

**SPEECH OF THE HON'BLE CHANCELLOR, COTTON
UNIVERSITY AND GOVERNOR OF ASSAM FOR SECOND
CONVOCATION OF COTTON UNIVERSITY**

Namaskar,

Respected Chief Minister, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma ji

Respected Minister of Education, Govt. of Assam, Dr. Ranoj Pegu
ji

Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad, Prof. B.J. Rao ji

Vice Chancellor, Cotton University, Prof. B. C. Goswami ji

Registrar, Cotton University, Respected members of Cotton
University Court, Executive Council and Academic Council

Respected Deans, invited guests and my dear students who have
received their degrees and medals in this Convocation today.

It's my privilege to welcome all of you to this august
occasion of Second Convocation of Cotton University after
elevation of erstwhile Cotton College to Cotton University in 2017.
I am happy to note that Cotton University has made its sincere
efforts to make Convocation a regular event.

Ladies and gentlemen, I being the Chancellor of this premier
institution which emerged from the century-old Cotton College
sincerely urge upon all the stakeholders to extend all possible

cooperation in realizing its vision of imparting value-based education with a holistic approach so that it can cater to the needs of the students of the region. The world is now full of competition and our bright young students must strive for excellence to survive in this age of fierce competition. This is undoubtedly the age of the survival of the fittest.

Erstwhile Cotton College has left us with a great legacy that we are proud of today. The students of the present generation must take lessons from its glorious past and should shoulder the responsibility of taking this part of the country forward with required sincerity, perseverance and a sense of commitment. I am sure, a vibrant institution like Cotton University will continue to attract the brilliant minds of the region.

When we look back, we see how Cotton College was created by the architects and how it contributed towards the growth and development of higher education in northeast India for over a long period.

This University now needs to aim at transforming itself into a research intensive university with a focus on inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approach towards academics and research. Presently, the University has around 31 departments, two centres

and five faculties. I must appreciate the University administration for introducing some very innovative and important academic programmes in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Archaeology, Women's Studies, Artificial Intelligence, Liberal Arts, and a special undergraduate programme for sports persons apart from other conventional courses. I should congratulate the University's Department of Physics which has recently started one mega 'Accelerator Project' with the necessary assistance and collaboration from some reputed research organizations. This 300- crore project will be the first of its kind in the entire country and will certainly add a feather to its cap. I am sure, this will take the institution to a greater height.

I am glad that this University has started taking part in the National Institutional Ranking Framework process introduced by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India. The University has recently come up with some very essential infrastructural projects that include an administrative block, a building for Geology Department, two new boys' hostels, one new girls' hostel, a Students' Day Home, a new State of the Art Conference Hall, and major renovation of Kalaguru Bishnu Rabha Auditorium. We are happy to learn that this University has joined hands with several institutions of repute which include National Research

Development Corporation, IIT-Guwahati, Tezpur University and Florida University, USA by signing MOUs for mutual benefits. The University was recently recognized as the best local chapter of the UGC Swayam NPTEL digital platform through which it has been providing online learning modules along with conventional curriculum. I believe, one day in near future, the product of this institute will attract the best job-givers from across the world.

I must make it a point that in keeping with the essence of the National Education Policy 2020, the University should gear up itself to reap the benefits of this highly ambitious Policy. As a new University, it should open up its horizon and continue its journey towards excellence with renewed vigour. It should take in its stride the challenges posed by the ever-changing world order and climate of academics and see how it can make remarkable contribution towards the society in the larger context.

Lastly, I must congratulate all the 1035 recipients of degrees and 57 gold medallists in this Convocation. They have proved their excellence in their respective branches of studies under this premier institution.

My dear young friends today you are on the threshold of a new beginning. Some of you, I am sure would be pursuing higher studies while others may take up professional responsibilities. But

always remember that it is your deeds that will reflect your personality. Always try to give back to your family, society and country which have nurtured you in the most crucial phase of your life. I am sure that you will never fall back from putting in your best.

I extend my best wishes to the students. I also congratulate their families who have worked hard to bring each one of them so far in their journey of life. I also appreciate the faculty and administration on this occasion for their contribution.

Thank you all,

Jai Hind