



**SPEECH**

**OF**

**HIS EXCELLENCY**

**GEN JJ SINGH, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),**

**GOVERNOR of ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**20<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCATION OF IGNOU**

**AT CONFERENCE HALL,**

**REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR**

**ON**

**28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

**CONVOCATION SPEECH**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Convocation of IGNOU**

It gives me immense pleasure to be here with you all this afternoon for your annual Convocation, which is unique and simultaneously organized all over the country. I extend my sincere felicitations to the students, faculty members and to all who are present here on this occasion and also extend my good wishes for your successful future.

Let me say, at the very outset, that I have been truly impressed by the remarkable strides that the Indira Gandhi National Open University has made in the State in recent years. I compliment you all, particularly, your dynamic Regional Director, Dr. S.J. Neethirajan. The steps taken by your Regional Center to establish

itself as a centre for excellence are indeed very impressive.

Convocation is an extremely important day in the life of a student or a learner. The occasion indicates that you have imbibed the values and skills needed to deal with the world outside and to also to improve your capability. And, friends, you did that in a unique environment of distance education. I have no doubt that you will be exemplary in whatever you choose to do and successful in meeting the challenges that await you.

Well, friends, you all will agree with me that there is a need for focus on capacity building activity in higher education. I must confess that the distance education system in India has remained insulated from industry and civil society. It is a general notion that the focus in distance education has been on certification rather than

skill enhancement and development of knowledge and competencies. This has compromised the quality of distance education. Therefore, there is a need for development of quality benchmarks and standards in distance education.

In this direction, IGNOU can play a vital role through a structured academia-industry interface, and by setting up business-development incubators which can facilitate start-ups and new business ventures. For those who are in service, especially for teachers and lecturers, it can provide wonderful opportunities to undertake reorientation courses in order to improve their knowledge and skill. It also helps them to update themselves with latest happenings and requirements. I am happy to note the endeavour of the IGNOU in the State to improve the quality of education at school level and also on computer and vocational educations.

Appreciating the increase in enrollment, there is one very interesting thing I have also noted. It is the demography of the Students. 61.1% are already employed, 59.8% are Tribal, 46.02% are female and 55.65% are in the age group of 26 to 30 years. Amongst the IGNOU learners, I am happy to know that nearly 31.8% of the Students are from far flung and remote areas.

While recognizing the contributions of IGNOU in the field of higher education in the State, I would also like to request the concerned authority to facilitate all that is possible to disseminate information and be pro active in addressing the need of the students.

I would like to advise those who have received their degrees to remember that individual success, however

desirable and coveted, is not enough by itself. We have to be socially useful, innovative and have multi-disciplinary approach to do yourselves, your families and your State and Country proud. Knowledge is a powerful agent of change. The creation and application of new knowledge has to be contributed for the growth of societies and thereby for the welfare of the people.

I congratulate the individuals on whom the University has conferred the Degrees, Diploma and Certificates. I felicitate the students graduating today and wish them all success in life. I am confident that education would continue to be a part of their lives as they seek to upgrade their skills, acquire new knowledge and improve their career and standard of living.

I once again thank the Regional Director, IGNOU for inviting me today.

Thank you very much, God Bless you all.