

Speech by the Director at inaugural ceremony of New
Campus at Andharua:

Orissa's mathematical community has struggled hard to keep abreast of the modern developments in mathematics. The earliest consolidation of this effort started in 1972 when the Orissa Mathematical Society was formed. One of the earliest of its efforts was to update the syllabi in mathematics from school to post graduate level. It is during this effort, it was felt that there should be an Institute which would be centre of excellence in mathematics to serve as the fountainhead of research in mathematics, to search and nurture mathematical talents, to improve the quality of mathematics education from primary to post graduate level.

In the days of its existence the Institute pursued the goals set for it with all seriousness and with the timely support of the Government. As assessed by experts of DST the Institute's Library in Research Journals is one of the best in the country and is perhaps the best in the

east coast between Kolkata and Chennai. This will serve as a reference library to the researchers and teachers of not only Orissa but also of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chattishgarh and Andhra Pradesh.

Our undergraduate programme is one of the only four of its kind in India. This year the Indian Academy of Sciences chose three of our undergraduate students for summer research programme (some thing very encouraging for a new programme) to work with eminent mathematician of the country. Our Master programme in Financial Engineering is the first of its kind in India. This has attracted attention abroad. One of the students of this programme has been invited to do his Ph.D with full scholarship in Europe even before he has completed his Master's degree. Our research scholars have visited Universities abroad on exchange programme.

For all our positive achievements we owe our thanks to the Government of Orissa particularly Hon'ble Chief Minister, the

Science & Technology Department and the Planning & Coordination Department.

We are encouraged by the magnanimity of the Tata Steel for building our infrastructure. We hope to take full advantage of the inviting environment far from the humdrums of the city life to concentrate on research and quality education.

Our Institute, though committed to quality, has not forgotten its social responsibility of ensuring that the fruits of our effort reach the tribal, the marginalized and even slow learners. We recall an advice by our Chief Secretary to do some thing for the slow learners. We have taken up this challenge too in collaboration with the Scheduled Casts/ Scheduled Tribes Development Department.

While highlighting what has been done it is not out of place here to mention that we need faculty to fill the beautiful infrastructure built by Tata Steel. I am sure our Hon'ble Chief Minister who has been very supportive of this since he took

office will ensure that this becomes a place of pride for every Oriya may be even every Indian bringing back the tradition of Nalanda and Taxsila which attracted scholars from all over the world.

It is hard to list all those who have extended their unflinching support to bring the Institute to this stage. We are also grateful to our critics but for whose criticism we would not be on our guards. We hope we shall be continuously cautioned so that we are equal to the trust reposed in us.

We extend our hands of friendship to our sister Institutes like the Institute of Physics, NISER to complement our efforts to grow.

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