



CHAIRMAN BOG's ADDRESS

by

His Excellency, **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) S. K. Sinha, PVSM**
Governor of Assam

Fifth Convocation of
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
on Friday, May 30, 2003

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It has been a great privilege for me to preside over the first four convocations of this IIT and to do so again at its Fifth Convocation today. As Chairman of the Board of Governors I extend a hearty welcome to our Chief Guest Dr. K. Kasturirangan and to all of you present here for this Convocation. I have been intimately connected with the growth and development of this IIT. I have watched it grow brick by brick, here on the North bank of the mighty Brahmaputra. We felt a sense of achievement when we shifted this IIT from its temporary location in hired buildings in the city, South of the river, to this beautiful permanent location. I am confident that this campus will soon become the prettiest IIT campus in India.

At the first convocation in 1999 we awarded degrees to sixty-three scholars and today we are doing so to 217 scholars. There has also been a steady increase in the number of students from the North East. This shows the growth of the Institution on the right lines. It is my earnest hope that in the coming years, this IIT will reach its planned growth target and become a leading Institute of its kind in the country. The scenic beauty of this campus is unique and it should be developed further.

We are singularly fortunate to have an eminent and world renowned Scientist of the calibre of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Chairman of the Space Commission and Secretary of the Department of Space, to be here to deliver the Convocation address. The mere presence of a great scientist of his eminence, of whose achievement the

nation is rightly proud, should be a source of inspiration for the graduating students of this IIT. His words of knowledge and wisdom will enrich them and provide beacons on their path of life leading to career advancement.

I congratulate all the recipients of degrees at today's convocation. I have no-doubt that the knowledge and expertise that they have acquired in their respective fields at this Institution will take them a long way in meeting the challenges of life and in attaining success. I bless them all and I wish them all success in their endeavours. I hope each one of them will justify the investment the Nation has made in them and they become assets in our society ensuring national progress. I also congratulate the proud parents and guardians of these students who have come here to attend this function.

I further congratulate Prof. Gautam Barua on taking over as the new Director of IIT. I wish him all success in this key and prestigious appointment. I would also like to place on record my deep appreciation of the great contribution made by Prof. D. N. Buragohain the founding Director of this Institute. His name will be long cherished in the history of IIT Guwahati.

Our IIT is situated on the banks of the mighty Brahmaputra close to two historic sites where decisive battles were fought greatly influencing the course of history of this region. The first spot is at Kanai Borokhi, King Prithu of Kamrup defeated the invasion of 10,000 Turkish horsemen in 1206. This set the pattern for Assam defeating successive such invasions during our medieval history. The other glorious victory was achieved 400 years later in 1671 when Vir Lachit Barphukan decisively defeated a Mughal

Army of Aurangzeb, nearly 100,000 strong at the zenith of Mughal imperial power in 1671. This IIT located very close to these two historic sites should give a sense of pride and confidence to the students of this Institution, motivating them towards success in life. Pursuit of excellence in all their endeavours and determination to uphold values, should guide their efforts in life.

I once again congratulate all the students here who have earned their degrees. I also express my appreciation of the guidance provided by the Director and the faculty. I now conclude by again expressing my deep gratitude to Dr. K. Kasturirangan who in response to our invitation has come to this Convocation. As I am departing from Assam in two days to take over my new assignment in Kashmir, I would like to wish you all farewell. I carry with me the fond memory of my happy association with the great State of Assam which I shall always cherish to the end of my life.

Jai Ai Asom, Jai Hind.