

**Speech of the Honourable Governor on the occasion of  
Krishna Kanta Handiqui National Award and Krishna  
Kanta Handiqui National Fellowship,2019- Award Giving  
Function on 11th December 2019**

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Namaskar,

It is my great privilege to be here to be a part of the Award giving ceremony of the K.K.Handiqui National Award and National Fellowship in this evening. This is a special and memorable evening in the sense that, not only the pioneer of newspapers in Assam, the Assam Tribune Group, will be given National Recognition in the memory of the great oriental scholar Krishna Kanta Handiqui, but also, because of the fact that, two of the most distinguished researchers of the State will jointly receive the Fellowship dedicated to the memory of the great scholar.

Needless to say that the K.K Handiqui National Award as well as National Fellowship uphold the desire of the University Community to honour those personalities, whose actions have significantly contributed in enlarging our vision of a strong social commitment. I am really very happy that the university has been able to throw new light on the domain of knowledge breaking the conventional barrier and making education available in the

doorsteps of the unreached. This is a philosophy, which not only broadens the reach of education but also indicates the sanctity of this approach facilitating education for all with the ultimate objective of empowering people. This approach has also become important, more particularly at a time, when education has become highly expensive, providing great relief to the economically weaker sections of the society. No doubt, it is an alternative and at the same time a substantive proposition, that has made the lives of many meaningful in terms of teaching and learning. It is in this context, the very institution of the National Award and the Fellowship are unique steps towards Academic Leadership with Vision and Social Commitment.

Starting with an extremely modest learner base, when it started its Academic Journey, the University has been able to generate more than One Lakh Seventy Five Thousand learners. It shows the extent to which the Academic programmes of the University have been successful in attracting the learners to pursue education in the open and distance mode. At present, the University also has an extensive network of more than 300 study centres across the State with infrastructural facilities available to the learners. It may further be noted that, with the application of science and technology, the University has successfully brought the learners from across the State under one umbrella of an

integrated approach through which academic programmes are delivered at the grass root. I must also make a positive mention of the efforts of the University, whereby free education have been provided to the jail inmates through thirteen numbers of study centres located in jails, offering various attractive and useful academic programmes to the inmates so that they can reform their lives and a start a new journey.

This year the University has selected the Assam Tribune Group for the National Award while Dr. Pratap Chutia of Dimoria College and Dr. Amarjyoti Kashyap, an environmental researcher, have been jointly given the National Fellowship. In fact a proud mention could be made that in the previous years Shri Harishankar Brahma, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Jitendra Nath Goswami, Shri Mrinal Miri were the recipient of the Award. Mention could also be made of the fact that, internationally reputed Film Director Jahnu Baruah, Anshu Jamsenpa, a distinguished mountaineer of the country and Sarmistha Pritam, a young writer from the state who made substantial contributions to the field of Assamese literature, were recipient of the National Fellowship. I am very happy that the University has rightly selected these luminaries to recognise their contributions to the society. I also take this opportunity to applaud the APJ Abdul Kalam Students Welfare Mission of the

University, which has introduced a scholarship programme to encourage young female UPSC Final Aspirants. In this programme itself, the University will honour five such aspirants with scholarships and I wish them all the success in life.

Taking the ambience of an open and distance learning university, I must admit that it could be a strong instrument of freedom of thought and expression, which has a great value in a democratic society like ours. The institutional framework of the Open University is such that it could enroll students through its study centres across the state and the learners are at liberty to take part in the academic programmes in the most affordable context. It may be noted that with its diverse learner base and different academic programmes, the University could gradually penetrate into the social issues experienced by the common man. It could inspire the man at the grassroot, empower them through education, who could become a meaningful partner in the entire process of Nation-Building. I do admire the University for its Open Forum Discussions relating to various social issues that has carved for itself a definite space in the academic milieu of the State. I am confident that its programmes of adoption of villages will also give a strong message that education is not to be confined in the ivory towers but has a meaningful linkage with that of the lives of the common people living in the villages. I am

confident, that in the coming years, the University will strive for excellence and will shape the minds of the young learners to be a part of the socio-economic development of the Nation.

Thank you,

**JAI HIND**