

HRH The Prince of Wales Institute of Engineering and Technology, the first engineering institute established in India's North Eastern Region, is a technical institute of Assam, and was established in 1927 by the British Government.

The Institute was established in 1927 with a financial aid from Assamese timber merchant Bholanath Boruah, that was given to British Government in 1922 for establishing a technical school in the name of the 'Prince of Wales' at Jorhat. The institute was founded the following year on 16 January 1928.. The Institution was known as the 'War Technical School' during the time of the Second World War.

On Wednesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, 2022 a bust of renowned 20th century timber merchant and the father of the institute Saud Bholanath Barooah was unveiled in the campus of Prince of Wales Institute of Engineering and Technology (POWIET). The bust was unveiled by POWIET Principal, Mr Dhanjit Sharma in the presence of great grandsons of Saud Bholanath Baruah and entire faculty of POWIET. The initiative in this regard was taken by Bholanath Barooah Branch of Sahitya Sabha, POWIET within the POWIET campus, spearheaded by Mr Ismail Hussain.

After Sahitya Sabha flag hoisting by the President Dr. Dipali Khargharia Kalita, and lighting of diya by Anuradha Devi, the meeting started with the felicitation of the guests. All then proceeded to the site with the religious chanting and performance by Gayan-Bayan to mark the holy occasion. In his speech Principal Sri Dhanjit Sharma said that for the very generous act of donating one lakh rupees in 1922 itself for the establishment of POWIET, Saud Bholanath Barooah, will be always remembered as the pioneer of technical education in Assam. The great grandsons of Saud Bholanath Barooah – Sri

Sashikanta Barooah and Sri Krishna Kanta Barooah who donated the bust were the guests along with many other persons associated with the cause of popularizing Saud Bholanath Barooah's merit.





Saud Bholanath Borooah, who is said to have been one of the richest men in India in the early 20th century, had donated Rs 1 lakh in 1922 for setting up of POWIET, the first technical educational institute in north-eastern region. He also donated a sizeable sum of money for setting up of B. Baruah College, one of the oldest degree colleges in Guwahati.

Baruah who hailed from Puranigudam in Nagaon district, later shifted to Kolkata (then Calcutta) where he flourished as a businessman. He also had enterprises in Odisha and Bihar. He is known for his philanthropic works, and is said to have donated land and money to several educational institutes in the four States of West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Assam.











