



ADDRESS BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY LT GEN (RETD) S K SINHA, PVSM
GOVERNOR OF ASSAM**

**AT THE SECOND CONVOCATION OF
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, GUWAHATI
29th MAY 2000**

As Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT, Guwahati it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you all to the Second Convocation of this Institution. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi to have accepted our invitation and come here today as our Chief Guest at this function. His presence amongst us is of a special significance. Ours is the only IIT in the country, which has been set up with total funding from our own national resources. All other IITs have come up with assistance from foreign countries. It is in the fitness of things that the Minister who represents Government of India, which has funded the establishment of this IIT, is here amongst us today to see for himself how this IIT has come of age. This year for the first time we are giving Post Graduate Degrees for M. Tech. I congratulate the recipients of this degree and all the graduating students who have assembled here.

During the last nearly three years that I have been Chairman of the Board of Governors, I have been seeing this IIT grow almost from scratch. I saw it functioning from hired accommodation in the city on the South bank of the Brahmaputra. Work on our campus on the North bank had just started. We have made substantial progress. Last year we commenced

functioning from this new campus. Every time I have been visiting the IIT at this location, I have seen marked progress. I look forward to the day when all the construction work for this IIT would be fully complete. Here, I would like to compliment the founder Director of this IIT, Prof. D. N. Buragohain and his staff for their contribution in developing the new campus as also of course for making this IIT functional. They have been the pioneers and the pathfinders of this institution which has today become a pride of the North-East.

The city of Guwahati in the ancient days was known as Pragjyotishpur, the abode of light from where knowledge originated. In keeping with the great heritage of this city, it was appropriate that the first totally indigenous IIT of India has been set up here. Let the light of higher scientific and technical learning emanating here illumine the minds of all mankind. This is an institution to which talented students come from all over the country. Thus it provides a strong focus for national integration. Those of you passing out from here and going back to your respective States or for that matter going to foreign countries, will be carrying happy memories of your Alma Mater. You will also be carrying happy memories of your association with this beautiful part of our country. I recall that I started my Army career in 1945 at Guwahati and I have had the good fortune of coming back to serve in this area, in different capacities from time to time. I have now been serving here in my present

assignment for nearly three years. The old memory of serving on the banks of the Brahmaputra as a young Army Officer, 55 years ago, are still fresh in my mind and is a source of inspiration. Similarly, some of you may well come back here to serve on the faculty or may even serve as Director of this IIT in time to come. I am sure that just as I feel beholden at having the great good fortune of reviving my old association of my young days, some of you may also do so in the future.

Our IITs have established a world wide reputation as centres of excellence in the field of scientific and technical learning. IIT, Guwahati is the youngest IIT in the country and in a short time it has also made its mark as an institution of excellence. You have had the benefit of excellent education here and you will now be launching yourself into your chosen career. You should take full advantage of the knowledge that you have acquired here to serve the Nation and help it attain its rightful place of eminence in the world. The Nation has made a great investment in your education. You have to repay your debt to the Nation through pursuit of excellence in whatever you do. I am sure you will prove yourself worthy in all respects of this IIT and make a contribution both to your own and our Nation's progress and prosperity.

The great French philosopher Rousseau has said *Take away the idea of perfection and you take away enthusiasm*. You

are young and your ambition should soar beyond the skies. You should be motivated by boundless enthusiasm and full confidence in yourself. I hope and pray that all your ambitions get duly fulfilled.

I once again congratulate each one of you receiving your degree today. As a much older person of an older generation, I bless you and I wish you a very bright and successful future. May God and the learning that you have acquired here, always guide you and take you to great heights.