

39<sup>th</sup> SSBMT (Outdoor) Finals  
Inaugural Function  
Welcome Address by Dr PG Rao

Dr M Hazarika, Director, Tea Research Association, Chief Guest of today's function, Distinguished Guests, Members of Sports Promotion Board, my CSIR family members and Participants of this Tournament, Members of CSIR Pensioners Welfare Association, Jorhat Chapter, Staff & Children of KV RRL, Assam Police Training Centre Staff, My NEIST family members, Press & Media, Ladies & Gentlemen-

A warm welcome to all of you on this 39<sup>th</sup> Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Memorial Tournament, (Outdoor) event, at NEIST, Jorhat. A warm welcome to all the participants of this tournament who have come from the CSIR laboratories, institutes, spread across the country, to this remote and beautiful place. I welcome all sports lovers present here. It is said that "sports brings people together", and that exactly has brought all of us together, otherwise many of you would not have taken time out of your busy schedule to come to this place.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Memorial Tournament is a prestigious event of CSIR and fosters amongst the participants, qualities of team work, competitiveness, leadership and the zeal to excel against the odds. This sports event of CSIR was started way back in 1955, in memory of the Architect of CSIR, Shri Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar. The event used to be conducted once in every two years.

I recollect with nostalgia, the 13<sup>th</sup> SSBMT organized in this institute in January 1978 under the leadership of the then Director Dr G Thyagarajan where in I was an active member of reception committee. In that event 550 players from 28 laboratories participated. The 39<sup>th</sup> SSBMT(outdoor) is being held in NEIST again after a gap of 28 years. I am very happy and consider myself fortunate to get this opportunity to lead the organizing team on this occasion. I thank the DGCSIR and SPB for giving NEIST this opportunity and also thank Dr N Ramakrishnan, Director, AMPRI and President, Sports Promotion Board, FA, CSIR, for his support and encouragement in organizing this event. I thank all my fellow Directors for sponsoring their teams and encouragement and would like to place our record the good wishes and messages received from Dr SK Brahmachari, DGCSIR, President, Secretary, SPB, Dr. Sukumar Devotta, NEERI, Dr SP Mehrotra, NML, Dr VP Dimri, NGRI, Dr Ashwani Kumar, ITRC, Dr AR Upadhya, NAL, Dr Pushpito K Ghosh, CSMCRI, Dr PV Ahuja, IHBT, Prof AK Shukla, CECRI

I would also like to mention on this occasion that NEIST participants have received three times Champions trophy, and CSIR best sports person in Carrom, SSBMT (indoor) during 2006 by our staff Smt. Protima Bora. She has won awards continuously from 1998.

This tournament is hosting two major games, viz. Cricket & Volley ball, where 12 team each from 12 laboratories of CSIR are participating. In all 167 participants are here to take part in the games, which are going to be played in four playgrounds, with 17 and 18 Umpire and Judges for cricket and volley ball respectively helping us in conducting the tournament smoothly. Every care has been taken to make the participants as comfortable as possible by NEIST family. I wish all the participants a memorable stay and best of luck. I wish all the others to enjoy the games and encourage the participants and I would like to close this address by quoting the call of the president of SPB, "Let us all strive hard to ensure that the name of CSIR is held in the highest pedestal with a team spirit built into it, making every individual and our "TEAM CSIR" as the true and worthy winner."

Once again, I wish you all a warm welcome and a good day.

Thank you and Jaihind.