

A Report on

An Interactive Session with the hon'ble
Chancellor of Assam University

Sri Arup Raha

PVSM, AVSM, VM, Air Chief Marshal (Retd.)

Date: 17th September, 2024

Bharat Tirtha Bhaban
Rabindranath Tagore University
Hojai, 782436, Assam

As the guests arrived at the University premises, NCC cadets from the Rabindranath Tagore University's Unit extended a guard of honour to the chief guest, Sri Arup Raha, Air Chief Marshal (Retd.), PVSM, AVSM, VM. The event commenced with a warm and formal welcome by the anchors on behalf of the RTU family. The university anthem was then played, symbolizing pride and unity, and creating an uplifting atmosphere for the proceedings.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor's Welcome Address:



Prof. Manabendra Dutta Choudhury, hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai warmly welcomed the Chief Guest, Chancellor of Assam University, Sri Arup Raha, PVSM, AVSM, VM, Air Chief Marshal (Retd.), the Vice Chancellor of Assam University, Prof. Rajiv Mohan Pant, expressing his delight and deep sense of honour in hosting such a distinguished leader. Prof. Dutta Chaudhury also warmly greeted the other dignitaries from Assam University, noting the joy of welcoming colleagues from his former workplace. He conveyed how privileged he felt to have the esteemed chief of air staff

present at the institution. Reflecting on his own interactions with Assam University's leadership, he applauded their administrative powers and remarked that Rabindranath Tagore University could greatly benefit from learning their approach. He encouraged everyone to view them as ambassadors and highlighted the importance of extending exceptional hospitality, quoting the principle of "Atithi Devo Bhava" (Guest is God). He further expressed his aspiration to foster closer ties between the two institutions, including the possibility of signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with Assam University. He concluded by expressing eagerness for the motivational insights and deliberations that would come from the Chief Guest's address.

Felicitation of the Guests:

The guest felicitation began with Sri Arup Raha, Air Chief Marshal (Retd.), PVSM, AVSM, VM, who was honoured with a traditional phulam Gamucha and a commemorative souvenir. He was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Lily Raha, who was also honoured with a phulam gamucha. The Vice Chancellor of Assam University, Prof. Rajiv Mohan Pant, was felicitated with a phulam Gamucha and a memento. His wife, Mrs. Bhawana Pant, who accompanied him, was similarly presented with a phulam Gamucha. The Registrar of Assam University, Dr. Pradosh Kanti Nath, was honoured with a phulam gamucha. Dr. Suprabir Dutta Roy, Controller of Examinations at Assam University, was also felicitated with a Ghulam Gamucha, along with his wife, Mrs. Arundhati Dutta Roy, who received a phulam gamucha as well. The event was further enriched by the presence of Prof. Karabi Dutta Choudhury, Dean of the School of Physical Sciences, Dr. Subha Deep Dhar, Finance Officer, and Mr. Arijit Goswami, Senior Administrative Staff from Assam University, all of whom were felicitated with a phulam Gamucha.

Vice Chancellor, Assam University:



Prof. Rajiv Mohan Pant conveyed his deep appreciation to Rabindranath Tagore University (RTU) for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to him. He remarked on how instantly comfortable and at home he felt upon stepping onto the campus, acknowledging the welcoming atmosphere created by RTU. He took a moment to commend the hon'ble Vice Chancellor of RTU, highlighting his remarkable achievements and professional excellence, which have significantly contributed to the university's upward trajectory.

Prof. Pant was particularly impressed by RTU's potential despite being a relatively young and small institution. Citing the famous phrase "Small is beautiful," he reflected on the advantages that smaller institutions possess, noting that they are often more agile and better positioned to translate innovative ideas into concrete actions. In this context, he expressed

his optimism about RTU's growth, sharing his belief that its size and stage of development provide a unique opportunity to shape its future with vision and determination.

Offering his best wishes, Prof. Pant encouraged the university to continue on its path of development, expressing confidence that RTU would flourish in the years ahead. He also emphasized the importance of collaboration between institutions, voicing his enthusiasm for formalizing academic partnerships through Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). He suggested that such collaborations between Assam University and RTU would be mutually beneficial, fostering academic excellence and innovation.

Prof. Pant underscored the importance of synergy in partnerships, using the metaphor "1+1=11" to illustrate the exponential value that can be created when institutions collaborate effectively. His readiness and willingness to work alongside RTU in the pursuit of shared goals were evident, as he looked forward to creating impactful outcomes through this proposed alliance.

In his closing remarks, Prof. Pant congratulated the entire team at RTU for their collective efforts in advancing the institution. He recognized the hard work and dedication that have gone into shaping the university's current success and conveyed his sincere desire to visit again in the near future. His final words were filled with encouragement, expressing hope that RTU's journey would be filled with continued progress, success, and meaningful collaborations.

Registrar, Assam University:



Dr Pradosh Kanti Nath, the Registrar of Assam University expressed his sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by the Rabindranath Tagore University (RTU) community, noting how welcomed and honoured he felt during his visit. He conveyed his delight at being on the RTU campus and shared his eagerness to explore potential opportunities for collaboration between the two institutions.

During his address, the Registrar emphasized the importance of establishing formal partnerships through Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), underscoring how such agreements could create a foundation for mutual growth and support. He highlighted the significance of university administration, noting that effective governance is essential for the smooth functioning and long-term success of any academic institution. Drawing on his own experiences, he outlined the potential benefits RTU could gain from collaborating with the experienced administrative team at Assam University.

Furthermore, the Registrar suggested that Assam University's Diphu Campus could also be leveraged for collaborative purposes, offering another avenue for academic and administrative cooperation. He proposed that by working together, both universities could foster healthy competition, driving innovation and excellence in ways that would benefit faculty, staff, and students alike.

In conclusion, he expressed his hope for building a strong, lasting relationship between Assam University and RTU. His remarks reflected a genuine desire to see both institutions thrive through cooperation, with a shared commitment to academic growth and excellence. With optimism for the future, he concluded by expressing his anticipation for the opportunities that lay ahead and his confidence in the potential of this partnership to bring about meaningful progress for both universities.

Chancellor, Assam University:



Sri Arup Raha, PVSM, AVSM, VM, Air Chief Marshal (Retd.), the esteemed Chancellor of Assam University, graciously expressed his profound honour and gratitude for the invitation extended to him by Rabindranath Tagore University (RTU). He acknowledged the university's youthfulness, recognizing it as a promising institution with great potential for growth and development. Reflecting on the broader journey of the education system, Chancellor Raha discussed its remarkable evolution over the years, emphasizing how education continues to adapt to the needs of society and the changing world.

In his insightful address, he highlighted two fundamental pillars essential to the foundation of any great educational institution: strong infrastructure and high-quality human resources. He underscored the importance of not only physical infrastructure but also the intellectual and emotional environments that shape an institution's character. According to Chancellor Raha, the combination of these elements plays a crucial role in creating a thriving academic community.

He placed particular emphasis on the need for motivated individuals within the institution, remarking, "Motivated people are required to motivate the students." This, he explained, is the driving force behind cultivating an environment where students are inspired and supported in their academic and personal journeys. He went on to speak passionately about the critical role teachers play, describing them as the architects of the future, responsible for shaping and guiding the minds of the next generation.

In addition, Sri Raha Ji conveyed his unwavering belief in the power of youth, stating that "the youth will take the nation forward." He highlighted the potential young people possess to shape the future and encouraged RTU to continue fostering leadership, innovation, and critical thinking in its students. He expressed confidence that through dedicated efforts,

RTU would produce future leaders who will contribute significantly to the progress and development of the nation.

Indian citizens are achieving success across various platforms, and he expressed confidence that this progress will drive India's development. However, he emphasized the importance of showcasing excellence within the country itself. He encouraged individuals to pursue their passions, noting that when students choose careers aligned with their interests, they are more likely to excel. By following their passions, they can not only achieve personal success but also make meaningful contributions to the nation's growth and prosperity.

The chief guest emphasized the importance of ethics, values, and principles in life, particularly for students. He stressed that these qualities are essential for personal and professional growth. Reflecting on his career, especially his time in the Forces, he shared experiences from his adventurous journey. Drawing from those experiences, he remarked, "Life is adventurous," encouraging students to embrace challenges and explore the unknown with courage and enthusiasm.

While addressing the students, he emphasized that success in life requires dedication to studying and thorough preparation. He also noted that life itself imparts valuable lessons, which should be remembered and applied. Drawing from his own experiences, he highlighted the importance of morale and team building, stressing that these lessons, when combined with academic knowledge, can help students thrive and overcome the growing challenges of life.

He shared a few of his key experiences, using them as examples to illustrate the lessons he had learned. From the first example, he specifically highlighted the importance of

developing a strong sense of duty and responsibility, underscoring how these values shaped his approach to both personal and professional challenges.

In the second example, he reflected on his lessons in leadership and the willingness to make sacrifices. He emphasized the significance of these qualities in everyday life, highlighting how they contribute to personal growth and the ability to navigate challenges effectively.

In the third example, the speaker shared his insights on the importance of sacrifice for the nation, emphasizing the value of staying motivated until one's last breath while also inspiring and uplifting colleagues and team members. He conveyed the joy that comes from such acts of dedication. Additionally, he encouraged the students to recognize the importance of possessing strong character and upholding a set of ethos, ethics, and values throughout life. These principles, he explained, serve as the best guides and will support them on their journey through life.

The speaker shifted focus to India's remarkable progress, highlighting the nation's commendable efforts that deserve recognition. He expressed optimism about the country's economic prospects in the coming years and emphasized the various avenues India can explore to further its growth and development. In his view, India has immense potential to seize the opportunities available, which could significantly contribute to the nation's advancement.

While discussing opportunities, the speaker, drawing from his experience in the Forces, specifically highlighted the career prospects available in the Air Force and Navy. He encouraged the students to consider these paths, emphasizing that choosing a career in these

fields would not only contribute to their personal growth but also play a vital role in advancing India's progress as a nation.

In his concluding remarks, he emphasized the various strengths of India that can pave the way for new opportunities. He reiterated the importance of seizing these prospects to foster improvement and growth. He also highlighted the unique resources currently available and the potential for creating new ones, underscoring the collective effort needed to build a better future for India. Arup Raha left the audience with a sense of optimism, inspiring both faculty and students to work together to create a brighter future for the university and the country.

Following the speaker's address, there was a brief Q&A session with faculty and students. The audience posed engaging questions, which the speaker answered thoughtfully, providing deeper insights into the topics discussed and enhancing the audience's understanding of the various situations.

Vote of Thanks:



The event concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks delivered by the Registrar i/c, Shri Tilak C. Kalita. Following this, the state anthem was played. Students performed a lively *bihu dance* and a captivating *dhamail dance* as part of a short cultural presentation to honour the guests and display their talents. As the cultural performance came to a close, the National Anthem was played, marking the official end of the event.

SOME PHOTOGRAPHS







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