

## **EDITORIAL**

### **ON 150 YEARS OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AT ROORKEE UNIVERSITY**

The Civil Engineering College at Roorkee was formally established by the Government of North West Province on 25th November, 1847, to meet the demand for personnel skilled in civil construction. The first admissions to the Roorkee college were made on 1st January, 1848 to train a few engineers for construction of Ganga Canal. In 1854, the college was renamed as "Thomason College of Civil Engineering at Roorkee" in memory of James Thomason who as Lt. Governor of North West Provinces had been primarily responsible for its establishment.

The College continued to make steady progress to meet the requirement of civil engineering personnel particularly for the major projects. It was elevated to the status of a University in 1948 in recognition of its past performance and its potential and keeping in view the needs of modern India. The University was presented its Charter on 25th November 1949 in the presence of the first Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru elevating the erstwhile college to the first engineering university of independent India.

Since its establishment, the University of Roorkee has played a vital role in providing the technical manpower and knowhow to the country and in the pursuit of research, the University ranks amongst the best technological institutions in the world and has contributed to all sectors of technological development.

The University has now entered the 150th glorious year. A year long Sesquicentennial Celebrations started in November 1996 will continue upto November 1997 with a large number of academic and professional activities involving the entire University community and the alumni. The 150th year is a major landmark in the life of an institution and it is the occasion to celebrate, to review its activities and programmes, to introspect and rededicate to the cause of maintaining and enhancing the high reputation established by the University as a premier centre of teaching and research.

The Department of Civil Engineering has a long and glorious history. Their alumni have held positions of great importance in India and abroad. It is no exaggeration to state that the 'stamp' of a Roorkee alumnus is to be found in practically every

major engineering project of the country during the last hundred years or more. In recent times our alumni have occupied important administrative positions related to management of engineering education and research.

Since 1974, the University also pioneered research, consultancy and education in Rock Mechanics. The ancient tradition of field research is still continuing. The editorial board wishes the University a glorious and happy future.

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