

17th February 2018

Speech by Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Honorable Governor of Assam

Shri Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM, Dr. R K Sharma, Vice Chancellor, USTM, Dr. Alaka Sarma, Pro VC, USTM, Prof. Bhabesh Ch. Goswami, Vice Chancellor, Cotton University, distinguished guests on and off the dais, ladies and gentlemen and my dear students.

For me there is no greater joy than being with the young and learned. I am reminded of a Sanskrit sloka that glorifies the educated person:

The eldest is respected in his house, the headman in his village. A king is respected in his country, but the learned everywhere.

I am so elated to be here with you amidst hundreds of promising students who have gathered here to experience a life-changing ceremony. North East Graduate Congress 2018 has touched fifth year. I thank Shri Mahbubul Hoque for being instrumental in organizing the programme. India today is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. But our nation of a billion population is still far from achieving many of its goals. It is here the people like you can play a proactive role in strengthening the inroad for our country to be front runner in infrastructure, agriculture and in other sectors.

We live in extraordinary times. Never before in the last three hundred years, has India received the kind of attention that it does today. Wherever I go I get to hear India's growth is talked about and India is mentioned along with other powerful league of nations. We have become a trillion dollar economy. Our exports have doubled in the last three years. On the infrastructural front we

experienced phenomenal growth. New Airports are being built in even smaller towns. Today we find many Indians in the list of richest persons in the world. This is the time for us to consolidate on this progress. Work harder and smarter and bring about inclusive growth. We have to invest the benefits of our economic growth into making life better for all Indians. All of these are possible if we break away from our traditional mindset, become open to new ideas and possibilities and create a culture for high performance.

You might wonder why I am sharing all these with you all today. As we all sit in this institution known for preparing leaders you all must be in a position to take the lead and empower yourself to contribute to the growth of the nation.

I have learnt that University of Science & Technology Meghalaya is the first State Private University in the entire North East India focused on Science & Technology. Starting from a humble beginning in the year 2011, *USTM* is working relentlessly towards achieving the goal of becoming one of the premier Universities to impart world class education not just to the elite class of the society but to the under-privileged and down-trodden rural class. It is gradually emerging as a significant hub for "***Building Scientific Temperament and a Knowledge Capital***" in the entire North East Region.

Aiming to **Connect the Graduates of North East and Empower Society, North East Graduate Congress 2018** is celebrating Youth Power, Youth Potential, Youth Ability. And taking opportunity of this program, I would like to reiterate once more that youth is the driving force of our society. I must quote, the words of Swami Vivekananda who said "I have faith in my country, and especially in the youth of my country".

Demographically, today's India is at its youngest best and has the power to meet any challenge with the collective consciousness and effort of all people, especially young people. Swami Vivekananda believed that working for any social change required massive energy and spirit. Hence, he requested the youth to amplify both their mental energies and physical fitness. Today, the youths are encouraged in their quest for justice, for bringing about change, change in terms of economic growth and development for all.

5th North East Graduate Congress 2018 symbolizes a unique congregation of students, irrespective of caste, creed and religion. This occasion has turned out to be a melting point of students who belong to eight North Eastern states having all cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversities. I am told that all these students will undergo various life- skill sessions whereby they will be inspired to achieve their desired goal so that they may be prepared to venture into a world of diverse activities. Be it professional, careerist or entrepreneurial initiatives.

On this occasion I urge you all to set a new standard for social leadership. Demonstrating decency, fairness, honesty, transparency and accountability as leaders will indeed empower our collective strength and make our society happier, greener and safer than ever before. I pray to God to shower his blessings for the successful future of all the students.

Namaskar.....Jai Hind.