

**Governor's Speech for the XVII Convocation of Tezpur
University to be held on 23rd December 2019**

Namaskar,

Vice Chancellor of the University, Registrar, Deans, 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 the Media and most important of all – graduating students and their parents.

It is my privilege to preside over the 17th convocation of Tezpur University. For me, a visit to this university is always refreshing and rejuvenating. I consider it a privilege to be amongst young and vibrant minds, the future of India. I understand that 1255 students are receiving their Degrees and Diplomas today. This includes 82 research scholars who have earned the degree of Ph. D. I heartily congratulate all of you on your achievement and wish you all, a bright future.

Higher education has made significant contribution to economic development, social progress and political stability 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 Tezpur 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 grow faster, if the economy is galvanized by its youth power. 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. This latest stage has been marked by revolutionary changes through technological innovations. 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.

Tezpur University has carved a unique niche for itself, in terms of its infrastructural and academic prowess. The physical infrastructure of the University has been created on a beautiful, sprawling campus replete with essential amenities, expected of a university of the 21st Century. This University has not only built a beautiful campus, but worked doubly hard to maintain it the same way.

The academic reach of the University is evident in the growing number of students enrolling for various courses from different parts of the country and abroad. Currently we have 32 international students from countries like Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Malawi, Lesotho, Syria, Thailand, Botswana, Sierra Leone, and Palestine amongst others. A vibrant academic tradition is in place offering quality higher education. I have been informed that more than four thousand students are pursuing this year for nearly 70 academic programmes in 22 departments. A number of new programmes and 3 new departments have also been introduced this year.

Students, researchers and faculty members are the most important segments of a university. As I understand, this institution continues to strive for all-round development of its students and is strongly committed to societal responsibilities. I am happy to note that the alumni of Tezpur University have made their presence felt nationally and internationally. As the Chancellor, I do take pride in the fact that the students of Tezpur University have been able to make their mark in various events, and have earned laurels in the fields of creative and extra-curricular activities. For these efforts, we have received numerous recognitions of very high order in the past, like the Visitor's Best University Award in 2016 and MHRD-NIRF

Rank 5 amongst universities in the same year. This has made Tezpur University a force to reckon with in all spheres.

Tezpur University is a product of the Assam Accord and was established to generate knowledge and manpower for nation-building, by blending regional aspirations with national vision. This dream of the people has been realized through the establishment of the much-expected Department of Assamese. True to the spirit of the people of Assam, I hope and wish that we shall see path breaking research in Assamese language, literature and culture.

Situated on the banks of the Brahmaputra, Tezpur has always been regarded as a historic city. Beginning from the mythological battle between Lord Krishna and the King of Tezpur, Banasura to the long list of freedom fighters and cultural icons, Tezpur has played an important role in the national narrative. As part of the Tezpur University fraternity, we must commit ourselves to take this Institution to greater heights, beyond the parochial boundaries of linguistic or ethnic divides.

The university continues to grow, infrastructurally as well as academically. We are reaping the benefits of this growth and should also be aware of what we owe to the society. Let us not

forget that we are here to serve the society to the best of our capabilities.

Dear Graduates, on this joyous occasion I extend my hearty congratulations to all of you and wish you the very best for the road ahead. The academic distinction you receive today entails certain responsibilities. You would do well to remember that in the context of our country, the degrees that you have earned makes you very privileged people. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, we must remember that, "True education must correspond to the surrounding circumstances or it is not a healthy growth." Indeed, we must feel proud of what we have been able to achieve but we must also consider ways to best serve our country.

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

JAI HIND