

Convocation address by the Honourable Governor of Assam and the visitor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi at the 6th convocation of the Assam Down Town University, Guwahati, 22nd June, 2019

It is a pleasure for me to be a part of the 6th Convocation Ceremony of the Assam Down Town University. With its lush green campus, facing mighty river Brahmaputra, the university is really a place of attraction. To the graduates of the 2018-2019, let me first congratulate you, your families and your distinguished faculty. Inevitably, your accomplishments should be a source of pride for you, your University, your region and indeed the Nation.

Dear Students, Education is one of the most crucial indices of socio-economic development. Changing scenario driven by globalization in education demands to redefine the concept of education with the needs and aspirations of the people. Quality of education being nurtured by university reflects establishment of linkages with the industries for growth and development of the society. A university has to establish more collaboration with internationally acclaimed institutions to exchange knowledge and to design curriculum to ensure its relevance to industries and vice-versa.

It is worth mentioning that the STEM education has been emerged during the last few years. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, which deals with the idea of educating students in these specific streams in an interdisciplinary applied approach. STEM integrates these disciplines into an interconnected learning pattern along with real life applications. This system creates critical thinkers, problem solvers and next generation innovators. Therefore, its position in the perspective of entire Indian

education system is very significant. I do hope, Assam down town University will play a pivotal role to shape this interdisciplinary applied approach through its academic modules towards the various concerned programmes and create a new dimension in the academic landscape of the easternmost region of the nation with enormous diversity, the North Eastern region.

The universities from private sectors have been playing a significant role in increasing the GER (Gross Enrollment Ratio) which is aimed to attain 30% by 2020 and to materialize the employability aspect. The number of state private university increased from just 14 in 2008 to 235 in 2016. During this period India added over 18000 new colleges and 270% enrollment is increased in engineering/technology programmes with slow down in IT sectors. But, unemployment rate still remains high, which reveals a mismatching between demand and supply in engineering/technology and business concerned programmes. In this respect, concept of STEM education will be certainly more relevant to resolve so many concerned issues.

I am pleased to be acquainted with the fact that the Assam Down Town University within eight years of its existence has been able to bring frontier disciplines and newer perspectives in old disciplines in the academic landscape of the entire north east India. Moreover, the university has emphasized on research and development with constant and energetic endeavour to renew knowledge through enquiry-based teaching and learning. I am also glad to know that the University has been awarded ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Certificate by the SGS International. It has also been accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Besides the University has implemented Quality Circle covering various departments and cross functional areas.

Dear Students, I extend my hearty congratulations to you on this occasion and wish you the very best for the road ahead. I am sure that you would appreciate the fact that any academic recognition entails certain responsibilities. You should do well to remember that in the context of our country, the degrees that you have earned make you very privileged people. At this moment I am reminded of the famous words of John F. Kennedy: "... Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." Indeed, the call of the hour is for us to feel proud of what we have been able to achieve and consider how best you can serve your country.

Once again, I wish the graduating students grand success in their future endeavours and pursuits.

Thanking you all,

Jai Hind.