



VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

Seventeenth Convocation

Address by

Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti
Vice-Chancellor

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Vivekananda Sabhagriha, Vidyasagar University
Paschim Medinipur – 721102
West Bengal

Respected Chancellor Sir, His Excellency Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi, Honourable Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Minister-In-Charge, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal and Chief Patron and Guest-of-Honour of the Ceremony, Honourable Chief Guest Professor K. N. Ganesh, who is at present the Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, esteemed recipients of Doctor of Literature (*Honoris Causa*) Degree, Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, former Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati and former Chairman, Indian Council of Historical Research, Shri Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay, eminent Writer and a Novelist *par excellence*, and, Shri Vibhav Bhushan Upadhyay, former Advocate General, Uttar Pradesh and former Vice-Chancellor, Prayag Mahila Vidyapeeth, my esteemed predecessor Vice-Chancellors of Vidyasagar University, Honourable members of the Court and the Executive Council of the University, Faculty Members, Officers and other staff members of the University community, recipients of Degrees, Medals and Prizes, distinguished guests, representatives from the media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a matter of great privilege to welcome you all to the Seventeenth Convocation of Vidyasagar University.

I am particularly grateful to our Honourable Chancellor, His Excellency Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi, for having kindly accepted our invitation to preside over this Convocation. Thank you very much Sir. The entire Vidyasagar University community feels greatly honoured and they join me in sharing the pleasure of having you with us and express their gratitude. On their behalf and on my own, I welcome you, Sir, with greatest reverence and highest admiration on the occasion of your first visit to Vidyasagar University. We look forward to having your wise counselling, advice and blessings on this great occasion.

I, on behalf of the entire Vidyasagar University community, extend a warm welcome to Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Higher Education Minister, Government of West Bengal. We are honoured and thankful to you, Sir, for kindly

acceding to our request to grace the Seventeenth Convocation of Vidyasagar University as our Chief Patron and Guest of Honour.

I extend, on behalf of the University, a very special welcome to Professor K. N. Ganesh, the Director of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune who has a number of prestigious awards to his credit. I thank you, Sir, for being kind enough to accede to our request to deliver the Convocation Address this year.

This is a very significant moment in the history of this University. For the first time ever in the history of Vidyasagar University, the Convocation is being held inside the campus and in its own auditorium.

The University recommended, and the Honourable Chancellor has duly assented, to conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Literature (*Honoris Causa*) on three eminent personalities. The University feels proud to confer the Degree of Doctor of Literature (*Honoris Causa*) on Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, a Tagore National Fellow, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. He was earlier Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, and Chairman of the Centre for Historical Studies (ICHR). Another recipient of the Degree is Shri Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay, an eminent Writer and a Novelist *par excellence*. Shri Mukhopadhyay started his writing career with the publication of a short story in the famous Bengali magazine *Desh* in 1959. He has received many awards for his works including Sahitya Akademi Award (1989) and Ananda Puraskar (1973 & 1990), the Vidyasagar Award (1985) and Banga Bibhushan Award in Literature (2012). The University is proud to confer the D.Litt. Degree to Shri Vibhav Bhushan Upadhyay, former Advocate General, Uttar Pradesh and former Vice-Chancellor, Prayag Mahila Vidyapeeth, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.

The University feels highly privileged to honour these outstanding personalities on this auspicious day of the Convocation. It is also my pleasure to welcome all my predecessor Vice-Chancellors present here, other distinguished

guests and the media persons who have taken all the trouble to join us on this happy occasion.

Before I submit an audit of the academic achievements of the University, I wish to inform this distinguished audience that, in appreciation of its overall achievements, our University has secured 2.86 in a 4-point CGPA Scale in the process of 3rd Cycle re-accreditation and has been awarded 'B' Grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council on the basis of recommendation submitted by the NAAC Peer Team, during their visit at the University from 11 to 14 November 2014.

Coming to our achievements during the last two years, I would like to inform you that the University has made considerable progress both in academic sphere and infrastructural sector, thanks to the commendable team-spirit of the University community. In the academic field, the success rate has been gradually getting higher and higher each year. Since the last Convocation, 41 students in the Faculty of Arts & Commerce and 104 students in the Faculty of Science were awarded Ph.D Degrees, respectively. In the Postgraduate examinations 5619 students received their Master Degrees in Regular Mode. Likewise 12998 students obtained Postgraduate Degrees through Distance Mode of learning. On the other hand, Undergraduate Degrees (both Honours and General) were awarded to 37767 students. In addition, the number of successful candidates in B.Ed., B.P.Ed., BCA, LL.B. Vocational and Paramedical Courses are 5272.

In order to meet the increasing demands for higher education, various academic programmes have been opened in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. M.Sc. in Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics and Postgraduate Diploma in Quality Control and Assurance in Microbial Technology have been started from the session 2012-2013. M.A. in Bengali has been opened in Midnapore College, Panskura Banamali College, Prabhat Kumar College, Vivekananda Mission Mahavidyalaya and in Mahishadal Raj College, M.A. in English in Prabhat Kumar College, M.A. in History in Panskura Banamali College & Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya, M.A. in

Philosophy in Vivekananda Mission Mahavidyalaya, M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics in Midnapore College & Panskura Banamali College, M.Sc. in Chemistry in Mahishadal Raj College & Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya, M.Sc. in Zoology in Midnapore College & Tamralipta Mahavidyalaya, M.Sc. in Physics in Panskura Banamali College, M.A./M.Sc. in Geography in Panskura Banamali College have been started from this academic session (2013-2014). Very recently, M.A. in Bengali has also been opened in Pingla Thana Mahavidyalaya.

The University has adopted the slogan *One Teacher One Project*. I am glad to report that Research Grants have been regularly pouring into the different academic Departments of the University from several funding agencies like UGC, DST, DBT, CSIR, ICHR, ICSSR, ICMR etc. The Departments which have received such grants are Department of Chemistry & Chemical Technology, Department of Human Physiology with Community Health, Department of Physics & Techno-Physics, Department of Anthropology, Department of Geography & Environment Management, Department of Zoology, Department of Economics with Rural Development, Department of English. Many of our distinguished faculty members are also pursuing collaborative research work with other Universities in West Bengal and India. In an effort to continue the ongoing progress of R & D activities, the teachers have been motivated to apply for research projects from the UGC, DST, DBT, CSIR, ICHR, ICSSR, ICMR and other funding agencies. Faculty members who have, in the last two sessions, received research grants from different funding agencies referred to above are: Dr. Indranil Acharya, Department of English (UGC Project- 9.35 Lacs); Dr. Sovanjan Sarkar, Department of Anthropology (UGC Project-6.00 Lacs); Prof. Bidhan Chandra Patra, Department of Aquaculture Management & Technology (DBT Project-75.01 Lacs, SERB, DST Project-38.94 Lacs, DBT Project-56.01 Lacs); Dr. Manoj Kumar Pati, Department of Aquaculture Management & Technology (UGC Project-6.00 Lacs); Prof. Debidas Ghosh, Department of Bio-Medical Laboratory Science & Management (DST Project-11.56 Lacs, DST Project-20.02 Lacs); Dr. A. K. Mondal, Department of Botany & Forestry (UGC Project-13.78 Lacs); Prof. Braja Gopal Bag, Department of Chemistry & Chemical Technology (CSIR Project-22.00 Lacs,

DRDO Project-17.00 Lacs); Dr. Subal Chandra Manna, Department of Chemistry & Chemical Technology (CSIR Project-10.00 Lacs, DST Project-26.30 Lacs); Dr. Sudipta Dalai, Department of Chemistry & Chemical Technology (CSIR Project-10.00 Lacs); Dr. Moidul Hossain, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology (UGC Project-6.00 Lacs); Dr. Nilanjana Das Chatterjee, Department Geography and Environment Management (ICSSR Project-6.47 Lacs); Dr. Asish Kumar Paul, Department of Geography and Environment Management (WBPCB Project-25.00 Lacs); Prof. Prakash Chandra Dhara, Department of Human Physiology with Community Health (CSIR Project-18.20 Lacs); Prof. Chandradipa Ghosh, Department of Human Physiology with Community Health (ICMR Project-11.83 Lacs); Dr. Sujata Maiti (Choudhury), Department of Human Physiology with Community Health (UGC Project- 13.0 Lacs); Dr. Sumana Sarkhel, Department of Human Physiology with Community Health (UGC Project-5.40 Lacs); Prof. Bikash Ranjan Pati, Department of Microbiology (DBT Project-3.50 Lacs); Prof. Bikash Ranjan Pati, Department of Microbiology (UGC Project-60.00 Lacs); Dr. Pradeep Kumar Das Mohapatra and Dr. Keshab Chandra Mondal, Department of Microbiology (Biostadt India Ltd. Project-2.02 Lacs); Prof. Bikash Ranjan Pati and Dr. Keshab Chandra Mandal, Department of Microbiology (DBT Project-4.55 Lacs); Dr. Surajit Ghosh, Department of Physics and Techno-Physics (DST Project-19.44 Lacs); Dr. Satyajit Saha, Department of Physics and Techno-Physics (UGC Project-2.00 Lacs); Dr. Kuntal Chatterjee, Department of Physics and Techno-Physics (UGC Project-2.00 Lacs); Dr. Jatisankar Bandyopadhyay, Department of Remote Sensing & GIS (DBT Project-75.01 Lacs, DST Project-34.84 Lacs, DBT Project-56.09 Lacs, UGC Project-6.00 Lacs, WBPCB Project-20.96 Lacs, PHE Directorate, Govt. of West Bengal-42.20 Lacs); Prof. Bidhan Chandra Patra, Department of Zoology (DBT-NER Project-56.61 Lacs, DST Project-38.22 Lacs); Prof. Subrata Kumar De, Department of Zoology (UGC Project-11.41 Lacs); Dr. Sagar Acharya, Department of Zoology (UGC Project-6.00 Lacs).

In addition, a large number of Visiting Professors and Scholars have been invited from esteemed National and International Institutions for the benefit of our Post Graduate students. Pertaining to that, several Scholars have been invited

to visit our campus and have delivered lectures under the UGC Merged Scheme Programme. It is pertinent to mention that our University has started the "University Lecture Series" by the faculty members of various academic departments. The Academic Departments have also been bringing out Departmental Journals regularly.

I take the opportunity to inform you that two Memorandums of Understanding have been carried out between Vidyasagar University and Yunnan Minzu University, Kunming, China. Apart from this, a number of Collaborative/Exchange Programmes with the Lodz University, Poland; Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland; University of Dublin, Ireland; and with Peking University, China are in the pipeline.

Vidyasagar Memorial Lecture has been resumed after a long intermission. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India, who at our request, visited Vidyasagar University and delivered the *VII Vidyasagar Memorial Lecture* on September 15, 2013. Professor Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor History, Harvard University and Hon'ble Member of Parliament, visited Vidyasagar University and delivered the *VIII Vidyasagar Memorial Lecture* on March 24, 2014.

To pay homage to the Founder of Vidyasagar University, Late Professor Anil Kumar Gayen, *Professor Anil Kumar Gayen Memorial Lecture* has also been initiated and the 1st Lecture was delivered by Professor Syed Samsul Alam, Former Vice-Chancellor, Aliah University on October 28, 2014.

It is delightful to note that in the last two years a good number of our esteemed faculty members represented our institution in various International Conferences and Seminars. It is a matter of considerable pride for the University community that some of the Departments hosted International Conferences inviting many guests from abroad and also from within the country. In my academic capacity, I too was invited to deliver a talk on *Writing Environmental History of Asia: Climate, Water and the Issue of Sustainability* at the 2012 India China Institute

Annual Conference on *The Environment in China and India: Histories and Innovations* held at the India China Institute, New York, USA during November 30-December 1, 2012. I also visited Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences (YASS), Kunming, Yunnan, China during January 13-17, 2013 as a member of the delegation from Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata to *enhance the social scientific communication and to facilitate the implementation of the co-operation between India and China*. I was again invited to attend *Second World Congress of Environmental History*, held at University of Minho, Guimaraes, Portugal between July 8-12, 2014 and presented a Paper titled *The Beginnings of South Asian Environmental History in the Roundtable on Present at the Creation: The Beginnings of Environmental History Studies around the Globe*. I was also invited to Chair the Panel on *Urban Nature II* in the same Conference. The undersigned was invited to give a Lecture on *How to map Environmental concerns and disasters (climate, sea level, resource depletion etc.)* at the 5th Summer School in Environmental History at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Porto during July 4-8, 2014.

Dr. Sovanjan Sarkar of the Department of Anthropology went to Vienna, Austria to present a paper at the 5th International Congress on *Pre-diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome* held during April 18 - 20, 2013. Professor Madhumangal Pal of the Department of Applied Mathematics visited London to attend an International Conference in 2013. Dr. Biswajit Sarkar of the Department of Applied Mathematics went to Surabaya, Indonesia to present a paper at the 2nd International Conference on *Industrial Engineering and Service Science (IESS-2013)* held during August 20 - 22, 2013. Professor Braja Gopal Bag, Department of Chemistry & Chemical Technology visited Chonburi, Thailand to participate in PACCON 2013 held during January 23 - 25, 2013 and to Germany for delivering lectures at the Ruhr University of Bochum and to participate in the International Conference on *Polymers for Advanced Technologies (PAT 2013)* held at Berlin during Sept. 29 - Oct. 02, 2013. Dr. Utpal Roy, Department of Geography, presented a paper at the *2nd World Emerging Industries Summit (WEIS)* held at Wuhan, China during November 21 - 23, 2013. Dr. Roy presented another paper at

3rd International Cultural Industrial Summit and at 7th International Cultural Expo at Lanzhou city, Gansu Province, China in 2014. Dr. Roy and Dr. Nilanjana Das Chatterjee of the same Department, presented one paper each at the International conference on *Environment and Development* held at Rajshahi University, Bangladesh during March 6 - 9, 2014. Dr Nilanjana Das Chatterjee also participated in the 2nd International Conference on Social Science (ICSS) held at Sri Lanka during November 22 - 23, 2013. Dr. Das Chatterjee presented another paper at the 2nd International conference on Social Science, ICSS, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka in 2014. Another visitor to Paris from the University was Dr. Chandradipa Ghosh of the Department of Human Physiology who read her paper there at the 8th IAG International Conference in Geomorphology held during August 26 - 31, 2013. Professor R. R. Pal of the Department of Physics & Technophysics went to Beijing, China to participate in an International Conference on *Microelectronics, Optoelectronics and Nanoscience 2013* held during September 1 - 2, 2013. Dr. Satyajit Saha of the same Department went to Beijing, China to participate in *Symposium on Photonics and Optoelectronics (SOPo-2013)* held during May 23 - 25, 2013. Dr. Kuntal Chatterjee of the Department of Physics & Technophysics, has joined Rice University, Houston, Texas, USA, as a recipient of RAMAN Post Doctoral Fellowship from UGC. Professor Subrata Kumar De of the Department of Zoology went to Hungary to present a paper. Professor De joined *Microscopy and Microanalysis 2014*, at Hartford CT, USA, to deliver a lecture and he also joined in *Short Training Programme* organized by Microscopy Society of America (MSA), Hartford CT, USA in 2014. Dr. Joydeb Sasmal of the Department of Economics went to the Netherlands to present a paper at the International Conference on *Co-operation or Conflict? Economics of Natural Resources and Food* held at Wageningen University during May 29 - 31, 2013 and also travelled to Dauphine University, Paris, France to participate in *DIAL Development Conference on Institutions and Development* held during June 27 - 28, 2013. Dr. Sasmal also presented a paper at the International Conference for Academic Disciplines, Boston, Massachusetts, USA in 2014. Dr. Sebak Kumar Jana of the Department of Economics visited Bangkok, Thailand for to read a paper at the *Policy Analyses and Environmental Economics Workshop* held during May 19 - 22, 2013. Mrs.

Chandrima Chakraborty, Department of Economics, presented a paper at the 12th International Conference on Data Envelopment Analysis, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2014. Dr. Debjani Das of the Department of History went to UCL's main campus, Bloomsbury, London to read her paper in the International Conference on *From Moral Treatment to Psychological Therapies: History of Psychotherapeutics from the York Retreat to the Present day* held during October 11 - 13, 2013. Dr. Das also presented a paper at the 87th Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Chicago, USA in 2014. Mr. Gautam Chando Roy, Department of History, presented a paper at the 6th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science, Lisbon, Portugal in 2014; Dr. Bidyarthi Dutta of the Department of Library & Information Science went to Singapore to participate in IFLA World Library and Information Congress held during August 17 - 23, 2013. Dr. Raj Kumar Kothari of the Department of Political Science with Rural Administration participated and presented a paper at the *International Conference on Social Science* held at Colombo, Sri Lanka during March 25 - 26, 2014; Dr. Kothari also participated and presented a paper at the 23rd World Congress of Political Science, Montreal, Quebec, Canada in 2014. Dr. Kothari has chaired one session each in both the International Conferences. Mr. Yasin Khan of the Department of Political Science with Rural Administration participated in an International Conference on SASON held at Kathmandu, Nepal during December 14 - 16, 2013. It is also pertinent to mention here that Dr. N. K. Mondal, Controller of Examinations has participated in an International Conference on Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (ICRSET-2013) held at Kualulumpur, Malaysia during November 13 - 14, 2013.

Ladies and gentlemen, I take this opportunity to gladly announce that Professor Tarun Kumar Banerjee, a retired teacher in Political Science of this University, has been awarded National Fellowship by the Indian Council of Social Science Research of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, in recognition of his "pre-eminent" scholarship. Professor

Banerjee has joined this University in the Department of Political Science on 3rd June, 2014 to pursue his research activities for two years.

Since the last Convocation, the University has gone a long way in adding to its infrastructure and facilities. Transportation facilities have improved. A new 42-seater bus, sponsored by the UCO Bank, has been commissioned to facilitate the movement of students and the staff of the University. To specially enable and help the movement of the differently-abled persons within the campus, among the visitors, student and staff of the University, we have procured a battery operated green vehicle. I am particularly grateful to Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal for her kind gesture to provide an Ambulance in response to our appeal to her. The Ambulance service has been dedicated to the members of Vidyasagar University community on January 10, 2013. Infrastructure in terms of space is increasing rapidly. This centrally air-conditioned Auditorium of the University, *Vivekananda Sabhagriha*, has been commissioned which can accommodate 800 people and is the venue for this XVII Convocation of Vidyasagar University. The Wi-Fi enabled new VIP Guest House of our University, *Rangamati* has become operational and is hosting many guests from far and near. It is also pertinent to mention that *Vidyasagar Bhawan*, the main Administrative Building of the University has been enabled with Wi-Fi facility. State-of-the-art switching devices have been installed to provide high speed and uninterrupted Internet services to the members of our University community. A Central Control Antivirus Server has also been installed at the Computer Centre for better utilization of the link. A good number of infrastructural facilities of the University were inaugurated. The new 11 KV Electrical Substation, *Benjamin Franklin Bhavan* along with two new transformers (750 KVA each) and two new Diesel Generator sets (250 KVA each) were put into service. A new Postgraduate Boys' Hostel Building, named *Sido-Kanhu-Birsa Chhatrabas* was dedicated in the service of our Postgraduate students. A host of student-centric facilities like Internet Connectivity, Cellphone and Laptop charging points and solar water heaters have been provided in the Postgraduate hostels. In order to extend support to its employees & students, the University is

providing 'General Insurance Policy' to them. Multigym facility is also being provided separately to boys and girls. For developing the overall personality of the students through recreation and entertainment, three clubs have been formed namely Debate Club, Film Club and Music Club. A book store cum stationery facility store named *Granthaguchchha* was opened to cater to the needs of the members of our University community. In order to make Vidyasagar University a plastic-free zone, state-of-the-art garbage disposal system has been initiated which is first of its kind in West Bengal. Use of renewable energy has been given priority in our University campus and solar lighting system has been installed accordingly. The Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Project has also been implemented in our University. It is to be mentioned here that in order to enhance in-house safety and security, CCTV cameras have been installed at different strategic locations within the University campus. Apart from these, state-of-the-art Fire Fighting System with Automatic Fire Panel along with smoke detector with hooter have been installed, Lightening Arrestors have been installed at Academic and Administrative Buildings. Pool Car facility has been provided to the Teachers and Officers at Vidyasagar University. Facilities like Women's Common Room and Pay Toilet have also been started here. All the buildings within the campus have been given a name to pay tribute to great personalities. I am happy to pronounce that a new office of Vidyasagar University has been set up at Salt Lake, Kolkata in order to facilitate the extension and outreach activities of our University.

The University library is providing remote access facility to the members of the University community accelerating the pace of studies and research with a total collection of 1.25 Lacs of reading materials. The academic space for research and teaching in the University has also been widened. A Centre for the Study of Adivasi Society and its Culture along with a Tribal Museum has been established to function as a unit affiliated to the Department of Santali. The Language Laboratory of the University has been restored in order that students may sharpen their communication skills in English.

Learning through Distance Mode has been, it is well known, recognized medium of education throughout the world today. Our Directorate of Distance Education (DDE) has been functioning since the session of 1994 - 1995 to reach those students of rural and urban sections, who are unable to get formal system of education under regular mode. The DDE of Vidyasagar University has increased the number of study centres in West Bengal. Thirteen (13) new study centres have been opened in Kolkata and Malda Districts, and thus, the total number of study centres is now 44.

As part of our Extension/Outreach activities, the Women Infrastructure Facilities have been strengthened than before. Efforts have also been made to revive the activities of the Gandhian Studies Centre. The University Science Instrumentation Centre and Bioinformatics Infrastructure Facilities have been made well equipped to cater to the needs of the students. The RTI Cell, the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Cell, the Anti Ragging Cell and the Equal Opportunity Cell are being efficiently managed to minimize the response time and to become pro-active. The NSS Unit has been conducting its regular activities in an orderly manner.

Under the aegis of the Department of the Dean of Students' Welfare, the Placement Cell of our University, consisting of different placement co-ordinators of respective departments, invites various organizations to conduct campus recruitment for the interested students of the University. This Cell facilitates recruitment of the eligible students of the University to get employment through on campus or off campus interviews. A partial list of the organizations who recruited our students are - Wipro, TCS, Pradan, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, American Express, Allahabad Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Metro Dairy, Reliance, Lintex Co. Ltd., PCS Global Pvt. Ltd., Business Pro Design, Haldia Petro Chemicals, Future Group, SELVEL etc. Around 125 students got selected in different organizations through on and off campus placement activities.

The University Sports Department organized and conducted Inter College Foot Ball, Volley Ball, Cricket, Kho-Kho, Chess, Kabaddi, Carom tournament and Annual Athletics Meet (both PG & UG), etc. under the auspices of the Students' Welfare Department. The University came out as champion in the PCM Memorial Football Tournament organized by the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

Our University's Cultural Team, for the first time in its history, emerged as Runners Up in the 28th Intervarsity East Zone Youth Festival held at Ranchi University during December 7 – 11, 2012. The University organized the 16th Inter Collegiate Cultural Meet on 17th and 18th September 2014. 22 events were held and 650 students from 30 UG colleges and 16 PG Departments participated in it. The Cultural Team of the University participated in the 29th East Zone Inter Varsity Youth Festival at the L. N. Mithila University, Darbhanga on 22nd and 23rd November 2013. The team secured 12 prizes in the competition.

Fossil fuel resources have changed the Middle East, cheap labour has changed China, banking has served as an agent of change in the smaller European countries, similarly quality higher education, I believe, can serve as a catalyst in the Indian case. Indian intelligence can eventually transform Asia and the wider world. It is here that Universities like Vidyasagar is capable of playing a significant role. Given the fact that the number of central universities or IITs will not multiply magically in the near future, the State Universities will continue to be the key players in the decades to come. As the Vice-Chancellor of this University I would have to be proactive to compete for a slot in the academic map of the country and beyond. I am confident that this will be achievable with a little bit of hard work, dedication and team-spirit.

Values ascribe to the highest levels of academic distinction, academic freedom and accountability; values encourage innovation, individuality and collective effort. And, values strive to promote integrity and respect for diversity and human dignity. Notice a world beyond yourself and put these values into practice by serving the less fortunate members of society. Through service,

citizenship is meaningful and dignified. Where there is inequality and injustice, we need you to work for opportunity and equity.

Today, as you receive your qualifications, you will hold in your hands the key to the door of your future professional success. This is your achievement but you should always remember the sacrifices others have made to ensure that you stand here today. As future leaders, I trust that the leadership qualities that you demonstrate in the future will reflect the values that you have nurtured during your years at Vidyasagar University.

Before I conclude, I extend my warm welcome to all the recipients of Degrees and distinctions at today's ceremonial function. Your University bears through you the glorious legacy of Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar who was a life-long crusader fighting for justice and equality, for modernity and humanitarianism. The University, as your alma mater, will always be by your side. All my best wishes are with you.

Once again, I convey my deepest regards and thanks to all those who have assembled here to make the Seventeenth Convocation of Vidyasagar University a grand success.

Thank you all.