

**Speech of the Hon'ble Governor at IIT Guwahati on May
29, 2019**

Namaskar,

Director IIT Guwahati Prof. Gautam Biswas ji, faculty members, IIT Guwahati community, and my dear students.

I am happy to be here today at IIT Guwahati to inaugurate the new Academic Complex and Research and Development Building. I am confident that these two facilities will help the students to further enhance their academic performance. I am happy to note that IIT Guwahati has been empowering the students with quality, technological knowledge, skill and ability and help them inculcate the right attitude and holistic values. The Research and Development activities always play a pivotal role in shaping up a nation's progress specially in the realms of Science and Technology. For example, the convergence of **Information Technology** and **Communications Technology**, have led to the **Information and communications technology** and, **Information Technology** in combination with **Biotechnology** leads to **Bioinformatics**. Likewise, photonics is the end product of the convergence of electronics and

microelectronics, which brought out a new option in consumer products.

Nanotechnology has opened vistas for newer and newer medical avenues to serve the mankind. It is also a field of the future which will replace micro-electronics and many fields with the use of tremendous potential in the arenas of medicine, electronics and material science. To achieve the distinctive profile of India, the IITs have been and continuing to play their crucial role. I am sure the brilliant students of IIT, will dedicate themselves for this great vision of transforming our country.

I am happy to know that IIT Guwahati is the **sixth member** of the IIT fraternity. Established in the year 1994 after a **gap of 32 years** of existence of “Five-IIT System”. IIT Guwahati perhaps built the **confidence in Indian Academia** that an Institute or a university can become a front-line Institute all by itself at a location that is far away from main land of the country. IIT Guwahati can be considered as a “role model” that represents the successful implementation of “**Act East**” policy of our Government. I am happy that today IIT Guwahati with an academically vibrant campus has become a **destination of leading academic minds** from all over the world.

Though relatively a new institute, IIT Guwahati is the First Indian Institute to enter in the list of first 100 Young Universities in the World according to Times Higher Education Ranking in the year 2014. I feel this is a good development. What is more heartening is that the students graduated from IITs are world class. Their intelligent quotient is as good as any best students across the world. This is the reason we find Indian professionals ruling the roost in every sector especially in engineering fields. I hail the IITs in churning our human resources and bring in them in the global reckoning. During my long public life I visited several IITs across the country and I am very much impressed with the students who are very articulate, passionate and quite convincing.

The energy and enthusiasm of youth, combined with a solid foundation, is a very effective combination. Our IITs are blessed with enthusiastic and energetic students who have the potential to bring about total transformation in our society. According to me some five identifiable areas where thrust need to be given to achieve this transformation are:

- 1) Reliable and quality electric power, surface transport and infrastructure
- 2) Education and healthcare

3) Information and communication technology

4) Agriculture and food processing

5) Self-reliance in critical technology

These five areas are closely interrelated and if harnessed in a proper way, will lead to tremendous progress in the fields of economics, food and national security. Entrepreneurship is another thrust area where both IITs and its brilliant students do need to delve in deeply into employment generation through entrepreneurship. The teaching methodology and impartment of education in IITs should additionally highlight importance of entrepreneurship and prepare the students get oriented towards setting up of business ventures using their creativity, freedom and ability to generate wealth and employment revenues. IIT education should help the students to diversify their skills, ability to handle difficult situations and inculcate in them, a sheer perseverance to make them walk boldly into the fields of entrepreneurship. To support the above, banking system should provide venture capital to the graduates who show aptitude and keenness for creating their own field and serve the nation by generating direct and indirect employments.

Placement wings of IIT, thus have a special role to play in highlighting the success stories of the alumni so that the

coming generation get enthused and also draw their inspiration. A constant interaction of the IIT with venture capital institutions in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors is also very important. Thirdly, such enterprising entrepreneurship of IIT should ensure production of competitive products to be successful in their vision and mission. The IIT Guwahati curriculum should lead market research support and make the entrepreneurs in selecting the right products. A hand holding by Institute in tandem with such microfinance organisation during the incubation period can be one of the major thrust areas.

These two facilities that I have dedicated today, I am sure will help the students and faculty to foster necessary environment for nation building. On this occasion, I congratulate the Director, Faculty, Students, Officers, Staff and those who are involved in the construction for bringing out such modern technological facilities.

The IIT facilities are inculcating a lot of values and skills in you. I urge the students to choose a worthy dream for yourself using the skills that have been ingrained in you by your institution. Go after it confidently. Create a life that you will be proud of in the years to come. Always ensure that you follow your bliss and be a worthy son of the soil. Show the

world that your Alma mater is in no way second-rated than the best institutions of the world. Take the zeal in and embrace all challenges. I am sure time is not far away when you all will rule the world.

Namaskar... Jai Hind.