

**Speech of the Hon'ble Governor for the induction and appraisal
programme of the newly appointed Vice Chancellors of Universities
of Assam to be held on 5th July 2019**

Namaskar,

Respected Chairman of National Board of Accreditation Prof.K.K.Agarwal ji, Former Chairman of UPSC Prof.D.P.Agrawal ji, Education Advisor to the Govt. of Assam Prof.M.K.Chaudhuri ji, Addl.Chief Secretary Higher Education, Principal Secretary-Finance, newly appointed Vice-Chancellors of the Universities and officers and staff of Raj Bhavan. It is my pleasure to have you all here in this induction programme. The discussions and deliberations that will take place today, I am sure will empower the Vice Chancellors to train the human resources and set agenda to enhance their efficiency and usefulness.

On this occasion, let me take the pleasure in extending my heartiest congratulations to the new Vice Chancellors on their appointment to the all-important role. I hope very soon you will fall in line to carry forward our unanimous goal of a flourishing environment of higher education in our state.

Gentlemen, I always believe, a society is as good as the quality of intellectuals it produces and a university should own a responsibility in producing intellectuals by being a place of light, liberty and learning. It should complement sustainable development and improvement of economy as a whole. It should also provide opportunities to individuals to achieve their aspirations while ensuring that a value-based society is forged.

We are here to reflect on what awaits the future of youth across the state. Gentlemen, I see multiple challenges before us as we move ahead. For university fraternity like you, the challenge is to adapt to the needs of the times, to make education relevant and produce more graduates who have the skills to take them forward in the new fields and professions. It has been observed that the courses of universities of Assam are still theoretical in their approach. Universities need to reconfigure the whole curriculum and be regulated more towards skill development without compromising the philosophy of the subjects. Your esteemed University should contribute significantly towards the pursuit of academic excellence and to the progress of Assam.

In our state, perhaps it is also seen that practical part of subject is given less weightage. So curriculum should be prepared giving more weightage to the practical aspects. Students should learn something of lasting values. Courses should be revised towards more applied forms.

It is a matter of utmost concern that higher education in Assam has till now functioned in a rather skewed manner. Presently, it is more of a process of acquiring theoretical knowledge without any idea of its practical utility. It is geared towards producing generations of mediocre degree holders who do not possess any skills, be it leadership, entrepreneurial or professional. However, the challenge before us to reverse this trend and transform our universities into epicenters to unleash our powerful human resources.

Our universities should lay importance to the issue of social inclusivity, especially of the poorer, weaker and underprivileged sections. Till now, not much has been achieved in the task of generating avenues for the marginalized sections to enter into Higher Education. The benefits of an educational process which will enable them in securing employment opportunities as well as providing scope for social and economic mobility, is their basic right. As the architect of the Constitution of India, Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar so rightly pointed out: “Coming as I do from the lowest order of the Hindu society, I know what is the value of education...The problem of raising the lower order in India is not to feed them, to clothe them and to make them serve the higher classes...The problem of the lower order is to remove from them that inferiority complex which has stunted their growth and made them slave to others, to create in them the consciousness of the significance of their lives for themselves and for the country...Nothing can achieve this purpose except spreading higher education.

Institutes of Higher Education should also be the vanguards in the fight against social evils like witch hunting and dowry and your institutions must create awareness among the population through extension activities. We need to develop new pedagogy to integrate conventional classroom learning with meaningful extension activities to empower our students with new skills and faculties.

We live in a rapidly evolving world. The scale of change that we are likely to see in a decade or so will be unprecedented in human history. The world of technology, of start-ups, of innovations, of new ideas, of digital assistance, of clean energy would reorient our daily lives in an unbelievable manner. In such a situation, the transition should be fast and feisty. Our Colleges that have been upgraded to university level should very fast change their outlook to take up their higher responsibilities and train their students accordingly.

Moreover, gentlemen, along with imparting curriculum based programmes like Post Graduate programmes and others, considerable emphasis should be given on quality research. As we move towards a knowledge-based society, along with skilling and retraining, quality research should take center-stage of social and business development. Interdisciplinary courses

The Vice Chancellors of universities have much to be proud of. They guide the students through some of their most formative years and send them to nationally and internationally reputed organisations. The quality and future of the students depend on you only. You groom them as the future leaders. Your dynamism, your orientation would act as a force multiplier for development and growth of the students as well the society.

Since universities always strive to become a seat of excellence, care should always be taken to comply with all norms set by the accreditation councils.

Therefore, the Chairman National Board of Accreditation has kindly consented to spare his time to be with you to address to all your queries.

Selections of faculty members is another vital issue that shapes quality of a varsity. Leaving aside all jingoistic fervor, care should be laid to absorb quality faculty members who can take the role in churning out future politicians, scientists, engineers, doctors, lawyers, corporate leaders, administrators and journalists. Chairman UPSC has been invited to share some of his thoughts with you on recruitment policy.

Similarly, for maintain perfect working relations and establish proper coordination with state government, Advisor to Education Dept, Govt.of Assam and Addl.Chief Secretary Higher Education have been invited.

Moreover, since universities for the purpose of quality education involve in flurry of activities, large chunk of financial involvement becomes the order of the day for the Vice Chancellors. Therefore, utmost care should be taken to manage the finance of the universities. During the course of the day our new appointees will also get to acquaint themselves with new set of rules, norms and conventions which I am sure will help them to run their universities more professionally for re-energized universities to transform our state into a true knowledge power and realize a future of prosperity and growth. (a para has to be written on The governor thought that as because they are the newly appointed VCs they will have many queries on different aspect for the

smooth functioning of the universities. Hence an induction programme where all the major and important aspects are addressed)

With these words, I once again congratulate you and I hope you all have a fruitful day ahead.

Thank you.

Jai Hind