

Speech by Hon'ble Governor, Assam, for valedictory speech for the Joint Induction Training Programme of ACS and Allied Services officers on 30th January 2019.

Dear Officer Trainees,

I congratulate you all on your selection to the Assam Civil Services and Allied Services and on your completion of the Joint Induction Training. Today you are part of the illustrious rank of civil servants who have immensely contributed to the progress and development of the state of Assam. You are those select 204 candidates who have become successful in the most arduous competitive examination held in the state. I request you to recall your life up to the day of the APSC result- the challenges you have faced and the hardship you have endured. I urge you to use the opportunities that you now have, to bring about positive changes in the lives of the common man. People of Assam have huge expectation from you. You should establish yourselves as a trust-worthy link between the Government and the people.

I am sure that in the past two weeks, you have learnt a lot about the functioning of the state Government and about various developmental and security issues facing the state. Addressing issues of areas and communities that have been left behind in our developmental journey, whether due to infrastructure, social backwardness or logistical challenges, involves whole-hearted coordination among different departments. Your personal commitment to fulfil the mandate of your respective departments would go a long way in finding solutions to those issues. It is the quality of the public service to be provided by you that will determine the nature and level of development that our state can achieve. Apart from directly contributing to the state's progress, your sincerity and integrity would inspire other youths of the state to join the field of public service.

The Assam Civil Services has a long history and tradition. It has its roots in the pre-Independence British colonial government. The first reference to Assam Civil Service is found in the Administrative Civil List of 1921 where 71 officers in the rank of Extra Assistant Commissioners were categorised under the Assam Civil Service. Before the constitution of the Assam Public Service Commission in 1937, all the administrative officers were appointed by nomination from educated and relatively well-to-do families of Assam. The first competitive examination was held only in 1942 and the same practice has been continued in the selection of subsequent batches of the Civil Service.

This has ensured that students from all sections of the society are able to get representation in the Assam Civil Service and the Allied Services based on their merit. Today, I am happy to see that the 198 new officers are from different districts and communities of the state thereby representing the colourful and cohesive mosaic that is Assam.

You will be serving in different cadres as ACS officers, Assam Land & Revenue Service officers, Assam Police Service officers, Labour Officers, Superintendent of Taxes, Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Inspector of Labour, Inspector of Taxes, Inspector of Excise and Assistant Employment Officers. Similarly, I expect all the officers to work sincerely in their respective fields and play a vital role in taking the state forward in the path of development. I would request you to fully utilise and apply the knowledge and skills that has been imparted in this joint induction training and those that would be imparted in subsequent trainings specific to your cadres.

The state of Assam is beset with many problems. The most important among them is unemployment. It not only leads to under-utilisation of the state's human capital but also opens the door to anti-social activities. The problem is aggravated by some divisive and anti-national forces who are bent on leading the unemployed youth astray towards violence and insurgency. You belong to the lucky few who have got employment according to your capability. However, there

are many educated youths who are unable to get decent employment or contribute to the society in a meaningful way. The Government of Assam and Government of India are trying their best to solve the problem through various government programmes. It is your responsibility to ensure that such programmes are implemented with sincerity and transparency. This will bestow the faith of the youths in the democratic system and they will not easily be led astray towards violence and insurgency. In the process, you will be providing yeoman service not only to the state but also to the society.

Assam, along with the rest of the country is in the threshold of great social, economic and technological changes. Old processes are giving way to more efficient and effective processes. The fields of public administration and public-service delivery are not exceptions to such changes. As young officers you should be open to such changes, be ready to re-align your priorities and even lead such changes. Please avoid getting into a mind-set that resists change. For this, you will need to re-train yourselves regularly and keep yourselves abreast with the latest developments in your professional fields. It is only with your efforts that the state will be able to keep pace with the rest of the country.

At the end, I would like to wish you all the best for your long successful career and hope that you will be able to meet the expectations of the citizens of the state. You shall keep the welfare of the people in your mind while discharging your duties. I expect you to be fair, just and bold in your actions and carry out your duties without fear and favour. In return, I assure you that you will be provided all the support and protection needed for carrying out your good deeds.

Thank you.

Jai Hind