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Sonowal addresses 18th Convocation of Tezpur University

Appeals graduating students to join start up movements to exploit market potentials of Assam

Urges students to contribute nation building

Dispur, January 22: The 18th Convocation of Tezpur University held today where in Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended as the Chief Guest through video conferencing.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal who was present at the convocation as the Guest of Honour termed the convocation as the momentous occasion in the annal of Tezpur University. Speaking on the occasion Chief Minister Sonowal while congratulating the graduating students on their academic feats addressed them as among a few fortunate students who had access to educational experience at a renowned institution like Tezpur University. He said that the experience will reward them throughout their life. Stating on the fierce competition in the present-day society, Sonowal said that the students must have been awakened to the realities of intense competition and acquired capacity during their stay in the university to take advantage of competitive environment prevalent outside. Sonowal asked them to use this capacity to create wealth and welfare for the society and for the organizations they belong to. He also said that the students should consider it to be their bounded duty to strive for welfare of society, for reducing disparity therein and to empower those who are disadvantaged.

Chief Minister Sonowal also called upon the students to lend their academic prowess and knowledge for nation building. He said that the skill sets and the knowledge that they have gained during their stay in the university must be effectively channelized for realising Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat and for the local development of Assam along with its natural resources.

Speaking on the novel corona virus pandemic which has engulfed the entire world, Sonowal said that the uncertainty, instability and self-doubt had been the common themes in the lives of millions of students during 2020. He however, said that during these trying times, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the battle from the front with umpteen courage and

determination. Modi's bold and timely decision to call the nationwide lockdown from March 25 was the real stimulus and a boon for the countrymen in the fight against COVID-19.

He said that the lockdowns did not only facilitated measures in arresting the virus spread to a considerable extent, it also gave the country much needed time to gear up its health infrastructure facilities, medical equipment producing trained manpower which have helped the country in taking aggressive measures to trace, test, isolate, treat and prevent the spread of corona virus.

Chief Minister Sonowal said that Assam under Prime Minister Modi's leadership and guidance has been able to defeat the COVID 19 pandemic with minimum damage. He also congratulated Modi for delivering the promise on Covid -19 vaccine. The thrust Modi has given for Atmanirbhar Bharat has created the platform for the scientists to produce the vaccine. Sonowal termed it as a major step towards 'Make in India' and 'self-reliant India' campaigns.

Chief Minister Sonowal said that the north eastern region at this moment is experiencing rapid progress due to unparalleled political will of the Prime Minister. With significant boost to connectivity and speedy industrialization, the region is fast emerging as the nerve-centre of India's economic activity. Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi while terming the north-east as 'Astalakshmi' and 'New Engine of Growth' for the country, has initiated many innovative steps during last six years for faster development of the region, Sonowal added.

He further said that the "Act East Policy" enunciated by the Prime Minister has opened up new doors of opportunities in communication, transportation, trade and business, tourism, cultural exchange, sports, information technology, agriculture etc. to link northeast with ASEAN and BBN countries. Likewise, to promote industrialization, the State government has also come up with new policy on tax incentives for setting up industries and tourism units, IT policy, biotech policy, start up policy, sugar policy, solar energy policy, Assam Industrial Investment Policy etc. He also said that following Global Investors' Summit organized by the Assam Government in February 2018 at Guwahati, 263 MoUs from investors with intent of investment of Rs 79,000 crore were signed and meanwhile, projects worth more than 55 thousand crore have already been grounded in public and private sectors.

Sonowal said that in a bid to his government's relentless efforts to create a supportive start-up ecosystem in the state, "Assam Startup – The Nest", an incubation hub was set up in Guwahati by the Department of Industry and Commerce of the State Government in association with IIM Calcutta Innovation Park.

He, therefore urged upon the graduates of Tezpur University with their innovative ideas, knowledge and skill to join the start-up movement to exploit the market potential of Assam, from which service can be provided to 800 million population spreading across the North Eastern States of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and the ASEAN countries. He also assured that his government will extend full support to the endeavors of the new graduates for setting up industries and start-up ventures.

Chief Minister Sonowal at the same time urged upon the graduates to provide their dedicated and committed efforts for the realization of the dream of a “New India” as envisioned by Prime Minister. He also said that the contribution of the students in augmenting the development process of the country would lead to speedy realization of Prime Minister’s vision of “Atmanirbhar Bharat”. Referring to the cultural giants like Jyotiprasad Agarwala and Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Sonowal called upon the students to keep working for the development of the state they belong to and the country as a whole.

A total of 1218 students were given degrees on the occasion.

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