

**XVIII Convocation  
Dibrugarh University  
18 March 2019**

**Speech of the Honourable Governor of Assam and  
Hon'ble Chancellor Dibrugarh University  
Professor Jagdish Mukhi**

**Namaskar,**

Respected His Excellency the Vice President of India and the Chief Guest of the XVIII Convocation of Dibrugarh University Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Ji, Chief Minister of Assam and the distinguished Guest of Honour Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Ji, the Vice-Chancellor Dibrugarh University Prof. Ranjit Tamuli ji, honourable guests, Deans, faculty and staff of the University, parents, graduating students, alumni, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me immense pleasure to preside over the Eighteenth Convocation of Dibrugarh University today.

Dibrugarh University has completed fifty-three glorious years of imparting knowledge and conducting research of the highest standard in the North-east of India. Since 1965, Dibrugarh University, the second-oldest state university and the easternmost, has been relentlessly striving to achieve academic excellence and dissemination of knowledge in all fields of study. Situated in a region of immense ecological and ethno-cultural diversity, Dibrugarh University is blessed with the potential of creating excellent human resources to harness

the natural resources of the region as well as conducting inquiries into the manifold values of traditional and indigenous knowledge of the area.

Today, Dibrugarh University celebrates its Eighteenth Convocation and I congratulate the graduates of 2018 who have undoubtedly worked hard to attain their degrees. In attaining their degrees, we sincerely expect that besides acquiring the discipline-specific knowledge, the students are now equipped with the necessary skills and temperament to contribute to the nation as a useful human being. The society eagerly waits for those human resources, who are integrated with knowledge and skill, human values and compassion and are capable to manage the challenges of real world.

The jurisdiction of Dibrugarh University truly portrays the great motto of our country- 'unity in diversity'. The students of the University represent their diverse linguistic, cultural and ethnic features and are working together for a better future and prosperous nation. The greatness of a university rests on having learners across the social spectrum, and Dibrugarh University can proudly boast of having a unique diversity among the student community, cutting across race, class, linguistic and gendered lines. The University has the



noble responsibility to take everyone forward in the task of nation-building and national integration.

Since Dibrugarh University is located in close proximity to the tea, oil, and coal industries, Industry-Academia interfacing needs to be strengthened. It gives me immense pleasure to inform you that the university has established important linkages with some industry leaders like Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL), Coal India Limited, OIL India, Assam OIL, ONGCL, etc. For inter-institutional and interdisciplinary academic collaboration, the University has established relationship with a good number of national and international institutions to effect a symbiotic bond. Being located in a biodiversity hot-spot, Teaching, Learning and Research ought to be conducted in such a way that these natural resources are properly harnessed and utilized for the nation's growth and development.

It gives me immense pleasure to note that Dibrugarh University has been very actively responding to the national call for *Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan*. Responding to the visionary call of the Government of India to make the country sustainably green, clean and hygienic, Dibrugarh University is tied up with the State Government and UNICEF not only in

cleanliness drives, but also offering academic programmes on *Health, Hygiene and Sanitation*.

The University proves to be a fast-growing learner centric University through various new and innovative activities. The university has initiated a system of providing Tuition fees waiver for BPL students, Health Insurance for students, Travel Grant for students for participation in Conferences, Seminars, etc., Coaching programme for Civil Service Entrances, Creation of new State-of-the-Art Sports Infrastructure, remedial courses for slow learners, Infrastructure and facilities for differently-abled persons, Soft Skill Training, establishment of Technology Innovation and Incubation Centre, Start up grants for aspirant entrepreneurs and so on.

However, I still believe that the higher education institutions must endeavour to integrate the acquired knowledge with skill-based training. Increasing need of the skilled manpower has become a strategic priority for the country and Dibrugarh University should play the role of a force multiplier in this respect. Besides, it is the responsibility of higher education to inculcate values which are aimed at benefitting the mankind. We must remember that India has good number of people who are poor and illiterate. Therefore,



it is our responsibility to see to it that the skilled human resources become socially-committed towards the task of inclusive development. The task of inclusion of girls in Higher Education is also another issue of concern and I appeal the University fraternity to address such issues.

So far as the geostrategic location of Dibrugarh university in terms of its international borders and relationship with the neighbouring countries like China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Bhutan, it can play a very instrumental role. The agenda of the Government of India on *Act East Policy* has to be translated into reality, and our Universities have to play a vital role in this regard.

Our education must create confidence among the students to take pride in the rich heritage of our civilization. Respect for local languages and their promotion should be yet another aspect of University teachings as the extinction of languages implies extinction of life experiences and learning which are codified through languages. Here I appreciate the decision of Dibrugarh University to open courses on Bodo, Mising, Deuri and Karbi languages.

The University must think in a different way to address the contemporary issues of the society effectively. Merely teaching without innovation in programme objectives and

pedagogy will unnecessarily produce more unemployed youth who become national liability instead of being national asset. New thought, new endeavour and innovation in academic exercise can only erase this unfortunate gloomy situation. The recognition of NAAC with 'A' grade to Dibrugarh University should be utilized properly for both academic-intellectual and infra-structural growth and expansion.

Lastly, wishing the very best to the students, let me call upon all the graduates continue your quest to acquire knowledge throughout your lives and utilize the knowledge to educate your fellow human beings. Once again I congratulate all those students on whom degrees are conferred today and wish them success in every sphere of their lives.

Thank you,

**JAI HIND**