

**Speech of the Honourable Governor Assam at the closing
function of 2nd Dr.T.Ao North East International NEC Gold
Cup (U-21) Football Championship 2019 at SAI Regional
Sports Complex, Paltan Bazar Guwahati**

Namaskar and a very good evening to all of you. I am happy to be here at the closing function of Second Dr.T.Ao North East International NEC Gold Cup (U-21) Football Championship 2019.

At the outset, I pay my tributes to Dr T Ao, the legendary footballer of our country. A versatile and omnipresent personality, Dr. T. Ao was born in Nagaland, began his football in Assam, groomed as a player in Kolkata and went on to captain the Indian Football team to the London Olympics in 1948. He was not only a footballer, he was also a physician who was born on 28 January 1918. This ace footballer from the North East, also played for Mohun Bagan Athletic Club. He was awarded the “Best Footballer” title in the *All Assam Inter School Football Championship, 1937*.

The flawless talent he was, he is an inspiration to the budding footballers of the country, who proved that talent has no boundaries. Only dedication and perseverance can take the person to commanding heights, in his field of activity.

Today I also take it an opportunity to pay my respects to the memory of the Doyen of Assam Football Nurul Amin Sahab on

his Birth Centenary, this year. As the first President of All India Football Federation from Assam, he nurtured many footballing talents and made Assam a football powerhouse of many talented players. Amin Sahab exposed the footballers of Assam to the best of coaching, improved infrastructure and introduced the state to international football.

Football is one of the most popular games played in Assam. The game 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.

Though every player or every team vie for victory, at the end of the day only one team wins, where as the other has to be as a runner up. This is the beauty of the game. So my congratulations to both the winner and the runner up. Keep your spirit and tempo in tact, you will reach the zenith of success. The organisers deserve kudos for uplifting the tournament to an international standard in the very second edition of the tournament. The participation of all the eight Northeast states and teams from neighbouring Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal I am sure has strengthened the existing friendship among us. I hope the tournament will continue to promote the spirit of sportsmanship which will be helpful in raising the standard of football in the state. Hope in the coming years this tournament will be played on

a larger platform featuring participation of many more countries.
Best of Luck and keep growing up.

Thanking you all,

JAI HIND