

NORTH EAST GRADUATE CONGRESS 2018

A REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) organized the 5th edition of the three-day-long North East Graduate Congress (NEGC) at its Techno City campus from 16 to 18 February 2018. This mega event for the youths of the region was flagged off by Prof Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam. The event was also addressed by Sri RS Mooshahary, former Meghalaya Governor, Prof. Bhabesh Chandra Goswami, Vice Chancellor, Cotton University, Prof. Ved Prakash, former UGC Chairman, Sri Dilip Tirkey, MP and Olympian, Col. Kuldeep Singh Bhanstu, Director, Khelo India, Sri NC Talukdar, Director, Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati and Sri Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM. NEGC 2018 witnessed a congregation of about 10,000 college students belonging to 200 colleges coming from all the north-eastern states.

NEGC aims at preparing and enhancing all round development of the future graduates through guiding them and placing them in a position where they can decide what is next after graduation. The objective is to make them responsible youth and accountable citizens of this country. The event provides a platform to the college youths of all the states of North East to showcase their talents as well as get opportunity to prepare their action plan after graduation. It is a platform where they can present their skills, sharpen their knowledge, portray their traditions and diverse cultures, interact with students from different parts of the North East, and also interact with eminent personalities, who are experts in their own fields.

The NEGC 2018 welcomed students and staff from various institutions of the region to join the celebrations, to compete with each other, with a healthy mind and more importantly to interact and develop human resource.

The Sessions were addressed and guided by renowned academicians, motivational speakers, technical gurus, leading entrepreneurs, achievers, HR managers, Govt. Officials and experts from various fields from across the country. Competitions on sports, cultural, debate, quiz etc. were judged by reputed judges.

DAY -1: 16 February 2018

The first day began with the registration and allotment of accommodation to the guests from 9 am onwards. From 10 am to 2 pm, the Round-1 of various sports competitions such as Football, Volleyball, Badminton, Kabaddi and Carrom was conducted in their respective venues. Towards the evening, Round-2 of the sports competitions took place. Simultaneously, there were cultural competitions going on in the form of Skit, Group Dance, Group Song, etc.

SESSION I: INAUGURAL

The Inaugural Session took place in the Main Auditorium from 2 pm to 3 pm.

Welcome Address

Welcoming the delegates, Sri Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM said, “Our desire is to make USTM a people’s university and NEGC is a step forward in this direction.” He said that the main objective of NEGC is to inspire and guide the young generation to become responsible citizens of the country and thereby contribute to the process of nation building.

Dr Alaka Sarma, Pro Vice Chancellor, USTM said that NEGC is an innovative programme and its effort is to enlighten, empower and prepare the students for what next after graduation. “We want that the students should return with good memories and contribute to the nation-building process”, she added.

Prof Ved Prakash, Former Chairman, UGC, New Delhi

The inaugural session on Day 1 was chaired by Prof Ved Prakash, Former Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi. Addressing a huge gathering of students as well as teachers he said, “Education is means of empowerment. Those who want to be truly immortalised, they need to set up educational institutions.” He said that holding NEGC has been a visionary action taken by Sri Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM as this mega event provides a platform to the college youths of all the states of the North East.

Prof Ved Prakash said that in over 40 years of his career he had never ever seen so many students assembling and mingling in a single platform of a university from across a vast region. He said that the name of Sri Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM, will be remembered for his contribution to the north-eastern part of the country. The former UGC Chairman appealed to all the students to try to understand significance of institutions and believe in inclusivity.

Sri CK Das, Member, NEC

Addressing the students, Sri CK Das, Member, North Eastern Council said that students should acquire skills in order to develop the region. He also expressed that NEC would like to be a part of NEGC in the near future.

Sri Dilip Tirkey, Rajya Sabha MP & Olympian

Speaking on the occasion, Sri Dilip Tirkey said that there is no dearth of talent among the youth of the region and urged them to give time for sports apart from studies. “The crux of life is, follow the thumb rules and never get out of focus”, he added.

Col. Kuldeep Singh Bhanstu, Director, Khelo India, New Delhi

Col. Kuldeep Singh Bhanstu said, “I am honoured to get the opportunity to speak in such a huge gathering of students coming from across the region”. He urged the students to be disciplined to achieve something in life.

Session II: YOUTH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Dr Nomal Chandra Bora, MD, GNRC Hospitals

Dr Nomal Chandra Bora gave an encouraging talk on “Youth and Entrepreneurship” addressing the students. Dr Bora emphasized on the importance of perseverance, and the ability to work hard to become a successful entrepreneur. “We need 100 million entrepreneurs for our country. It is the responsibility of the youth to change the face of the nation. Be entrepreneurs, work for yourselves and give opportunity to others too”, he said. He gave examples of biggest business conglomerates of current times like Walmart, Domino's, KFC and OYO Rooms to make students understand that entrepreneurship can be of any form- art, culture, manufacture, food processing etc.

Session III:

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOFT SKILLS

Thomas John Rose

The renowned motivational speaker Thomas John Rose addressed the students at NEGC in the third session. He emphasized on developing an amiable body language, as a welcoming body language is the base for doing good in life. He further said, "Love what you study. Build a healthy relationship with your college, your studies and the environment around. Only then, you can take get the maximum from the university". He inspired the participating students to develop hobbies so that they can have something to look forward to every morning.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

Sailen Baishya

The session on “How to Crack Competitive Exams” was taken by expert coach Sailen Baishya. The session was participated by hundreds of undergraduate students. The session focused on preparing for Civil Service examinations, NET, SSC, NDA, as well as banking examinations. The students actively participated and interacted with the resource person and asked about how to find and organize study materials for different exams.

DAY- 2: 17 February 2018

The second day saw several competitions such as Photography and various sports competitions. By 8.30 in the morning, all the students gathered in the ‘Milan Khetra’ for the cultural procession. After releasing of the colourful balloons and declaring the event open, a magnificent cultural procession took place which was a manifestation of the manifold ethnicity and culture of the people living in the region. The procession was participated by all the participating teams from the eight states. The whole ambience of the campus turned into a carnival mood. Students from over 60 communities all dressed up in their traditional attire set a cultural rally portraying the diverse cultural heritage of the region. The rally led to the main auditorium where the ceremonial inauguration of NEGC-2018 took place in presence of Assam Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi, Sri Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM; Dr RK Sharma, Vice Chancellor, USTM, Prof. Bhabesh Chandra Goswami, Vice Chancellor, Cotton University, Prof. Ved Prakash, former UGC Chairman, Sri Dilip Tirkey, Rajya Sabha MP and Olympian, Col. Kuldeep

Singh Bhanstu, Director, Khelo India, Sri NC Talukdar, Director, Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology and others.

SESSION I: CEREMONIAL INAUGURAL

Welcome by Sri Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Sri Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM said that USTM is a people's university and one of its main objective is to provide service to students and society and contribute to the nation building process. "We can organize this event in any part of the north-eastern region and have more and more participation of students in the near future", he said. Sri Hoque encouraged more and more participation of students in this flagship event of the university.

Address by Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam

In his inaugural speech, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi said, "NEGC is a congregation of students belonging to diverse culture, ethnicity and languages. My appeal to the young generation is that you become entrepreneurs and not run after jobs. That will help the North East, Assam and the country as a whole". He said that economic growth of a country is possible if the mindset of the people changes. Prof. Mukhi appealed to all the youngsters to give emphasis to entrepreneurship rather than jobs.

Address by Prof Ved Prakash, former UGC Chairman

In his speech, Prof Ved Prakash said, "Talent is available in rural areas. We have the responsibility to identify those talents". Highly praising USTM for its innovative endeavours, Prof. Prakash said that today's youth should dream for topmost service in any field. He said, "We need universities which can innovate, strive for quality of education in order to bring the country to the next stage of development. Some educational institutions are doing exceedingly good. We have to multiply the number of such institutions".

Speech by Prof. Bhabesh Chandra Goswami, Vice Chancellor, Cotton University

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Bhabesh Chandra Goswami said that NEGC has become an event of national integration and urged the students to be judicious in consuming natural resources and effort should be not to disturb the eco system.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof Alaka Sarma, Pro Vice Chancellor of USTM.

SESSION II: PANEL DISCUSSION ON "YOUTH, POLITICS & CORRUPTION"

The Panel Discussion on "Youth Politics and Corruption" was participated by veteran social and political leaders. The participants include, Mr Apurba Bhattacharya, General Secretary, APCC, Mr Jayanta Das, Mr Jayanta Malla Barua, Former MLA, Mr Dilip Bora, IPS and others. The Discussion was moderated by Mr Aseem Kazi, Programme Executive, All India Radio.

SESSION III: WOMEN FOR SOCIETY

The other Panel Discussion on "Women for Society" was participated by Ms Rosanna Lyngdoh, Director Impulse NGO Network, Meghalaya and popular film actor Nishita Goswami from Assam. The session was presided over by Dr Alaka Sarma, Pro Vice Chancellor, USTM. The

session highlighted on importance of women's education in matrilineal as well as patriarchal society and gender inequality prevailing in the society.

THE COMPETITIONS

Best Cultural Procession

The cultural procession was taken part by all the participating colleges at NEGC 2018.

1 st Prize	Koklabari Chapaguri College, Assam
2 nd Prize	Imphal College, Manipur
3 RD Prize	Rangia College, Assam

Best Graduate

The Best Graduate competition saw participation of 82 students in the Preliminary round, out of which 20 were selected for the Semi Final. The topic for the Write Up Competition in the Semi final was, "Five years from now, how I intend to change the world". The write up had to be between 80-100 words. Random topics such as, Cell Phones, Fast Food were flashed on the screen for the students to speak on them in the Extempore Speech competition for the Semi final round. Out of 20 Semifinalists, 8 were selected for the Final round where the students had to show any talent they possess for duration of one minute which was followed by questions by judges. Participants were mostly asked questions on social issues.

Judges: 1. Prof. Akhil Ranjan Dutta, GU

2. Sattyakee D'com Bhuyan, Theatre personality and Academician

3. Prof. Galibuddin Jamal, Assam Agriculture University

4. Manas Pratim Deka, Journalist, Prag News Channel

Prof Nirmal Kumar Choudhury graced the event and shared few words with the students. All the judges too shared their views with the participants.

Winners:

Best Graduate	Saurabh Jyoti Dutta	North Lakhimpur College
2 nd Best Graduate	Upama Das	USTM
3 rd Best Graduate	Shah Alam Ali	Nalbari Sanskrit College

Debate

1 st	Sahil Alom Ahmed	Dispur College
2 nd	Irina Ahmed	MC College, Barpeta
3 rd	Shah Alom Ali	Nalbari Sanskrit College
Best Team	Soham Benerjee and Taniya Roy	Arya Vidyapith College

Quiz

Around 50 teams from different colleges of the North East participated in the preliminary round of the Quiz Competition. The competition was conducted by noted quiz master Sailen Baishya.

Winners:

1 st Prize	Cotton University	Dipankar Deka & Pritam Sharma
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2 nd Prize	Nagaon College	Angarag Sandilya & Anurag Das
3 rd Prize	USTM	Mohidul Islam & Abdul Wadood

The other three finalist colleges were: DM College of Arts, Imphal, Pragjyotish College, Guwahati and BH College, Howley.

Photography

1 st	Ali Ahmed	Nabajyoti College, Kalgachia
2 nd	MD Ahmod	Nabin Chandra College, Badarpur, Karimganj
3 rd	Shahir Uddin	Nabin Chandra College, Badarpur, Karimganj

Robotics (Robo Soccer war)

Winner	RIST
Runner up	RIST

Science Model

The first and second day of NEGC 2018 was also marked by a science model exhibition by students of USTM and RIST. About 50 teams joined the exhibition with their innovative models. The exhibition was organized to showcase the scientific talents and innovative ideas and thereby to encourage outside students to engage themselves in such activities.

1 st	Dipasha & Group, RIST
2 nd	Mussadique & Group, RIST
3 rd	Digyas & Group, USTM

The award for Best Stall display went to the Department of Civil Engineering, RIST.

SPORTS

Kabaddi

The Kabaddi competition was held on the ground in front of Sir Syed Boys Hostel at USTM. Total 16 boys and 8 girls' teams participated. Five referees were invited from Assam Kabaddi Association and Sports Association of India. Kabaddi mats were hired from Indira Gandhi National Stadium, Sarusajai. During the felicitation programme on 17 February evening, prizes and certificates were distributed.

Boys' Kabaddi:

Winner	Ratnapith College
Runner Up	Pub Kamrup College

Girls' Kabaddi:

Winner	K.C. College
Runner Up	Pub Kamrup College

Football**Boys' Team**

Winner	RIST
Runner Up	USTM

Volleyball**Boys' Team**

Winner	BP Chaliha College, Nagarbera
Runner Up	Rangia College

Girls' Team

Winner	RIST
Runner Up	HPB Girls' College, Golaghat

Badminton**Boys' doubles**

Winner	Mainul Hoque Azad Imran	Manikpur Anchalik College, Bongaigaon
Runner Up	Jakong Ronghang Rahul Hanse	Diphu Govt. College

Girls' doubles

Winner	Daisy Chetia Anisha Bora	Hemoprabha Borbora Girls' College
Runner Up	Ajiyaumpe Sangita Deka	Abhiruchi Institute of Physical Education, Kerakuchi

Carrom**Girls' doubles:**

Winner	Banpynsuklang Nongrum & Miambi A Momin	RIST
Runner Up	Anisha Bora & Daisy Chetia	HPB Girls' College, Golaghat

Boys' doubles:

Winner	Shahjahan Saju & Sadik Hussain Laskar	RIST
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Runner Up	Atif Choudhury & Sirag Ahmed	Pub Kamrup College
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All the sporting events were held smoothly maintaining all norms. Participants from various colleges maintained sportsman spirit and respect to referees during the competitions. At the end, feeling of oneness and joyfulness was found among all the participants. During the competitions, Col. Kuldeep Singh Bhanstu, Director, Khelo India and Olympian and former captain of Indian Hockey team, Sri Dilip Tirkey visited and interacted with the participants.

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Group Dance

1 st	Imphal College	Manipur
2 nd	Thong Nokbe College	Karbi Anglong, Assam
3 rd	Chaiduar College	Assam

Group Song

1 st	RIST
2 nd	USTM
3 rd	Nowgong College

Skit

1 st	Bajali College	Assam
2 nd	Modern College	Manipur
3 rd	Tihu College & Pub Kamrup College	Assam

DAY- 3: 18 February 2018

VALEDICTORY AND AWARDS

The valedictory session began in the morning at 10 o'clock with the farewell song. This was followed by expression of gratitude by the organizing committee and distribution of certificates.

Addressing the students, Sri Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM encouraged more and more participation of students in this flagship event of the university. He said, "If any student is brilliant and unable to go for higher education, they should get recommendation from their college Principal. Our doors are always open for meritorious students". He emphasised on entrepreneurship and said that there has to be innovative approach in any entrepreneurial venture. He stressed on saving the environment and

presented pine saplings to all the participating colleges, along with the prizes and awards.

Earlier, welcoming all the participants, Dr Alaka Sarma, Pro Vice Chancellor of USTM said that the students should try to spread light in and around the society they live. “If you cooperate with each other, you will reach your destination very fast and NEGC is such a friendly platform that gives you the opportunity for healthy competition”, she said.

NEGC 2018 was successfully held and it has become the only platform of such kind for future graduates in the country. It was an emotional moment to see students interacting with each other and taking pictures to treasure memories of the grand event before parting for their respective places.

The end of NEGC 2018 was marked by inspiration and enthusiasm shown by participants, especially those rural students coming from far away colleges. Like many others, Jakong Ronghang from Diphu Govt. College too turned emotional at the time of departure on the last day of the event. “I must congratulate and thank USTM for giving us such a platform to develop our skills in ways of social, cultural, educational and sportsmanship”, he said. Hundreds of Student Volunteers from different Departments of USTM and RIST worked throughout the event to make the event a success. Showing concern for the environment, USTM also distributed plants among its guest institutions.
