

# VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY



## *Sixth Convocation*

Address by

*Professor A. D. Mukhopadhyay*

*Vice-Chancellor*

**5 March 2001**

**SAHEED PRADYUT SMRITI BHAVAN, ZILLA PARISHAD**

**MIDNAPORE 721 102**

**WEST BENGAL**

**Honourable** Chancellor Sri Viren J. Shah, respected Chief Guest Prof. V. S. Rama Murthy, predecessor Vice-Chancellors, Deans of Faculties, members of the Court, Executive Council, Finance Committee, Faculty Councils for Postgraduate Studies, Council for Undergraduate Studies, Principals of Colleges, Guests, members of the Press and Media, my esteemed Teaching, Non-teaching and Administrative colleagues, the recipients of degrees, research scholars, my students, friends, ladies and gentlemen,

I am extremely happy to welcome you on this memorable occasion of the Sixth Convocation of Vidyasagar University on the 5th day of March in the year two thousand and one.

At the outset, I express my deepest sense of condolence for those who lost their lives in the worst ever disaster that occurred in Gujarat. I am sure, a proper Disaster Management strategy / planning could have saved many lives and properties. I wonder, even after the Declaration of IDNDR in 1990 and the Yokohama Conference in 1998 where Disaster Management has been identified as a priority area for the Third World countries, we could not take appropriate steps. A large group of scientists in India, working for the last two decades in this area, has been emphasising the need for a proper National Disaster Management Planning.

I am also aware of the fact that the DST has a strong Research Cell encouraging Disaster related research, and the Agricultural Ministry at the Centre has a disaster cell. Despite all these, we fail to cope with the natural disaster like the one in Gujarat. It is my humble opinion that a real Disaster Management plan has to be undertaken on a national level to replace the present Crisis Management. Otherwise we would remain silent spectators when such disasters recur in future.

I take this opportunity to congratulate my colleagues and students who promptly came forward to raise funds for the relief of the grief-stricken and disaster affected people of Gujarat.

Vidyasagar University established in 1981 has been marching steadily to achieve its goal envisioned by its founders and predecessor Vice-Chancellors.

Degree scrolls will be given away to Doctorates and Master degree holders including those who have undertaken their Master degree by Distance

mode. I would request the Bachelors to collect their Scrolls from their colleges. However in this Convocation the Bachelor rank-holders and Merit earners would receive their awards. This year the number of scroll recipients are : M.A. - 2298, M.Sc. - 328, M.Com. - 126, M.SW. - 37, B.LISC. - 26, M.LISC. - 15, B.Com. - 615, B.Sc. - 1417, B.A. - 5008, B.Ed. - 1103 and B.P.Ed. - 53.

Since the last Convocation the University has made notable progress in various sectors. The extension of second floor of the administrative building is nearing completion. The construction of Bhupesh Mukherjee Memorial Hall will be completed shortly. The State Government has agreed to give support to vertical extension of the humanities buildings in different phases. The Ninth Plan developmental grant received from UGC under construction head, has been fully utilised.

The preparation of Audited account is receiving special attention so that the same may be completed shortly.

Vidyasagar University is one of the fifty-three universities called for presentation before UGC for consideration of University of Excellence. The main thrust was on future activities planned by different universities. The presentation was made on 30 August 2000 at UGC. The University emphasised the need of promoting rural higher education towards sustainable development particularly in the fields of Health, Water Resource Management, Energy, Agriculture, Biotechnology and Information Technology. The National Council of Rural Institutes has identified Vidyasagar University for such higher education programmes and the finalisation of the same will be done in the Rural University Vice-Chancellors' meeting on 10 & 11 March 2001 at Hyderabad.

The Distance Education Programme (DDE) of the University has been adjudged by International Institute of Education & Management, New Delhi this year as the Institute of National Excellence, and the Director has been endowed with the 'Jewel of India' award. The Distance Education Council, IGNOU has been pleased to sanction a sum of Rupees Ten Lakhs as a development assistance for distance science programme of Vidyasagar University. Our Distance Education Unit is spreading its wings in different parts of our country. A proposal has come from Israel for collaborative programmes with our unit. The MHRD has advised the TTTI's for collaborative programme on Information Technology courses with our unit. The proposal is receiving our attention. I am glad to announce that

the University has started M.Sc. in Zoology and will start soon M.Sc. in Environment in distance mode. The DDE building is nearing completion. It is constructing extension laboratories for Botany & Forestry, Physics, Zoology and Computer laboratory for digital mode of distance learning.

The University has also an Extension Centre of Studies and is planning to introduce short term Certificate Courses of societal relevance.

The University has a strong NSS unit and adjudged as a pioneer unit in India. This unit has a number of branches in affiliated colleges. It is engaged in societal development programs and also in organising awareness programs for village folks. This unit donated Rs. 50,000 to the Prime Minister's Gujarat Disaster Relief Fund.

The University has given affiliation to a Law College. The establishment of a law college was a dream cherished for a long time by the people of Midnapore district.

The University has given sanction for opening BCA courses in some affiliated colleges of the University. All the three affiliated Engineering Colleges of Vidyasagar University are giving emphasis on furthering technology education in the fields of tomorrow's engineering & technology.

I am glad to announce that the University will start regular M.Sc. courses in Microbiology and in Electronics from the academic session of 2001 - 2002 and the State Government has given sanction for the same.

The national organisation, SPWD has selected Botany and Forestry department of Vidyasagar University as co-ordinator for Eastern Zone for networking and information generation in Joint Forest Management. The tenure of Vermiculture project in collaboration with Gramin Mahila Unnayan Samity and CWDS with UNDP and UNIFEM assistances has been extended by funding authorities in appreciation of the work done by our faculties of Zoology, Botany and Forestry departments.

With regard to funds the State Government has been giving constant support and has also sanctioned a Reader's post in MCA stream. The State Government has also given concurrence to the remaining posts sanctioned by UGC during Ninth Plan period.

The academic calendar of the University has been strictly followed. The teachers, officers and non-teaching colleagues jointly contributed to further

the academic development of the University. The results of both the undergraduate and postgraduate examinations are published in time. Examination rules are being revised. The various departments are active in embodying their research and teaching activities through publication of departmental journals, seminars, conferences and workshops. A large number of departments organised National Seminars / Conferences / Workshops, namely :

(i) Workshop on Environmental Studies for Teacher's Preparation, (ii) National Seminar on Information Technology, (iii) National Seminar on Frontiers of Chemical Sciences, (iv) International Seminar on Indian English Literature, Workshops for (v) Curriculum Development in Economics & Rural Development, (vi) Curriculum Development in Physics, (vii) Curriculum Development in Bengali.

The department of Anthropology is going to hold a National Seminar on "Popularising Anthropology : An Exploration". The second Bhupesh Mukherjee Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Goutam Bhadra on "The Sanskrit and the Vernacular in India during Medieval Period : Some Issues and Some Problems".

Our University has a Gandhian Studies Centre which has been created by the U.G.C. under Ninth Plan programme. The Centre has so far organised five lectures on "Gandhi and the Problems of Rural Development", "Tagore and Gandhi", "Post-Developmental Theories and Gandhian Developmental Thought", and "Gandhi and the Indian Liberals", delivered by the eminent Gandhian activists and political scientists. The Centre also organised a three-day workshop on "The Relevance of Gandhian Ideas" in which the U.G. teachers in Political Science, History and Philosophy participated. It is going to introduce a "Six-months' Certificate Course on Gandhian Thought" very soon, and has undertaken a research project on "Gandhi in the Eyes of the Veteran Gandhians : An Exploration through Oral History (Case Studies of Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia)". A seminar on "Sustainable Development : the Gandhian Alternatives" will also be organised by the Centre in the middle of this month.

The University is continuously updating the curriculum of the ongoing disciplines of studies with the help of in-house and external experts. The National Accreditation and Assessment Council would soon visit our University for assessment.

The University has taken a pledge to uphold the initiative taken by the State Government for sustenance of work ethics.

Our faculty members have participated in a large number of national and international conferences / seminars / workshops and they have also chaired some sessions of the same. A large number of faculties have acted as resource persons of various Refresher Courses and Workshops.

This year there is remarkable increase of fund by obtaining R & D projects by the Faculty members from AICTE, CSIR, DST (State and Centre), UGC, ICMR, NCERT etc. This is a clear indication of involvement of our learned faculties in R & D and its extension activities. I feel happy to mention at this junction that our faculties have made sustained efforts for curriculum development, teaching and research activities in the thrust areas of Plasma, Nuclear and Condensed Matter Physics, Electronics, Material Science, Solid State Physics, Opto-electronics, Operation Research, Dynamical Oceanography & Meteorology, Soft Computing, Magneto Fluid Dynamics, Community Health, Molecular Biology, Sports Physiology, Ergonomics, Electro and Neuro Physiology, Biochemistry, Bio conjugation Chemistry, Fisheries, Ecology, Aquatic Resource Management, Soil Biotechnology, Marine Biotechnology, Polymer and Petrochemicals, Quantum Chemistry, Mushroom Polysaccharide, Bioorganic and Supramolecular Chemistry, Photodynamics in Supersonic Jet, Water Shed Management, Coastal Zone Management, Remote Sensing Applications, Disaster Management, Valuation of Urban Environmental System, Environmental Hazards, Biofertilizers, Seed Science and Technology, Chromosomal Studies, Microbiology, Microbial Enzyme, Tribal Cultures, Ethnic Identity and Relations, Gender Studies, Information Technology Application in Library and Information Science, Artificial Intelligence, Electronic Information Sources, Social and Political Movements, Analytical and Applied Philosophy, Decentralised Planning and Rural Development, Agricultural Economics and Rural Economics, Entrepreneurship Development, Farm Management, Nineteenth Century Renaissance, Indian English Literature, Gandhian Studies and Human Rights.

The annual Inter-Collegiate Cultural Meet of our university was held on 23 September 2000 with the participation of 21 affiliated colleges. The Inter-Collegiate Swimming Meet was organised on 29 September 2000.

This is for the first time in the history of Vidyasagar University the East-

Zone Inter-Varsity Youth Festival 2001 was held with the participation of 700 students from different universities. The students of Vidyasagar University participated in the National Inter-Varsity Youth Festival 2001 at Benaras Hindu University and won prizes in three events. Our swimming team participated in the National Swimming Competition at Jiyaji University, Gwalior.

The Annual Sports of Vidyasagar University was organised on 8 and 9 February 2001 with large number of participants from affiliated colleges.

Our students have also put their marks with remarkable success in NET, SLET and GATE examinations.

Twenty-first Century's higher education is a challenging task for every institution / individual. We shall have to prepare ourselves for accepting the challenges of globalisation. We are in the age of Bioeconomics and Infoeconomics which necessitate transdisciplinary linkages. The concept of rigid disciplines are changing. More emphasis is being given on inter / intra / multidisciplinary programs of teaching and research. In the Ninth Plan approach paper U.G.C. expressed its loud thinking about Cafeteria System of education. This necessitates a flexibility of mindset in consonance with contemporary societal needs for the sake of growth of higher education. Teachers have a crucial role to play in the development of higher education. We are moving fast for IT enabled higher education and teachers must have to adopt the art quickly. The old system of teaching methodology needs to be enriched with innovation. The Nation's theme of development is to make India a "Knowledge Superpower" which is possible only if the universities / institutions can produce appropriate human resources with commitment, motivation and involvement for the cause of the nation.

Today I wish all the recipients of various degrees and the award winners all round success in building a new India. Let me remind them at this juncture one of the greatest Bengali poets and composers, Atulprasada's utterances "Let us all say with the sweet melody of bina that India will regain soon its seat of excellence in the world". The country has great expectations from you all. The time is ripe for mobilising your inner and outer resources for designing the future of India by overcoming all obstacles with dedication and giving hard labour for your motherland.

Namaskar.