

Workshop to draw up plan for application of technology in the region

IIT organises scientists' meet

A STAFF REPORTER

Feb. 4: Leading scientists of the country have descended on the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in the city to chalk out a sustainable action plan for application of science and technology with a regional focus.

The four-day national workshop on Science and Technology for Regional Development of Northeast India has been organised by Tezpur University in association with IIT, Guwahati, and Centre for Mathematical and Computer Simulation (C-MMACS), Bangalore.

Each region has special environmental and geographical characteristics that determine the suitability, adaptability and criticality of applied science and technology for the region. "This is particularly true of the North-

east, which has unique geo-climatic and bio-diverse features," said an organiser.

With this workshop, Tezpur University, IIT Guwahati and C-MMACS Bangalore have taken the initiative to establish and enhance scientific collaboration both at individual and institutional levels to develop and co-ordinate a platform to address issues critical for the Northeast.

Inaugurating the workshop, chief minister Tarun Gogoi said the state government would constitute a task force to examine the recommendations of the workshop. He said Assam has not been able to make much headway in the development of science and technology despite having abundant resources. He called on the scientist community to help curb the social problems of the state. "Social and

economic development must go hand in hand," said Gogoi.

Speaking on the occasion, Arun Nigavekar, UGC chairman, said science and technology are the best tools for transformation. He called on the scientists and the academicians to put in a bold effort for all-round progress in all spheres.

Other distinguished guests at the inaugural function included vice-chancellor of Tezpur University P. Bhattacharyya, director of IIT, Guwahati, G. Barua, scientist in-charge of C-MMACS, Bangalore, Gangan Prathap and chairman of board of governors, IIT Guwahati, A.K. Saikia.

The workshop will include talks by eminent technologists on topics related to infrastructure development, seismic hazard, science and education, natu-

ral resource management, weather forecasting, agriculture and food processing and energy and environment.

The workshop has provided a forum for scientists from different universities of India, CSIR laboratories, IITs and industries as well as researchers and young scientists from the Northeast for interaction.

On the inaugural day, A. Nigavekar of the UGC delivered a lecture on Augmenting Science and Technology Education through the Internet. The other papers were on Promises and Failures of Northeast India in Petrochemicals by Sukumar Maiti of IIT, Kharagpur, Conservation of Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Nutritional Security by G.L. Kaul, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, and Potential Areas of Biotech-

nology Relevant to Northeast India by P.C. Deka, Jorhat.

A paper on Rest Assured, India Can Shine will be presented by Gangan Prathap, C-MMACS, Bangalore, and Development of Potential Technology for the Preservation of Non-Conventional Vegetables and Fruits Grown in Northeast India by A.S. Bawa, Mysore.

There will be poster presentations on various topics like Exotic Eucalyptus Plantation in the Brahmaputra Valley; A study on Ecological Impact on Soil Thereof by Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, and Polyvinyl Alcohol as Taste Sensing Material by IIT, Kharagpur. The other poster presentations include Fresh Ginger Processing — RRL Experience in the Northeast by Regional Research Laboratory (CSIR), Thiruvananthapuram.