

THIRD CONVOCATION

Monday, October 30, 2023

SPEECH BY

PROF. (DR.) S.P. SINGH

VICE CHANCELLOR, THE ASSAM ROYAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY, GUWAHATI

NAMASKAR

Respected Chief Guest of the Third Convocation Honourable Vice President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji, Hon'ble Governor of Assam and our Visitor, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria Ji, Madam Anita Kataria Ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma Ji, Hon'ble Education Minister, Dr. Ranaj Pegu Ji, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam, Sri Paban Kumar Borthakur Ji, Director General of Police, Govt. of Assam, Sri G P Singh Ji, Hon'ble Chancellor Dr. A K Pansari; Hon'ble Pro Chancellor Sri A K Modi, Ministers and Officials of Govt. of Assam, Chancellors and Vice Chancellors of Universities, Directors & Principals of Educational Institutions, Invited Eminent Guests, Members of Gyan Sagar Foundation, Members of The Governing Body, Board of Management, and The Academic Council, Senior Officials, Deans, Faculty Members & Staff of the University, Graduands of the Class of 2023, proud parents, grandparents, guardians, alumni & students of the University, members of the press and media, ladies and gentlemen.

I take this opportunity to welcome you all on behalf of The Assam Royal Global University in its Third Convocation. We are honoured to welcome Honourable Vice President of India. Sir your gracious presence today makes it a Red Letter Day for the University. Your words will motivate each one of us to do our duty with greater rigour and honesty.

We are very grateful to Hon'ble Governor of Assam for presiding over the Convocation. Sir, your presence amongst us is an inspiration for the graduands and all of us.

We feel privileged to have with us our Honourable Chief Minister of Assam. Sir we are very grateful to you for always helping and blessing us and for gracing today's convocation.



We extend our welcome to Hon'ble Education Minister of Assam. We also extend our warm welcome to the Chief Secretary and the DGP of Assam.

The University is grateful to its visionary Chancellor, Pro Chancellor and Executive Vice President for their significant contributions in elevating the education landscape of North East and for their continuous guidance and support in achieving this stage. Sirs, we welcome you.

The Assam Royal Global University is a state-private university, established by The Assam Royal Global University Act 2013, notified by the Government of Assam Gazette notification on 23rd August 2013. Starting its first academic session in July 2017, The Assam Royal Global University is now offering 130 plus programmes and courses under its over 24 schools. The university has seen remarkable growth in the last few years. As on date, we have 6500+ students, 380+ faculty members, 2000+ publications and research engagements, 800+ and 7000+ alumni spread across the world. The University also has its presence across seven states of the Northeast through twenty plus Admission Information Centres to provide counselling and admission guidance to students of different states.

Convocation is a solemn occasion when we award degrees to the graduating students, present the university's balance sheet for the previous academic year and share its future plans. I will share few highlights about the activities, achievements, and initiatives taken for the academic year 2022-2023.

In Today's Convocation, the University shall award degrees and diplomas to 1,197 Graduands, along with 42 gold, 45 silver, 02 Chancellor's Gold medals, and four Salvers to the students for their outstanding academic and co-curricular achievements.



In the First Convocation we awarded three Salvors viz. Gini Devi Pansari Award for Excellence in Literary Activities, Sanwarmal Modi Award for Excellence in Cultural Activity and Basudeo Pansari Award for Excellence in Community Service. At the Second Convocation, two additional salvors were instituted in the name of Late Suresh Kumar Prithani, and Late Hemant Kumar Lohia, coveted IPS Officer of Jammu and Kashmir cadre whose contribution as a disciplined officer to ensure welfare for all in the true sportsmanship spirit will be remembered for years. These salvors are Suresh Kumar Prithani Award for Excellence in Mentoring and Hemant Kumar Lohia Award for Excellence in Sports.

The theme for the University's First Convocation featured the decor and culture of Assam, Meghalaya in the Second and this year the convocation theme depicts the vibrant and beautiful state of Manipur. Here, I feel pleased to share that in the last convocation the University was blessed by the presence of Sri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Union Minister as the Chief Guest.

The Assam Royal Global University is proud of its diverse background of students from around eleven States of India and seven countries (Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, The Czech Republic, and South Korea). Since majority of the students belong to the North-eastern States, therefore, it was decided by our Hon'ble Chancellor that every year, the theme for the Convocation will be based on one of the states of North-East India.

Ladies and Gentlemen, The Assam Royal Global University is experiencing a phenomenon of confidence, trust, and excellence which is reflected in increase on the number of students each year. Our journey began with 700+ admissions in various undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, and Ph.D. programs in 2017-18. This year, the admission figure is 3100+ across the programs. This signifies that the growth in admission has reached five times in the current year since the inception of the university.

The University has a built-up area of more than twelve (12) lakhs sq.ft. and is spread over thirty plus acres of land having nine academic blocks and four hostels accommodating more than twelve hundred boarders. All classrooms are ICT enabled and laboratories, computer centres and other facilities are equipped with sophisticated equipments to provide high quality education and a better research environment.

The University offers a blend of sports and co-curricular activities aimed at holistic development of students. University sports infrastructure includes Basketball Court, Baseball Ground, Football Field, Volleyball Court and a Cricket Ground. There is an indoor sports complex named D'Royal Cube which has two international standard badminton courts, one squash court and facilities for other indoor sports. Further, every student of the University is expected and motivated to join minimum one club and take part in at least one sports activity. The university currently has more than thirty-seven clubs for student engagement, experiential and transformational learning and to develop every student's holistic personality as per NEP-2020 mandate.

The university offers numerous programs inclusive of professional and skill oriented courses. Some of them are Engineering, Management, Architecture, Pharmacy, Nursing etc. and regular UG and PG courses in Basic Sciences, Applied Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities. The University also offers contemporary advanced courses including Communication Design, Fashion Design, Fine Arts, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Robotics to name a few. The University ecosystem from the beginning promotes inter disciplinary courses and research through CBCS providing minor tracks where for example, if a student is pursuing engineering degree can also have a minor track in fine arts, arts or any other diversified discipline. The National Education Policy 2020 has emphasized on providing education through multi-disciplinary approach. From this year, the university has implemented NEP 2020 with respect to the upgradation of curriculum, making credit structure into major, minor, value-added courses, skill enhancement courses, ability enhancement courses along with multiple entry and multiple exit as well as provision through ABC for extra credits earned by the students.

Amongst the various areas of recognition, the university has been awarded several accolades during this period. A few noteworthy ones are:

1. Institutions Innovation Council-Royal Global University (IIC- Royal Global University) received 3 Star rating by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India and AICTE.
2. Royal Global University is the First Private University in the NE region that was selected for Impact Lecture Sessions 2021 under The Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC).

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3. Royal Global University rated 3 stars amongst 41 Universities of Eastern Region and Ranked 3rd in Assam and upgraded to 4.0 from 3.0 for different set of activities.
4. Two innovations of Royal Global University, the Electric Vehicle and Unique Cutter was recognized as Best Categories Exhibitors among the Private Universities at the Northeast Research Conclave organised by IIT Guwahati's Science, Technology and Climate Change Dept. and Dept. of Education, Govt. of Assam.
5. Royal Innovation Incubator has been certified by ATAL Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements.
6. IIC- Royal Global University has been selected as Mentor Institute for ATAL Tinkering Lab within Assam.
7. The Assam Royal Global University has been ranked one hundred and fiftieth (150th) among all Indian universities by the \ Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) in May 2023.
8. Three (3) innovative prototypes have been selected for preparation of startup development and subsequent scaling up through the YUKTI Innovation Challenge 2023 (YIC 2023), a program initiated by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC), the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), and the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The prototypes being recognized are a portable device to cut soft sheets in a circular shape with an adjustable radius, Collabme, and marker pen made of biodegradable materials.

To support young, bright, meritorious, and economically challenged students and promote inclusive growth of the society, the university offers various scholarships to support them. In the Academic Year 2022-2023, a total of 62 scholarships under two broad categories, The Royal Merit Scholarship and The Royal Endowment Scholarship were awarded. These scholarships also include 100% scholarship to one (1) student from the Chakma Community of Miao Division of Arunachal Pradesh. The university also provides monthly scholarships to semester toppers and a total of eighty-one (81) scholarships have been awarded under this category. The university initiated to offer scholarship to the top five (5) meritorious students from hundred (100) schools of Assam, where they will be offered hundred percent scholarship. Sixty-four (64) students have taken admission under this scheme in the year 2023-24.

The University has indigenous Student Learning Management System called RoyalNet which is a convenient online tool widely used by the students and faculty. While the faculty share teaching plans, study materials, notices etc., Royalites and their parents can easily access their attendance, progress, and results. We are further upgrading this Learning Management System to provide better services.

The University emphasizes on various teaching-learning practises. This includes tutorial classes for slow and fast learners, MOOCs and SWAYAM with a provision for earning extra credit, coaching for national level competitive exams like Civil Services/ GATE, NET/SLET etc., Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) with Learning Outcome Curriculum Framework (LOCF) syllabus; compulsory course in Communicative English, Behavioural Science and many other subjects are offered from the basket of courses.

The Assam Royal Global University is actively engaged in research. The university, in the academic year 2022-2023, have published 147 research papers, 50 book chapters, submitted 38 projects out of which 5 have already been approved, amounting to Rs. 50 lakhs. Numerous grants have been awarded to faculty members in 2022-2023 which include:

- NSS Grant amounting to Rupees One Lakh Forty-Nine Thousand and Four Hundred (Rs. 1,49,400) was released to the NSS-RGU Chapter from the Office of the Sports and Youth Welfare, Government of Assam.
- A project grant from Northeastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFI Ltd.) amounting to Rupees three lakhs and fifty thousand (Rs. 3,50,000) to Mr. Moses Newme, Assistant Professor from the Department of Social Work.

This year, the university has registered itself under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Scheme of the Government of India. The university has

adopted five villages and will equip the villagers with various skills through training for livelihood and setting up an ecosystem for fostering entrepreneurial opportunities. Majority of the students participate in the same as it comprises of multi-faceted experiential learning beyond classrooms.

By the end of the academic year 2022-23, the total faculty strength of the university was three hundred and eighty (380) plus members. The faculty members are from different parts of the country with diverse cultural backgrounds and are drawn from best of the universities and institutions of India and abroad, including University of Leeds, University of Buffalo, University of London, Banaras Hindu University, Delhi University, IITs, NITs, Jamia Milia Islamia University, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Aligarh Muslim University, University of Allahabad, Lucknow University, Delhi Technological University, Tezpur University, Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University, Assam University-Silchar, other central universities and many other regional institutions. The University is blessed to have five (5) former Vice-Chancellors of the Universities of North and Northeast India who are associated as Professor, Professor Emeritus and Advisors.

The Central Library of the University has an aggregate of diverse sources of reference materials. This includes twenty nine thousand four hundred and seven (29,407) volumes, nine thousand six hundred and fourteen (9614) titles, thirteen thousand and forty two (13,042) e-books, six thousand four hundred and sixty (6,460) e-journals and twenty-eight (28) print journals. The students also have access to DELNET, JSTOR, National Digital Library of IIT Kharagpur, open access databases, etc. University has school/department libraries/book corners as per requirement of the statutory bodies and need of the faculty and students. To inculcate reading habits in the students, the University has created a unique book corner near the food court. The university has ensured that the library is open till late hours for the benefit of students, faculty, and staff.

The University has organised a number of national and zonal level sports events viz. East Zone Inter University Table Tennis (Women) Tournament, East Zone Inter University Table Tennis (Men) Tournament, All India Inter University Baseball (Men) Tournament and All India Inter University Baseball (Women) Tournament under the aegis of Association of Indian Universities (AIU).



The University was graced with the footprints of luminaries who have shared their wisdom and views with the students and faculty members of the university on various occasions. Some of the notable luminaries include Sri Ranoj Pegu, Hon'ble Education Minister of Assam, Sri Nayanjyoti Saikia, Winner of Master Chef India, Dr. Mayur Hazarika, 5th Position Holder in UPSC 2022, Sri Pradeep Kumar (Retd.) IPS, Sri Rito Riba, Renowned Bollywood Singer, Sri Sundeep Nayak, Director General NPC, Brigadier Ranjit Borthakur (Retd.), Indian Army, and Air Vice Marshal Sanjib Bordoloi (Retd.), Indian Air Force, Prof.(Dr.) C Raj Kumar, Founding Vice Chancellor, O P Jindal Global University, Sri Shashank Srivastava, Executive Director, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., Ms. Lovlina Borgohain, Olympic Medalist in Boxing, to name a few. Recently Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Former Chief Justice of India & MP, Rajya Sabha visited the campus and interacted with the students during Royal Lex Fiesta 2023.

The University acknowledges its social responsibility and has adopted various schemes and initiatives. We believe that the few initiatives of our Hon'ble Chancellor will create a positive impact on our students, society and make a substantial difference in people's lives.

These initiatives are:

- a. Royal Anna Seva wherein wholesome meal is distributed to 101 underprivileged people every day.
- b. Royal Swasthya Seva, a clinic with a qualified doctor and nurse is available in the University for free consultation and free medicine of regular nature to the people of the neighbouring locality, for the students and staff of the university.
- c. Royal Vaastra Seva is a cloth donation initiative by the university which aims to collect clothes from students and staff of the university for all age groups, on the university campus. These clothes are further distributed to the people in need.

Students of the University are regularly taking teaching sessions at the Tetelia L.P. School, which the University had adopted. The University provides for subsidized facilities for X-Ray, diagnostics, physiotherapy and radiology services for the benefit of the local community.



Several other initiatives like blood donation camps, flood relief, etc. were also undertaken by the university. Additionally, the University contributes to a healthy environment by producing Vermicompost and Biogas for use in the University as well as for the staff and faculty members. Clean and Green Campus is our motto and we have a sewage treatment plant, solar power generation and an efficient solid waste disposal system. Further, the university campus is plastic and tobacco free.

The University also awards students who show exemplary academic as well as co-curricular performance by enlisting them as Deans' Listers. The University started with 6 Deans' Listers in the first year which has risen to twenty-seven (27) in the current academic year.

Over the years, many students have qualified for the GATE, JAM, NET, TET examinations. 35 cleared CSIR, NET JRF while 10 cleared GATE, 3 cleared CTET, 01 cleared APSC and 01 cleared CAT examinations. Mr. Leeyen Hazarika, currently the DTO Kamrup (Metro) is an alumni too.

Our alumni are pursuing higher studies in many prestigious institutions of India and abroad like Cardiff University, University of Toronto, University of South Florida, The New York Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Technology, National Institute of Technology, Tezpur University, to name a few. Here, I would like to specially mention that our student Ms. Chitrani Goswami from Royal School of Fine Arts has been selected for Scholarship and has bagged a place in Masters of Painting at Fine Art Academy in Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti (NABA) Milan, Italy.

I would like to place on record few exceptionally brilliant students, not only in academics but in extracurricular in the classroom and beyond:

- Bode Swuro, a student from Royal School of Fine Arts, who is graduating today, has carved a niche for himself through his art not only in the university, but nationally and internationally.
- Nilanjana Parashar and Rudrani Garg have cemented their place as debaters to look out for in the debating community, bringing home numerous awards throughout their academic career here.

It is worth mentioning that many of our students have been successful in showcasing their talents in academic, literary, cultural and sports arena held at different parts of the country. Few of them include:

Royalites participated in various categories at the 36th Northeast Zone UNIFEST, under the aegis of Association of Indian Universities (AIU), and won several awards.

- Nilanjana Parashar of B.A-LLB (Hons) and Rudrani Garg of B.A. Political Science won the Best Team, along with 30,000 rupees cash prize at the Upen Chandra Lekharu Memorial National Level Debate Competition at the 5th Foundation Day of Civil Services Achievers' Point.
- Ripa Das from Dept. of Biotechnology won the 2nd place at the Powerlifting Competition held at Manifest Kommercio' 2023 organised by the Dept. of Commerce, Gauhati University.
- Debarshi Kalita from the Dept. of Travel and Tourism Management won gold at the All-Assam Kung Fu championship.

To enhance research culture and promote multi-disciplinary research the University religiously organizes seminars, workshops, conferences, faculty development programs etc. In this academic year there have been a total of thirty two (32) workshops/seminars/webinars/ conferences and seventy five (75) guest lectures conducted in the University by renowned academicians, scientists, professionals, experts, industrialists and corporate giants. These created an opportunity for internship, training and placements for the students.

The Assam Royal Global University has an active training and placement cell by the name of Royal Centre for Corporate Relations (RCCR). In the academic year 2022-2023, there was a total of eighty-five (85) recruiters offering placement opportunities to the students. Few reputed and notable recruiters include Infosys, Capgemini, Cognizant, Nestle India Ltd., Savills India, Amazon, Birlasoft, Mphasis, TechVariable Ltd., Ajanta Pharma, Banking Sector like Federal Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI. The highest package of

Rs 10 lac/annum with incentives was offered by Federal Bank.

RCCR also organised the biggest Job Fair of this region, where eight hundred plus (800+) candidates out of the participating three thousand five hundred (3500) were offered positions across various companies by the recruiters like Wipro, HDFC, Novotel-Guwahati, L&T Finance, UpGrad, Reliance Jio, Star Cement, WIPRO, Marico Limited, Aditya Birla Fashion And Retail, Austin Ply, Radisson Blu, to name a few.

Royal Global University have signed sixty four (64) Memorandums of Understanding with different Higher Educational Institutions and polytechnics from across the state in the current academic year. This collaboration aims to establish Research, Faculty and Student Exchange Program, Summer and Winter Internship, Projects, Joint Consultancy, Joint Training Programs, to name a few. Some of the Institutions with whom MoUs were signed include The Policy Research Centre, Bangladesh (PRC.bd), Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata, Sun Moon University, Republic of Korea, Gauhati Commerce College, Guwahati, RV University, Bengaluru, O P Jindal Global University, Sonipat, amongst others.

The University has a very strong centre for Act East Policy. The Centre organised an International Conference on 'India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Developments: Problems and Prospects for North-East India' followed by another Lecture Series organised in association with the Policy Research Centre, Bangladesh.

For, further growth the university aspires to achieve the following landmarks in the coming years.

- Expected ranking of NAAC "A+" by 2023-24.
- Construction of labs and state-of-the-art industrial training facilities
- Signing new MoUs/Collaborations with renowned Institutions of India and abroad for joint consultancy, research, student/faculty exchange etc.
- Getting NIRF ranking amongst the top 200 institutions by 2023/2024
- Launching of new courses such as B.Ed., Integrated Teachers Education Programme (ITEP), B.Sc. Agriculture etc.
- More research Grants from UGC/DST/DBT/ICSR etc.
- Hospital for nursing/pharmacy training and basic medical needs
- Initiate setting up of industry sponsored labs in the university for industry academia interface and joint research
- Activation of Royal Centre for inter-disciplinary teaching and research
- Auditorium of 3000 capacity along with resource centre of 60,000 sq. ft.

This year, the university has also realized its vision of building a new academic block, the G, H, I block of total two lakhs plus sq. ft. with one dedicated floor for faculty members.

The University's USP has been quality education inculcated through regularly updating the curricula, pedagogy, training of teachers, regular monitoring students' growth, co-curricular activities, code of ethics, strong sense of discipline and principles of dignity and integrity. We are grateful for a proficient and professional team of faculty and staff members who work like mentors to the students and shares the vision for the growth of the university. The university has a culture of playing the National Anthem every day at 10 A.M., and the State Anthem at 10 A.M. on fridays. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to wear traditional attire on the last friday of every month.

It is with humility that I also acknowledge the hard work and contribution of our support staff including peons, housekeeping staff, drivers, security guards, staff from the food and beverage section along with our faculty members and administrative staff who all have put forth their best efforts together in making this 6 years young university one of the finest in the region.

To conclude, I offer my heartiest congratulations to the first eight PhD awardees of the university, Graduands and winners of medals and Salvers in today's convocation. I wish you all the very best in your life. I am sure that you all will join us in our collective march towards progress and prosperity of our great nation by following ethical and moral code of conduct and establishing Bharat as Vishwa Guru once again.

Thank you.

Jai Hind! Jai Bharat! Jai Aai Axom !