



सत्यमेव जयते

ADDRESS

OF

SHRI J.P. RAJKHOWA, IAS (RETD)

GOVERNOR,

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

AT

THE XIII UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION, RAJIV GANDHI

UNIVERSITY, RONO HILLS,

DOIMUKH

ON

NOVEMBER 30, 2015

Hon'ble Chancellor, Air Marshal (Retd.) Pranab Kumar Barbora, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Tamo Mibang, Faculty members and officers of the University, distinguished Guests, students, ladies and gentlemen.

- ❖ It is a great pleasure for me to be here to deliver the XIIIth Convocation Address of the Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh. I thank the Vice-Chancellor of the University for extending me an invitation for the same.

Established in 1984, this University, popularly known as RGU, is the premier institution of higher learning in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. In line with its founding objectives, the University has been contributing to knowledge enrichment and societal development imparting quality education to several thousands of youth in this remote part of the country. The courses and the various programmes have been designed to cater to the development needs of the region, keeping in view its socio-cultural, economic, ethnic and geographical requirements. Through its affiliated colleges and constituent post-graduate teaching and research departments, the University is set to make an impact in teaching-learning innovations in the higher education arena and in quality research. While focusing on these basic aspects of higher education, the University has been successfully playing its role in extending the benefits of collegiate and university education to the society by way of its multifarious extension activities.

The University is in the process of creating the necessary infrastructural and intellectual resources for quality education. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Vice Chancellor and entire academic and administrative team for these achievements.

- ❖ It is now well accepted that education is the key to development, as without human resource development, economic development based on availability of scarce natural resources, would not lead to sustainable economic growth and development. It is universally recognized that efficient and optimum utilization of available natural resources rather than mere supply, is more important if we want to achieve sustainable economic progress.

Optimum utilisation depends on the efficient and proper use of the key factors of production, i.e. land, labour, capital, organisation, and management and easy access to natural resources. Optimum utilization would depend upon optimum productivity of the resources, in particular of labour and capital.

Productivity can be enhanced by efficient management of labour and capital and herein lies the importance of higher education in building a storehouse of human capital. This human capital based on knowledge based higher education, which Institutions like RGU are building up, is indispensable for increasing the productivity of a nation. This also enables us to appreciate that over-exploitation of natural resources not only causes fast depletion of the same and causes environmental degradation, but also is not sustainable in the long run.

Hence, it is of utmost importance that the scientists, researchers, engineers, social scientists, environmentalists of Institutions of higher learning like the RGU strive to formulate alternative sustainable modules of production in order to enhance productivity of human and all other resources.

- ❖ At the same time, we cannot forget that the education that the University and other Institutions impart should be useful to the Society and the “aam admi”. Let us take cue from what Swami Vivekananda said’ “The education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle for life, which does not bring out strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy, and the courage of a lion – is it worth of the name? Real education is that which enables one to stand on one’s own legs. The ideal of all education, all training, should be this man-making.”

- ❖ Universities have a significant role in supporting knowledge driven economic growth strategies and in the making of democratic, liberal, value-based, all inclusive, socially cohesive societies. Higher Education is more than the capstone of traditional education pyramid. It is a critical pillar of human development world over. In today’s lifelong-learning framework, higher education provides not only the knowledge and skills necessary for every labour market, but also caters to the making of key personnel for nation building, such as teachers, doctors, nurses, engineers, civil

servants, lawyers, law makers, law enforcers, architects, accountants, humanists, technocrats, artists, managers, entrepreneurs, innovators, scientists, I.T. professionals, defence personnel, security analysts, social scientists and so on. It is these trained individuals who develop the capacity and analytical skills that drive local economies, support civil society, teach children, lead effective governments and make important decisions, which affect the entire society. While making decisions affecting a large segment of the population or the entire people of a country, the motto should be the “greatest good of the greatest number”, in line with our democratic dispensation. In using the public resources including public fund, you have to keep in mind five ‘Es’ – Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Equity and Excellence.

In every sphere of our life, irrespective of the profession you take up or organization you have to serve, including self-employment through ‘Enterprise Building’, 5 ‘Ms’ have to be managed, Men, Money, Machines, Materials and Methods. The success that one would achieve depends on how well these 5 ‘Ms’ are managed, and that would be possible by imaginatively applying the Principles of 5 ‘Es’. I have the confidence that RGU has equipped you with the knowledge and skill to apply these 5 yardsticks.

- ❖ It may be noted that, for contributing to nation-building and skill development of students, institutions of higher learning are expected to demonstrate a drive to develop themselves into centre’s of excellence. Excellence in all that they do, will contribute to the overall development of the system of higher education of the country as a whole. This quest for excellence can be done through the identification of the strengths and weaknesses in the teaching and learning process as carried out by the Institution. Research is an important component of the University.

There is ample scope for conducting innovative research in diverse areas in North East India. Since the region is very rich in natural resources and biodiversity, Arunachal Pradesh in particular, there should be inter-disciplinary research on natural resource management and environmental impact assessment of various developmental projects.

The major natural resources of the Region include minerals, such as Petroleum and Natural Gas, Coal, Limestone, Graphite, Quartzite, Yellow Ochre, others like Marble, Clay for making pottery, Soil for making bricks etc. But, for most of the minerals in Arunachal Pradesh particularly, survey, mapping, available quantity, plan for exploitation keeping in mind the need to conserve for the posterity are lacking. So, the RGU has a key role to play in these areas.

- ❖ The hydro-power generation potential of the Region, especially of Arunachal Pradesh is very high – about 55000 to 60000 M.W. and could be the ‘Power House of India.’ However, there are downstream concerns as also possible threat due to earthquakes. While mega dam projects are facing resistance due to ecological, environmental and livelihood concerns of the people benefitting from the big rivers, impact assessment studies are a little time consuming. As such a large number of micro, small and medium run-of-the river projects could be conceived, planned and developed with much less time, thereby improving the power scenario. RGU could play a role in this area also and many of you, should be able to play your role as well.

- ❖ The departments of the University can conduct useful research on challenges to the hill economy, conflict between traditional and modern institutions as well as opportunities of border trade and how to integrate the North East economy with the Indian and global economy, keeping in mind the Act East Policy of the Central Government. I am glad to learn that the Department of Economics received a grant of Rs. 10 crore as corpus fund from the Ministry of Finance, Government of India for research and development. It is worth-mentioning that the Centre of Development Studies was established in 2013 as an adjunct to the Department of Economics for conducting valuable research. The Faculty of Life Sciences also received a grant of Rs. 7 crore for the Centre with Potential for Excellence in Biodiversity. I hope the University, in general and Departments of Economics and Life Sciences, in particular would conduct relevant research in their respective fields related to the Region and the Country as a whole and march ahead towards becoming World Class Research Centres.

In this context, I would suggest that the RGU would take up appropriate research projects to document the culture, traditions, customs, faiths, expertise in handlooms, handicrafts, exquisite designs, language / dialects, costumes, folk lores, food delicacies etc. of the 26 major Tribes and about 110 Sub-Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, as very little documentation and research have been done in this area. The same is true of other North Eastern States and as such, RGU scholars and researchers have an important role to play, for conservation of the cultural heritage of such Tribes and sub-Tribes.

- ❖ Friends, I would also like to impress upon you the need to take by heart traditional, much cherished values of our civilization, i.e., love & concern for the children – girl child in particular, the women, your parents, elderly persons and senior citizens, otherwise able persons the hapless poor and marginalized sections of the society and the people who through their toil and moil feed all of us, namely, the farmers, milk producers, the horticulturists, pisci-culturists etc. and also construction and building workers who build our houses, entrepreneurs and so forth.

- ❖ It is time for all of us to join hands together and also to make individual efforts to conserve and sustain the Gifts of Nature – the greeneries, rivers, streams, hills and mountains, the flora & fauna, the overall biodiversity for which the N.E. Region is included as one of the 20 bio-diversity hot spots in the world. Nature has given us everything for our sustenance -both physical and mental. Have we given anything back in return? The answer is a 'Big No.' Let us ponder, do our bit to conserve and sustain Nature; otherwise we will have to pay a heavy price due to erratic climate change including Global Warming.

You should also commit towards 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', as 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness.' While launching this Abhiyan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji urged upon every Indian to "devote at least hundred hours every year, that is two hours every week towards cleanliness." That would mean sparing just 17-18 minutes a day. Would it be asking too much for cleaning our motherland?

- ❖ Convocations are important events in the life of all academic institutions and its graduate scholars. It gives a sense of identity, continuity over the years and re-affirms the duty of each generation to transmit the best of its knowledge, culture and wisdom, gathered in its hallowed precinct, to be passed on to the next generation. This is an occasion which provides the students to receive their degrees and academic awards both ceremonially and with great dignity and fun fare. You will always remember this occasion throughout your life.

At the same time, the serenity and ceremonious order should remind you of the responsibility that await you as graduates and scholars. The University, the teachers and the non-teaching staff also deserve felicitations from all of you and your parents. It is their continuing effort and co-ordination which have made it possible for you to achieve your goal to earn your degree and recognition. This is not to undermine your own efforts but to acknowledge that when opportunity and efforts are combined then success knocks at your door. This is also an occasion for you to think of what you can do for your alma-mater and your motherland. It is relevant to remember what John F. Kennedy, the legendary American President told his countrymen – Ask not what America can do for you, ask what you can do for America. In the same spirit all of us have to dedicate ourselves to the service of our motherland.

- ❖ It is after completing the University education that the real education of life begins. One should accept knowledge from whatever sources it comes and one should always try to expand one's knowledge. One should always have an attitude of respect towards mother, father and teachers. Be free from fear and always try to achieve perfection in every work. Be generous in life and in whatever field you are working you must always try to enhance the prestige of your University and Country. Before I close, I would like you to take by heart, what the Missile Man of India and the Peoples' President Dr. AP.J. Abdul Kalam had advised to the youth of India. A few quotes from him:

“If you want to shine like a Sun, First burn like a Sun”.

“Confidence and hard work is the best medicine to kill the disease called failure. It will make you a successful person. Without your involvement you can’t succeed. With your involvement you can’t fail. Dream is not what you see in sleep, but that thing that does not let you sleep. You have to dream before your dreams come true.”

“Speak five lines to yourself every morning-

- 1. I am the Best.**
- 2. I can do it.**
- 3. God is always with me.**
- 4. I am a winner**
- 5. Today is my day.”**

Also take by heart the famous statement of Barrack Obama, President of America, who said to the people of America – Yes, we can do it. Together we can!

Finally, I would like to end my speech by congratulating all of you on whom the University has conferred the degrees. I wish you all success in life. Getting the degree is only the beginning. There is no shortage of opportunities, but with vision, hard work, dedication and imagination, these opportunities can be translated into reality. You, who are graduating today, have a major responsibility to shoulder. Future is neither given nor ordained. If you have the skills, and the will, you can make it happen.

Thank you.

“Jai Hind”

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