

2019

Speech for the Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
8th Convocation of Assam Don Bosco University

Honourable Vice Chancellor of the university, Fr (Prof) Stephen Mavelly, Deans, Registrar, Heads of departments and Centres, Distinguished Members of the Board of Management, Academic Council and other Statutory Bodies of the University, Faculty Members, Guests, friends from Media and most importantly all – graduating students and their parents.

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this 8th Convocation-2019 of the Assam Don Bosco University. I congratulate all the students who have completed their studies and are ready to undertake their responsibilities in the world outside. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the faculty and staff, who I am sure, are equally proud of these graduates. My greetings to all of you!

Higher education has made significant contribution to economic development, social progress and political democracy in independent India. The success of a university depends on the quality of students produced and the quality of research and development works performed by the faculty members. I am happy that Assam Don Bosco University is creating and disseminating knowledge and skills in some core as well as frontier areas of education, developing

reservoir of youth power, so that they can effectively participate in nation building.

Ours is a nation on the march, and its development can be faster, if the economy is galvanised by its youth power, to move in the direction of a higher growth trajectory. Where India will continue to remain the world's fastest-growing large economy in 2019 as well as in 2020.

The area of key focus in our growth story, is the emerging “knowledge economy”, which is seen as the latest stage of development in global economic restructuring. Thus far, the developed world has had a pattern of moving from an agricultural economy to industrial economy to postindustrial/mass production economy, to knowledge economy. This latest stage has been marked by revolutionary changes through technological innovations. The globally competitive need for innovations with new products and processes, that develop from the R&D factors, universities, labs, educational institutes is fast changing the scene. In the knowledge economy, the specialists are characterized as computer literate and well-trained in handling data, developing algorithms, simulated models, and innovating on processes and systems.

The Indian government’s think-tank, ‘NITI Aayog’, released a paper last year outlining the government’s official strategy for the advancement of AI, with a significant boost in the funding for AI

(about 3,073 crores) by the government. Strategically, the government of India wants to establish the country as an “AI Garage” which means that if a company can deploy an AI technology in India, it will then be applicable for the whole developing world. The paper clarified 5 major sectors that AI research in India will focus on – healthcare - increasing access and affordability of quality healthcare, agriculture- enhancing farmer’s income, farm productivity and reduction of wastage, education- improving access and quality of education, Smart cities and infrastructure, smart cities and infrastructure- efficient connectivity for the burgeoning urban population, and smart mobility and transportation- for smarter and safer modes of transportation and better traffic and congestion problems. NITI Aayog’s policy to make India ‘the AI garage of the world’ has developed a very unique approach for its national AI strategy by leveraging it not only for economic and military growth, but also for social inclusion, calling it, “ AI for all”. This strategy, aims to (1) enhance and empower young Indians with the skills to find quality jobs,(2) invest in research and sectors that can maximise economic growth and social impact, and (3) scale Indian-made AI solutions that can be implemented to the rest of the developing world.

Keeping in sight the strategy of the government, I am confident that this University will become one of the best universities if it goes ahead in future without resting on the good work already done in a planned way. I congratulate the Vice-Chancellor Fr. (Dr.) Stephen

Mavelly, and his full team for their endeavour in achieving success and development for this University in every front.

As I have already mentioned and I repeat the success of a university depends on the quality of students produced and the quality of research and development works performed by the faculty members. The alumni carry the shining example of the University by excelling in their respective fields and serving the society with distinction, dedication, and devotion. I am sure, our young men and women receiving degrees and diplomas and medals today will rise up to the expectation of their parents, teachers and their alma mater and the expectations of each one of us. Finally, I congratulate once again the recipients of degrees and medals. I wish them very bright future and this University all success.

Jai Hind.