

**Speech for the Hon'ble Governor of Assam For Centenary
Celebrations of Dr.T.Ao on 28th January 2018**

Namaskar and a very good evening to all of you. I am feeling very happy to be with you all this evening. I am even happier because all of us have assembled here to commemorate the centenary celebrations of Dr. T. Ao a seasoned footballer who brought many laurels to the state of Assam.

Football is one of the most popular games played in Assam. Though the game owed in the foreign soil, it gained popularity in the state during 1940s and so on. Dr. T. Ao can be credited to make football one of the most popular games in the state.

Dr.Talimeren Ao was an Indian footballer and physician who was born on 28 January 1918. He was *captain* of the Indian Football Team in their first official match in *1948 London Olympics*. This ace footballer from the North East, also played for **Mohan Bagan**. He was awarded the "Best Footballer" title in the *All Assam Inter School Football Championship, 1937*.

Besides football he was also brilliant at studies. He passed out from Cotton College, Guwahati and later went to study medical from *R.G Kar Medical College, Kolkata*. Dr Ao played for Mohan Bagan in the 1950 Durand Cup final against Hyderabad Police. He earned his MBBS, and in 1963 he returned to Nagaland where he was given the post of Assistant Civil Surgeon.

I am indeed happy that as a mark of respect to the footballer we all have assembled here to commemorate the centenary of Dr. T. Ao. It is a fitting tribute to the footballer who took the lead in popularizing the game in Assam.

Assam has also travelled a long way in creating sports infrastructure and organizing several international sporting events in the state successfully. Be it the South Asian Games, FIFA Under-17 Football world Cup, Women World Boxing, international cricket match, ISL, Badminton Premier League the State has always hogged the lime light in being a successful organiser. I am happy that our government is now vying for transforming Guwahati into the sports capital of the country. Anyway we have still miles to go and I request concerted efforts from everybody to lend their hands so that we can reach our goal sooner than the later.

My heartfelt appreciation to the organizer for having organized the event and made it a success. I am sure holding these events successfully will herald positive changes in our society.

Namaskar and Jai Hind.