

Speech of the Honourable Governor for 1st Convocation of Cotton University

Respected Chief Guest of the convocation, Chief Minister Dr.Himanta Biswa Sarma ji, Guest of Honour, Minister of Education Dr.Ronuj Pegu ji, Speaker of the convocation Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain ji Vice-Chancellor, Cotton University Prof. Bhabesh Chandra Goswami ji, Members of University Court, Members of Academic Council, Registrar, Heads of Departments and Centres, Faculty Members and most importantly all – graduating students and their parents.

It is with a sense of pride that I address and congratulate a global audience of graduating students and their families on this date of the 1st Convocation of Cotton University. While we may be in the midst of a global pandemic, I am sure that you all have already been prepared by the transformative educational philosophy of Cotton University to navigate these uncertain times with fortitude and resolve. I also understand that you would have been looking forward to this momentous Convocation ceremony at your campus with your friends and families cheering for you as you receive your degrees. However, this has not been possible because of the pandemic.

Let us also remember the millions across the globe who are affected by the COVID pandemic. The pandemic has created the largest disruption of education in history affecting billions of students across the world. Therefore, today the meaning of your education manifest in becoming more intellectually competent, morally upright, socially committed, spiritually inspired more than ever before. This is required to

put the disrupted pieces back together again to create a more evolved and harmonious whole.

It is my privilege to preside over the 1st convocation of the University. I am told that 3908 students are going to receive their Degrees and Diplomas at this convocation. I heartily congratulate all of you on your achievement and wish you all, a bright future.

A University is the depository of knowledge and it moulds human resources of a country for generations. In its journey into future, the institution continues to imbibe its rich experience from the past while producing human minds for the future. A university ought to aim towards making the task of knowledge delivery an intense exercise to make the students intellectually and spiritually empowered. The Gandhian definition of education which stresses the all-round development of the individual remains a benchmark even in the contemporary context. I firmly believe that Cotton University shall set an example by creating such human resources in the days to come. I congratulate one and all today, when Cotton University is having its first Convocation for the academic sessions 2017 – 2019.

I am happy to learn that the university has its roots in the 116 years old Cotton College that was established in 1901 in Guwahati when Sir Henry Stedman Cotton was the Chief Commissioner of the Assam province under the British government. Since those days, it has proudly withstood the test of time by confronting every challenge to become a centre of excellence in the task of generating worthy citizens for this great country of ours.

The academic environment of the country today anticipates a radical transformation in view of the National Education Policy 2020

which intends to provide a holistic foundation for life that embraces academics and non-academic spheres. Therefore, task of Cotton University I believe should be the force-multiplier in total application of the new education policy to bring about a paradigm shift in education in our life.

It is needless to mention that technology has become omnipresent in every sphere of life. Education is not an exception. The prevalence of technology in education has become more visible in the wake of COVID pandemic. In this context, I should make it a point that institutions should however keep in mind that technology should be utilized to bring about inclusive, equitable and qualitative information in accordance with the NEP framework. In keeping with the New Education Policy, Cotton University should design roadmap for the future so that it can march along with the rest of the country in the field of education. It should take steps not only to cater to the needs of its immediate members but also play vital role in transforming the society at large, through its extension services.

I am happy that Cotton University has moved in this direction by introducing several programmes and courses which are of multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary nature. With over 30 departments and a student strength that exceeds several thousand at present, the university possesses a vibrant academic community comprising its students and faculty, authority and institutional governance - all making their best efforts in their respective capacities to keep pace with the changing scenario. The institution has also been actively participating in social responsibility engagements and has achieved commendable success in the field of education and community health. It is indeed

immensely heartening to know that Cottonians have been playing crucial roles in cultural, social, political and sporting arena to bring laurels of all hues.

In its glorious journey to the present, this premier institution has charted a growth trajectory that is simply impressive. The proud alumni of this institution include the eminent Bard of the Brahmaputra Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika, Chief Scientist of India's Chandrayan Mission-1, Prof Jitendra Nath Goswami, internationally acclaimed Ramayan Scholar, Mamoni Raisom Goswami, the present Chief Minister of our state Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma. The list is endless.

Dear Students, the onus of continuing and enriching this enviable legacy lies with the present generation of Cottonians. On this occasion, may I call upon our student fraternity to imbibe the spirit of curiosity, develop scientific temper to face all challenges of the world in the 21st century!

I hope that brand Cotton shall continue its glorious march into future and be the torchbearer in all respects by showing the path of transformation in a positive dimension that moves beyond education.

I would like to end by quoting Mahatma Gandhi. He once said, "Be the change that you wish to see in this world". So, I say to you all, lead the world, be the change and make Assam and India proud.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.

