarship were introduced by their son, Professor Pranab Goswami, IIT Guwahati, Assam in loving memories of his philanthropist parents.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP

An endowment amount of Rs. 5,00,000.00 (Rupees five lakhs only) will be available for the following award and scholarship. The money will be deposited in a national bank in the form of fixed/term deposit. The interest of the deposited money will be utilized to meet the expenditure involved in providing the award and scholarship. For withdrawal and management of the fund, a trust will be constituted comprising the donor or his nominee and an authorized member from the university. The excess interests earned (after deducting the award amount) will be added to the endowment to be used to cover drop in interest rates, inflation and growth in future.

1. DHRUBA NARAYAN AND MAKHANI GOSWAMI MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL TO MERITORIUS STUDENT:

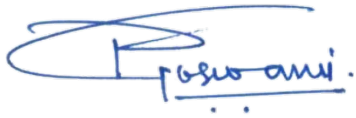
This award will be annually given to a student who successfully completes his/her master's degree in Sanskrit (among all combined branches) securing highest marks (more than 60%) among all the students in MA and integrated MA in Sanskrit. The student should have good moral character without any backlog (should not fail in any subject during the 2 years MA and 5 years integrated MA programmes). If there is a tie, the student with better past academic and moral character records will be considered to confer the award. The award consists of one gold medal and a cash price of Rs 10,000.00 (rupees ten thousand only) with a certificate in the university letterhead signed by the competent authority of the university.

However, the cash price and its amount will be decided by the trust depending on the availability of fund and other logical issues.

2. DHRUBA NARAYAN AND MAKHANI GOSWAMI SCHOLARSHIP TO ECONOMICALLY-WEAK MERITORIUS STUDENTS:

This scholarship will be annually awarded to a EWS (Economically weak section) category student of any caste and creed enrolled in first year MA in Sanskrit or fourth year in integrated MA in Sanskrit. The student must be academically bright as evident from his/her precedent academic records. The scholarship consists of Rs. 10,000.00 (Rupees ten thousand only) along with a certificate in the institute letterhead signed by the competent authority of the university.

A proposal submitted by Professor (HAG) Pranab Goswami, Qr. No. F-66, IIT Guwahati, Pin: 781039, Assam, India.



(Pranab Goswami)
Date: 06th May, 2022
Place: North Guwahati