

NCERT promises Sankaradeva for students



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Dr Buljit Buragohain 13 March 2013 6829 views

In a major development, NCERT has formally promised to include Srimanta Sankaradeva in school curriculum. They have communicated it to Society for Srimanta Sankaradeva (SSS). Chandra Sadayat, Prof and Head, Deptt of Education in Languages (DEL), NCERT informed SSS President Dr Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti about it in a letter. Prof Sadayat informed Dr Borkakoti that NCERT will include Srimanta Sankaradeva in curriculum when the next revision is carried out. The important functionary of NCERT further said in the letter that Srimanta Sankaradeva will be taught about in orientation programmes of teachers too. Prof Sadayat is designated as a Public Relation Officer of NCERT. It may be mentioned that Society for Srimanta Sankaradeva had recently demanded inclusion of life and works of Srimanta Sankaradeva in both state and national level.

The Society had held a press meet in Guwahati and severely criticized the government agencies for failing to teach the students about Srimanta Sankaradeva. SSS had sent an appeal to Prof. P. Sinclair, the Director of NCERT, where the multi-faceted contributions of Srimanta Sankaradeva were pointed out. NCERT earlier included only one paragraph about Srimanta Sankaradeva in the history textbook for class XI. (Themes in Indian History, Part II, First edition, 2007, page 165) But since History is an optional subject, only a limited few students of the Arts stream get to know about Srimanta Sankaradeva, it was pointed out by SSS in the appeal to NCERT Director.

The SSS appeal had pointed out that Srimanta Sankaradeva was the first playwright in all modern Indian languages. The saint created the classical Sattriya dance form, a new school of classical music with his own Ragas, and above all he integrated people of all castes, all tribes. It is in the fitness of the things that life and works of such a genius should be taught to the pupils in all levels, the SSS appeal said. The matter was widely published in the media.

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