

# VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY



## Fifth Convocation

Address by

*Ananda Deb Mukhopadhyay*

*Vice-Chancellor*

**10 March 2000**

SAHEED PRADYUT SMRITI BHAVAN, ZILLA PARISHAD

MIDNAPORE 721 102

WEST BENGAL

Honourable Chancellor, Sri Viren J Shah, respected Chief Guest Dr Mrs Manju Sharma, Predecessor Vice-Chancellors, Deans of Faculties, my Colleagues, members of the Court, Executive Council, Finance Committee, Faculty Councils of Postgraduate Studies, Councils for Undergraduate Studies, Principals of Colleges, Guests, members of Press and the Media, my esteemed Teaching, Non-teaching and Administrative Colleagues, the recipients of degrees, research scholars, my students, friends, ladies and gentlemen:

I have great pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to you all on this joyous occasion of the Fifth Annual Convocation of Vidyasagar University on the 10th day of March in the year two thousand.

It is a matter of great pleasure to announce that our University is progressing steadily in pursuit of higher education with collective efforts of teachers, non-teachers, officers, students, scholars and well wishers. Vidyasagar University was established in 1981 with a specific goal keeping in view national and local societal needs. At this juncture I must recall with deep sense of regard the significant contribution made by the founders and predecessor Vice-Chancellors of this University.

During this fifth convocation after the conferment, degree scrolls will be given away to doctorates and masters alone and the bachelors are requested to collect their scrolls from their colleges. The bachelor rank-holders and merit-earners however would receive their awards during this ceremony. Our masters include those who have undertaken their degrees by the distance mode.

Our distance education programme has been acclaimed very much and the enrolment in masters and bridge courses has gone up consistently over the years. The Distance Education Council's financial support and resources mobilised through this programme have helped in infrastructure development of this unit. The foundation stone of Distance Education building was laid on 16th January 2000 by Professor Satyasadhan Chakravorty, Minister in-charge of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal. In pursuit of our plan for opening centres of distance education in various places, one such centre has been established at Manindra Chandra College, Calcutta. Requests have recently been received from Hyderabad, Delhi and Tamilnadu for opening

our centres there. These requests are receiving our attention. There are 32 admission camps in Assam, Sikim, Bihar, Tamilnadu etc. of Distance Education unit. The present system of Distance Education needs to be switched over to Digital Distance Mode of learning. Our University in collaboration with the School of Education Technology, Jadavpur University has taken initiative with the guidance of the Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal, to hold a workshop on 18th March 2000. The Vice-Chancellors of different universities will be present there formulating a future plan for IT enabled education in West Bengal.

Steady progress has been made in different sectors of the university after the last convocation. Some of these achievements need mention. A three storied Hostel for PG Boys with facilities for accommodation of 120 students was inaugurated by Justice Shyamal Kumar Sen, former Governor of West Bengal and former Chancellor of the University on 10th September 1999. A non-teaching staff hostel of 24 units is going to be commissioned soon. The construction of academic and administrative buildings is in progress. A strict vigilance on the same has been maintained by the Engineer's department of the university. The long awaited enclosure for cycles has been completed. We are extremely grateful to the State government for support given for completion of the 3rd phase of construction of campus buildings. It is enlightening to note that the State Government has agreed in principle to support our 4th phase of construction work. The IX plan development grants from UGC are being received in phases thus facilitating our developmental works.

We are yet to enrich our Central Library with books and journals due to paucity of funds. The funds crunch compelled us to minimise our subscription for journals. We have already joined the INFLIBNET and going to get a VSAT from the UGC. Our library is moving forward for automation. The university has put forward a plan to MHRD for networking of the campus. The university has also internet facilities through which operation and handling of e-mail, Fax as well as INTERNET browsing system has been established. We are indebted to Sm Mahasweta Devi for donating a large number of books from her personal collection to our library.

The UGC under its other than development assistance has given financial support for installation of Computer Centre, Centre for Gandhian Studies

and a DRS under Special Assistance Programme in the department of Economics and Rural Development. Proposals of three other DRS programmes are under active coordination of the UGC.

The university has instituted the department of Computer Science. It has also given affiliation to Khejuri Degree College and MCKV Institute of Engineering. The UGC and AICTE gave recognition to MCA Course which started recently with an initial intake of 30 students. The MCKV Institute of Engineering has initiated courses of tomorrow's technical education e.g. Computer Science & Engineering, Information Technology, Electronics & Communication Engineering and Instrumentation Engineering. Mention should be made of opening of a number of Honours Courses in different disciplines in some affiliated colleges. The university has taken initiative in introducing vocational courses like Instrumentation, Tax Procedure and Agroservice in a few affiliated colleges.

A number of Faculty members have made their mark in R & D activities. Funds were obtained from CSIR, UGC, ICMR, NCERT, DST, AICTE etc. on different projects submitted by them. A substantial number of faculty members are invited by different institutions of India as resource persons in different Refresher Courses. Many of the Faculty members have been invited in national and international conferences / seminars to present papers and to give keynote addresses.

Though young in age our university has made sustained efforts for its developments through curriculum development, teaching and research activities in the thrust areas of Physical Anthropology, Social-Cultural Anthropology, Microbiology & Immunology, Sports Physiology & Ergonomics, Endocrinology & Reproductive Physiology, Ecology & Taxonomy, Plant Physiology & Biochemistry, Advanced forestry practice, Fisheries, Polymer and petrochemicals, Environmental chemistry, Operations research, Dynamical oceanography, Dynamic meteorology, Computer programming, Environmental management, Coastal zone studies, Remote sensing, Optoelectronics, Plasma physics, Farm management, Finance & Control, Quantitative economics, Cognitive science, Rural administration etc.

The university has a zeal to carry out teaching & research in some innovative and emerging areas like forest conservation and management, biotechnology,

marine science, disaster management, integrated rural development, etc. Plans are afoot for securing funds for these areas of studies from other than development aid of UGC and other funding authorities.

A substantial number of the university's postgraduates are selected every year in National Eligibility Test. We have approached both the State Government and the UGC for instituting scholarship programmes for sustenance of research of these successful students. These programme are normal features of all the universities. Why should we be deprived?

As regards funds position, the State Government has given us continuous support by sanctioning non-teaching posts and administrative officers' posts. So far as IXth plan faculty positions given by the UGC are concerned, we are still awaiting the concurrence from the State Government for three positions.

Our academic calender has been strictly maintained. Thanks to the teachers for their unified effort in upholding this goal. The results of examinations are also published in due time. Our annual research journals from different departments are regularly published. A number of seminars / conferences have been being organised by different departments. Mention can be made of national seminar on (a) Decentralisation & Rural Development under DRS programme of the department of Economics with Rural Development; (b) Environmental ethics by the department of Philosophy; (c) Perspectives on Human Rights by the department of Political Science with Rural Administration. These seminars have been held this year. A building for the vermiculture project of the university in collaboration with Gramin Mahila Unnayan Samity as CWDS with UNDP & UNIFSM assistances is inaugurated on 2nd March, 2000.

The different departments of biosciences and anthropology of our university are going to hold a national workshop on "Emerging issues of biosciences in the 21st Century" from 23-25 March 2000, in which experts from different parts of our country are expected to participate. The university departments are making the best use of the UGC's visiting professorship and fellowship programme for the IXth plan by inviting eminent experts for interaction and exchange of ideas.

The fourth Vidyasagar Memorial lecture was delivered by eminent historian Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya, former Vice-Chancellor of VISVAVARATI on "The role of history of Bengal in the 20th Century". I would also like to mention that a number of experts from other institutions have delivered extra-mural lectures.

The university has introduced computerisation in the field of admission, student registration, data of affiliated colleges, review of answer scripts and office-management in case of pay, purchase and internal audit. Periodical training of staffs of administrative departments on computer application has been organised by the university.

I am extremely happy to congratulate our students on their excellence in extra-curricular activities. Our students won first prizes in Indian Group Song and Folkdance in the east zone Inter-university festival held recently at Raipur. They also ranked high in this festival in the fields of mime and light vocal song. The university students' performance in the All India Inter-university Festival has also been highly acclaimed. I also congratulate our university Football team on becoming Runners up in the Vidyasagar Trophy Tournament organised by the IFA. They also qualified for the semifinals in the East Zone Inter-university Football Tournament at Burdwan. Our students' performance in the All India Inter-university Tournament is also encouraging.

This year the number of recipients are M.A.-1318, M.Sc.-197, M.Com.-114, M.S.W.-41, B.L.I.Sc.-16, M.L.I.Sc.- 11, Bridge course-416, B.A.-5998, B.Sc.-1450, B.Com.-781, B.Ed.-1125 and B.P.Ed.-50.

We now need to think globally to break away from traditional paradigms and plunge boldly into the future to build a new world in the 21st century based on mutually assured welfare.

The structuring of an appropriate programme of education is the most important need of the hour. Such a programme needs innovation in the production of human resources. In this context, I am tempted to quote from the report of UNESCO international Commission on Education for the 21st Century - "The role of teacher will remain critical despite the emerging technical innovations. The older concept of curricula and routine teaching will have to be reassessed. The teachers will have to be intellectually motivated

and academically challenging as an ongoing basis".

I wish today the recipients of various degrees and the award winners all round success in building a new society. All of you should remember that the country expects much from you. There will be difficulties ahead but all difficulties have to be overcome with involvement, motivation, commitment and collective wisdom. We must mobilise our inner and outer resources for achieving our goal of designing the future of our nation and society in the context of the challenges of this new millennium.

I am extremely happy to congratulate our students on their excellent in extra-curricular activities. An excellent was first prize in Indian Group Song and Performance in the 2nd year inter-university festival held recently at Raipur. They also ranked high in the field of music and light vocal song. The university students performance in the All India Inter-university Festival has also been highly acclaimed. I also congratulate our university football team on becoming runners up in the Vishakhapatnam University Football Tournament organised by the IIA. They also qualified for the semifinals in the first zone inter-university football tournament at Bhubaneswar. Our students performance in the All India Inter-university Tournament is also encouraging.

This year the number of recipients are M.A.-1318, M.Sc.-197, M.C.A.-114, M.S.W.-41, B.L.S.-10, M.L.S.-11, B.A. course-410, B.A.-298, B.Sc.-1450, B.Com.-781, B.B.A.-1125 and B.F.Ed.-20.

We now need to think globally to break away from traditional boundaries and plunge boldly into the future to build a new world in the 21st century based on mutually assured welfare.

The structuring of an appropriate programme of education is therefore important need of the hour. Such a programme needs innovation in the production of human resources. In this context, I am tempted to quote from the report of UNESCO International Commission on Education for the 21st Century - "The role of teacher will remain critical in the emerging technical innovations. The older concept of curricula and content teaching will have to be reassessed. The teachers will have to continually reinvented