



सत्यमेव जयते

ADDRESS

OF

SHRI TARUN GOGOI

**HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF ASSAM
GUEST OF HONOUR**

AT

**THE 7th CONVOCATION OF
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI
MAY 30, 2005**

Honourable Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh, Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT Guwahati, Shri Achyut Saikia, Director of IIT Guwahati Prof. Gautam Barua, members of the Board of Governors, members of the Senate, graduating students, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very happy to be here today at the Annual Convocation of IIT Guwahati. This IIT, which has come up with the blessings of the Late Rajiv Gandhi, is developing very rapidly and is making its mark in the region. The steady support of the Govt. of India is enabling it to become a world-class Institution. The Institute also has the full support of our Govt. and we have been, and will extend all the support it may need.

Assam is accelerating its economic growth rate to come out of the stagnation that had set in, and to find its rightful place among the leading states of the country. Our Govt. is undertaking a number of initiatives towards this goal. We are doing our best to attract the leading IT and ITES companies of the country to establish development centres in Assam. We have interacted with Wipro and TCS and we are hopeful that they and others will note the many advantages that Assam and the North East have. In fact, I am told that many boys and girls from this region are employed in ITES outfits in Gurgaon and their relatively better skills in English have attracted attention. We have plans to develop downstream industries once the Gas Cracker project materialises. These industries can change the economic landscape of Assam. Our Govt. is keen to expand ties with our Eastern neighbours in SE Asia and with China. The India-ASEAN car rally held in November 2004, in which IIT Guwahati helped us with some of their facilities, clearly showed the potential that exists. All of these efforts require technical inputs, be it in the field of IT, Chemical Engineering, or general manufacturing and trade. IIT Guwahati can play a major role in providing these inputs and we are confident they will not fail us, and, along with inputs from other technical Institutions in the region, we can move forward and usher in a new phase in the development and progress of Assam.

My optimism is based on the interactions the Govt. has already had with the Institute. IIT Guwahati has provided consultancy to the Assam Govt. in a number of areas in E-governance. Examples are, the tax project, the treasury project, and Police computerisation. IIT faculty have contributed in various ways in matters relating to the environment, flood control, city drainage, transportation, earthquake engineering.

The Govt. of Assam is keen to expand the technical education system in the State. Including the IIT, there are only four Engineering Institutes, and there are only three medical colleges. Every year in June- July, hundreds of boys and girls go out of the State to take admission in Institutions in other parts, mainly because of the limited openings here. The money they spend outside the State is a loss to our economy. We therefore need to increase the facilities here. We have already taken the decision to open three Medical Colleges at Barpeta, Tezpur and Jorhat. There needs to be many more Engineering Colleges too. Whether these should come in the State sector, the private sector, or a combination of the two, is something we are looking into. IIT Guwahati will play an important role by providing advice to us and by helping new Institutions to establish themselves.

We are also looking for guidance and support from you, the Honourable Minister of HRD, Shri Arjun Singh ji, in expanding higher education in the region. The Govt. of India has already established a number of Central Universities in the region, including two in Assam (at Tezpur and Silchar). It is also supporting the IIT and the National Institute of Technology at Silchar. We are very thankful for the attention and care your Ministry pays to the needs of this State. We hope to get enhanced support to the State Universities and the State Colleges through UGC, AICTE, and other agencies.

You were kind to announce the establishment of an IIM in the North-East. I take this opportunity to say a few words in favour of Guwahati. The city is well connected by air and it also has adequate rail links. Air connectivity is very important for an all-India Institute like an IIM. Guwahati is a big city and its infrastructure will also help support the IIM. But, most importantly, the presence of IIT Guwahati in the same city will provide a unique opportunity. It will be the only city in the country to have both an IIT and an IIM. The synergy they can achieve can take both technical education and Management education to new heights.

Finally, I would like to wish all the graduating students the best in their future career. Most of you will be going out of the State to pursue your careers. However, I am sure that all of you have developed enduring bonds with Assam during your stay here and that you will be the ambassadors and partners of the State in its relentless march forward.

JAI HIND
(Tarun Gogoi)
Chief Minister, Assam