

**Gangtok, April 28: (IPR)** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Convocation of the National Institute of Technology Sikkim was held at Chintan Bhawan, today.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri Pawan Chamling graced the function as the Chief Guest along with Padmashri Prof. A.K.Ray, Director, IEST Shibpur as the Guest of Honour.

Total numbers of 66 students were graduated out of which 60 students of Bachelor of Technology and 6 students of Master of Technology were awarded the degrees during the function today.

While addressing the Convocation ceremony, Hon'ble Chief Minister welcomed everyone and expressed his happiness to know that Sikkim has achieved to empower world class technological courses within the state. The day is one of the great occasions to honor our students, he said.

Hon'ble Chief Minister gave best wishes to students and said that this is a proud moment for all having graduated from such Institute of repute and having learnt the skills required to meet the challenges that lie ahead. This journey should not end by acquiring a degree and must move forward to achieve big things in life. Today students are not only taking knowledge but a series of additional skills which the institution has provided, he added.

The Chief Minister said that education is the single most important element in converting our young population into national assets. If the younger generation of our nation is empowered, it will constitute a very strong and productive workforce for the coming years, he added.

He also requested the students to stand up for the academic excellence and to take advantage out of the Start up Scheme through which qualified engineers can take up entrepreneurship on the basis of innovative ideas acquired from the Institutes. He also informed about the Chief Minister Self Employment schemes for the educated unemployed youth in Sikkim.

Speaking about NIT Sikkim, he said that the Institute was set up in the year 2010, functioning temporary campus in Ravangla, and has since progressed swiftly overcoming initial hurdles. NIT Sikkim has 50% reserved seats in B.Tech courses for the students of Sikkim and 40% which he said is an area of concern.

The Chief Minister further added that NIT Sikkim at Ravangla has made best efforts to maintain the quality of education. He also complemented the Director, management, faculties and staff for their energetic, dynamism and commitment towards this institution.

He also talked about Bhaley Dhunga Skywalk project in Yangang which will be the first skywalk in India and second in Asia after China. In this way it is considered that Ravangla, which is close to Yangang, will be the best place to establish NIT Institute, and for this government already has

a plan to construct one of the best NIT Institute of India and all the supports will be provided by the State Government, he added.

Minister for HRDD Shri R.B.Subba congratulated the graduating students on the occasion and wished them all success in their future endeavors. He urged the students to contribute their studies in building better society and country, be humble and thankful towards every individual for their help and support.

Earlier, declaring the convocation open, Director NIT Sikkim Prof. Mahesh Chandra Govil addressed the gathering by presenting the Directors report on NIT Sikkim. In his report he touched upon the infrastructure developments in the campus and emphasized the achievements all through-out the year and the long cherished dream of success of the University.

The function also saw the presentation of Memento to Hon'ble Chief Minister and the dignitaries by the Director, NIT Sikkim.

The function also had the presence of Speaker SLA Shri K.N. Rai, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Additional Chief Secretary, HRDD Shri G.P.Upadhyaya, Secretaries, Senior Officials from the Departments and students from the various Schools.

