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National workshop inaugurated at Guwahati IIT

GUWAHATI, Feb 3— The 'National Workshop on Regional Development: Case for Northeast India' was inaugurated in the Senate Hall of Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, at 5.15 pm on February 3. The four-day workshop, organised jointly by Tezpur University, IIT Guwahati and Centre for Mathematical Modelling and Computer Simulation (CMMACS), Bangalore, aims at working out a detailed action plan and an implementation strategy for regional development of Northeast India through application of science and technology. With this workshop, the organising institution have taken an initiative to establish and enhance scientific collaboration both at individual and institutional levels to develop and coordinate a platform to address issues critical for the region, stated a press release.

Inaugurating the workshop, Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi said that there should always be an efficient relationship between the scientific, economic and social forces for the development of a region. Scientific advancement should always look to the betterment of the environment we live in. In a region like the Northeast, the knowledge in science and technology should be utilized for solving problems like flood, erosion and for improving the industrial scenario of the region and thereby, its economy. While commenting on IIT Guwahati, Gogoi said that the institute is a young one but healthy. He assured implementation of the findings of the workshop for the welfare of the State.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Arun Nigaveker, Chaiman, UGC, said that developmental activities should be initiated at the local level and taken to the regional, national and the global levels. He also urged upon the Chief Minister to organize a task force through which these ideas can be visualised and realised. Prof P Bhattacharyya, Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University, Prof G Barua, Director, IIT Guwahati, Dr Gangan Prathap and Dr P Goswami, scientists, CMMACS, Bangalore, also spoke on the occasion. Mr AK Saikia, Chairman, Board of Governor, IIT Guwahati, presided over the function.

The four-day workshop will include talks by invited eminent scientists and technologists and poster presentations by participants from all over the country on topics relating to infrastructure development seismic hazard, science and education, natural resource management, weather forecasting, agriculture and food processing and energy and environment. The workshop will bring internationally reputed scientists from different universities of India, CSIR Laboratories, IITs and industries together with researchers and young scientists from the Northeast and provide an excellent platform for exchange of ideas and concepts and help to initiate useful research activities for the development of the region, the release informed.