

**Speech of the Hon'ble of Hon'ble Governor of Assam for
Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at Gauhati University**

August 24, 2019

Namaskar,

Good morning everybody. Respected Vice Chancellor Prof. Pratap Jyoti Handique ji, Executive Director of Indian Oil Corporation, Guwahati Refinery Mr. Manchanda Ji, professors and staff of Gauhati University, officials of Guwahati Refinery, my dear students, ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me immense pleasure to be here at this special function organized by Indian Oil Corporation Guwahati Refinery. I am glad that Guwahati Refinery taking an impressive role apart from its refining activities has taken up Swachh Bharat initiatives not only within its administrative ambit, but also beyond. I am sure this initiative will go a long way in presenting a clean Assam and clean India. This would be the best tribute our society could pay to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary.

I, at the same time hail the steps taken by Indian Oil as part of its corporate social responsibility to conduct plantation drive along with its several other initiatives for the university students. These steps will have far reaching affect in mobilizing the students who are the potential force to the cause of our society.

Friends, since 2014, our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has been leading the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan - across the nation with the vision to transform India into a cleaner and greener country. After its launch, the nation-wide programme has gained much popularity among the masses. In fact, support from corporations, political parties, civil bodies, and the citizens of the country have been pouring in making the programme a huge success. Moreover, I also laud the role of the media houses for example print, electronic and social media for generating awareness among the youths of this country towards swachhata. By inviting people to participate in the drive, the Swachhta Abhiyan has turned into a National Mass Movement. A sense of responsibility has been evoked among the people through the Clean India Movement and citizens are now becoming active partners in cleanliness drives across the nation. As a result of this, the dream of a 'Clean India' once seen by Mahatma Gandhi has begun to take a concrete shape. Friends, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the spontaneous participation of the people across the nation has integrated the people of this largest democracy of the world as it strengthened the sense of nationalism among ourselves.

Ladies and Gentlemen, forests are an important component in the global fight against catastrophic climate

change – thanks to their unparalleled capacity to absorb and store carbon. Experts say that forests capture carbon dioxide at a rate equivalent to about one-third the amount released annually by burning fossil fuels. Thus stopping deforestation and restoring dwindling forests, we can contribute up to 30 percent of the climate change solution.

Given the importance of the students in understanding the policy behind climate change and acknowledging the role they will play in the coming decades, it is imperative for our societies to scale up the involvement of the students in national level policymaking against climate change programmes.

Friends, I am really happy to see such an attendance of students and academia at this programme today. The encouraging participation of the students in the programme of this nature are re-assuring to establish the fact that today's youth are very eager and welcoming to the changes that aim at positive transformation of the society. I thank IndianOil Guwahati Refinery for its sincere efforts in this direction and expect that they will continue to do so for the larger benefits of the society.

I believe and hope that the programmes carried out today here as part of observance of Swachhta Pakhwada will leave a lasting impact on all the participants; most importantly the

students. I am sure that this programme will trigger your inner sense and motivate you to contribute your bit in terms of generating further awareness amongst all for the cause of a clean and green India!

Jai Hind