

Respected Chancellor Sir, His Excellency Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi; Honourable Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Minister-In-Charge, Departments of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, School Education and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal and Chief Patron and Guest of Honour of the Ceremony, Honourable Chief Guest Professor Debi Prasad Sarkar, Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali; esteemed recipients of Doctor of Literature (*Honoris Causa*) Degree, Dr. Suhrid Kumar Bhowmik, Eminent Litterateur & one of our country's foremost exponents of Santhali Language and Literature; Shri Pradip Kumar Banerjee, Renowned Footballer and Former Captain of the National Squad, an *Arjuna* and a *Padmashri* Awardee and *Indian Footballer* of the 20th Century and Shri Harshavardhan Neotia, Eminent Industrialist and a *Padmashri* Awardee; my esteemed former 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 Twentieth 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 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 Minister-In-Charge, Departments of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, School Education and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal. We are honoured and thankful to you, Sir, for kindly acceding to our request to grace the Twentieth Convocation of Vidyasagar University as our Chief Patron and Guest of Honour.

I, on behalf of the entire University community, extend a very special welcome to Professor Debi Prasad Sarkar, Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, our revered Chief Guest. I thank you, Professor Sarkar, for being kind enough to accede to our request to deliver the Convocation Address this year.

The Executive Council and the Court of the University have, this year, also unanimously recommended, and the Honourable Chancellor has duly assented, to confer the Degree of Doctor of Literature (*Honoris Causa*) on Dr. Suhrid Kumar Bhowmik, Eminent Litterateur & one of our country's foremost exponents of Santhali Language and Literature; Shri Pradip Kumar Banerjee, Renowned Footballer and Former Captain of the National Squad, an *Arjuna* and a *Padmashri*

Awardee and *Indian Footballer of the 20th Century* and Shri Harshavardhan Neotia, Eminent Industrialist and a *Padmashri* Awardee.

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 previous Vice-Chancellors present here, other distinguished guests and the media persons who have taken all the trouble to join us on this happy occasion.

The overall achievements of our University in the last one year gives us a tremendous confidence and indicates that we are moving in the right direction in consonance with our Vision and Mission, with a firm determination. But this is not the end, it is rather a beginning and we have to work harder and harder as a team to achieve bigger and higher goals both in the field of higher education and social reconstruction. We have to rededicate ourselves with absolute commitment and dedication to make Vidyasagar University as one of the best research and innovative Universities in the country. In a true sense, the University's pace of growth is now considered highest in the country.

Coming to our achievements for the last one year, 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, 34 students in the

Faculty of Arts & Commerce and 59 students in the Faculty of Science were awarded Ph.D. Degrees, respectively. Apart from Ph.D., regular D.Sc. Degree is to be awarded to Professor Kaushik Sankar Bose. In the Postgraduate examinations 3164 students received their Master Degrees in Regular Mode for 2016 and 2017 respectively. Likewise 7293 students obtained Postgraduate Degrees through Distance Mode of learning for 2015 (three subjects) and 2016 respectively. On the other hand, Undergraduate Degrees (both Honours and General) were awarded to 39320 students for 2016 and 2017 respectively. In addition, the number of successful candidates in BCA (2016), LL.B. (2016 & 2017), B.LISc. (2016 & 2017), Vocational (2016) and Paramedical (2016) Courses are 768.

In order to meet the increasing demands for higher education, various academic programmes have been opened since the last Convocation. Apart from the regular M.Phil Programmes and the Integrated Interdisciplinary M.Phil.-Ph.D. Programme in the Life Sciences, Master's Degree Courses in different subjects have been introduced in 12 affiliated Colleges, since the last Convocation – M.A. in Sanskrit and Bengali has been started in Sitananda College, Nandigram; M.Sc. in Zoology has been started in Egra Sarada Sashi Bhusan Mahavidyalaya; M.A. in History and Sanskrit and M.Sc. in Zoology has been started in Mahishadal Raj College; M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics has been started in Mugberia Gangadhar Mahavidyalaya; M.A. in Sanskrit has been started in Narajole Raj College; M.A. in Sanskrit and M.Sc. in Computer Science has been started in Raja Narendra Lal Khan Women's College; M.A. in Bengali, English, Sanskrit and M.Sc. in Botany, Chemistry and Physics has been started in Sabang Sajanikanta

Mahavidyalaya; M.A. in Philosophy has been started in Bajkul Milani Mahavidyalaya; M.A. in History and Philosophy has been started in Rabindra Shatabarshiki Mahavidyalaya, Ghatal; M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics and M.A. in Bengali, History has been started in Garhbeta College; M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics and Physics has been started in Belda College and M.Sc. in, Botany, Geography, Physics, Nutrition & Dietetics, Zoology, and M.A. in Education, English has been started in Midnapore City College, from the academic session 2017 - 2018. Choice Based Credit System has been introduced at the Undergraduate Level from the session 2017-18 in all the affiliated Colleges. Apart from that, Disaster Management has also been introduced as a General Course Subject at the Undergraduate Level from the academic session 2017-18. It is pertinent to mention that the Panskura Banamali College, affiliated to Vidyasagar University, has been granted Autonomous Status under the UGC Autonomous Colleges Scheme for a period of ten years w.e.f. the academic year 2018-2019. I have the pleasure to report that on the basis of the proposals submitted by the affiliated Colleges such as Midnapore College (Autonomous) and Panskura Banamali College, Research Centres for pursuing Research and Ph.D. Programmes in Science have already been established at both the Colleges. Again, necessary formalities have already been initiated by the University authority to establish Research Centres for pursuing Research and Ph.D. Programmes in Science and in Humanities in Raja Narendra Lal Khan Women's College and in Humanities and Social Science in Midnapore College (Autonomous), on the basis of the proposals submitted by the said affiliated Colleges.

It is noteworthy to mention that the result of the Undergraduate Part-III (Honours/Annual Pattern) Examination 2017 has been published on the 37th day of the completion of the examination. I congratulate the Controller of Examinations and all Officers and Staff of his office for achieving this feat. The efforts of this office are also praiseworthy in introducing new Security Measures along with Barcode and Hologram in the marksheets of Postgraduate Level Courses and in adopting unique initiatives of Coding and Decoding System in the Postgraduate Level answer scripts and in the answer scripts of M.Phil. Life Science and Ph.D. RET Examinations, to ensure transparency and security of the answer scripts and to accelerate the evaluation process.

I feel privileged to pronounce that the Vidyasagar University has been entrusted by the Purba Medinipur District Administration to prepare contemporary District Gazetteers for the District of Purba Medinipur. I am happy to report that the Committee, constituted by the University for this purpose, has already completed its assignment and the volume is now ready for the Press. Vidyasagar University is the first University in the State to complete the work in a record time.

I have the pleasure to mention that Vidyasagar University has acquired 87th position in the country and 4th in the State, in the University Category, as per “National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) – India Ranking 2017” by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

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. 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 session, received research grants from different funding agencies referred to above are: Professor Amiya Kumar Panda, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology (Department of Science & Technology, Government of India - Rs. 753280); Professor Bidhan Chandra Patra, Department of Zoology (Department of Science & Technology (SEED), Government of India - Rs. 700000 & Department of Science & Technology (NRDMS), Government of India - Rs. 900000 respectively); Dr. Bidyarthi Dutta, Department of Library and Information Science (Department of Science & Technology (NSTMIS), Government of India - Rs. 800000); Professor Braja Gopal Bag, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology (SERB-Government of India - Rs. 2964000); Dr. Dilip Kumar Maiti, Department of Applied Mathematics with Oceanology and Computer Programming (SERB-Government of India - Rs. 100000); Professor Dipak Kumar Midya, Department of Anthropology (Indian Council of Social Science Research - Rs. 400000); Dr. Jatisankar Bandyopadhyay, Department of Remote Sensing and GIS (Space Application Centre-Government of India - Rs. 925000); Dr. Keshab Chandra Mandal, Department of Microbiology (Department of Science & Technology,

Government of India – Rs. 800000 & Rs. 330000 and Department of Science & Technology, Government of West Bengal – Rs. 252800 & Rs. 660191 respectively); Dr. Kuntal Chatterjee, Department of Physics and Technophysics (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Rs. 711583); Dr. Nilanjana Das Chatterjee, Department of Geography and Environment Management (Indian Council of Social Science Research – Rs. 800000); Dr. Pinaki Das, Department of Economics with Rural Development (UGC-Major Research Project – Rs. 286400); Professor Raj Kumar Kothari, Department of Political Science with Rural Administration (UGC-Major Research Project – Rs. 194400); Dr. Sandip Chattopadhyay, Department of Bio-Medical Laboratory Science and Management and Clinical Nutrition (Department of Science & Technology, Government of West Bengal – Rs. 661200 & Rs. 570266 respectively); Professor Shyamal Kumar Mandal, Department of Applied Mathematics with Oceanology and Computer Programming (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Rs. 310907); Professor Subrata Kumar De, Department of Zoology (Department of Science & Technology, Government of West Bengal – Rs. 671379); Dr. Sumita Roy, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Rs. 255439); Dr. Surajit Ghosh, Department of Physics and Technophysics (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Rs. 889400); Dr. Suratha Kumar Malik, Department of Political Science with Rural Administration (UGC-Major Research Project – Rs. 254400).

In addition, a large number of Visiting Professors and Scholars have been invited from esteemed National and International Institutions and have delivered Lectures for the benefit of our Postgraduate and

Ph.D. students. It is pertinent to mention that the “Faculty Lecture Series” has gained momentum by the collective effort of the faculty members of various academic departments. In my academic capacity, I was invited by the organizers to deliver this year’s Inaugural Lecture on *American Trade in the Indian Ocean* held on January 17, 2018. The Academic Departments have also been bringing out Departmental Journals regularly.

I am proud to pronounce that a number of Memorial Lectures have been initiated at Vidyasagar University which include the *Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture* and the *Quit India Movement Memorial Lecture* and these lectures were delivered by eminent and distinguished academicians.

I am delighted to report that the *Officers’ Lecture Series* has been introduced by the Vidyasagar University. I, in my capacity as the Vice-Chancellor of the University, was invited by the Officers of the University to deliver the Inaugural Lecture on 6th September, 2017.

It is noteworthy to mention that a large number of Visiting Professors and Scholars have been invited from esteemed National and International Institutions for the benefit of our Postgraduate and Ph.D. students. To mention a few, Professor Chien-Hsiang Chang of National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan visited the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology and delivered a lecture on *Drug Delivery Systems* and it was held on April 21, 2017 and Professor Anuttam Patra of Luella University of Technology, Sweden visited the same Department in the Month of January 2018 and delivered a

Lecture on *Synthetic Surfactants*. The Department of Physics and Technophysics invited Professor Kartik Ghosh, of Missouri State University, Springfield, USA and Dr. Simone Peli from the Department of Mathematics and Physics, Docente Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart), Milan, Italy as Resource Persons and they delivered Lectures on *Nano-structured Materials for Applications in Energy and Bio Technology* and on *Ultrafast Optics for innovative Spectroscopies*, respectively during January 17 - 19, 2018 at the 9th Vidyasagar Satyendra Nath Bose National Workshop on *Science of Materials: Challenges and Prospects* organized by the Department. The Department of Commerce with Farm Management also invited Professor Stuart Locke of the Department of Finance, Department of Finance, Faculty of Management, University of Waikato, New Zealand; Professor Tarapada Ghosh from the Institute of Management Technology, Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Professor Muhammad Rafiqul Islam from the Institute of Business Administration, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh as Resource Persons in the International Conference on *Research and Innovation in Finance* organized by the Department during February 15 - 16, 2018. A Three-week Winter School Programme on *Gender Equity: Status, Ideologies and Future Challenges* has also been conducted during January 5 - 25, 2018.

I take the opportunity to report that the Second *Birendra Nath Sasmal Memorial Lecture* was held on December 21, 2017 and was delivered by Professor Samir Kumar Das, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta. Accordingly, the Ninth *Vidyasagar Memorial Lecture* was held on March 23, 2017 and was delivered by Dr. Subodh

Sarkar, Eminent Academician, Poet and Writer and the Tenth *Vidyasagar Memorial Lecture* was held on January 11, 2018 and was delivered by Dr. Jayanta Sengupta, Secretary and Curator, Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata.

A University can grow successfully only when research and teaching mesh together seamlessly - one without the other is incomplete. Therefore we have ensured the development of a collaborative environment conducive to learning, exposure to the best international practices and promotion of innovation and creativity. I am happy to report that a Memorandum of Understanding is in the pipeline between Vidyasagar University and Department of Regenerative Medicine, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata to carry out a Collaborative Research Programme. The University is also successfully running several research projects of societal relevance.

It is my pleasure to pronounce that since the last Convocation a good number of our esteemed faculty members represented our institution in various International Conferences and Seminars. In my academic capacity, I too was invited by the *Itihas Academy* - Dhaka, Bangladesh to deliver the Keynote Address at their 14th International Seminar on *History and Heritage* held on February 23, 2018.

Dr. Sumana Sarkhel, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Physiology with Community Health presented a Research Paper at the 21st International Conference entitled *Functional Foods and bioactive Compounds in health and Disease: Science and Practice* held at San Diego Convention Centre, San Diego, CA, USA during 25 - 26 March,

2017. Dr. Joyjit Ghosh, Associate Professor, Department of English presented a Research Paper at the *14th International D.H. Lawrence Conference* held at U K, London during 3 – 8 July, 2017. Dr. Dipanwita Dutta, Assistant Professor, Department of Remote Sensing and GIS received UGC and DST-SERB International Travel Grant for presenting a Research Paper entitled *Hypertemporal NDVI for Estimating Green Space Change and its Temporal Trend in Delhi, India* at the *GI Forum International Symposium* held at University of Salzburg, Austria during 4 – 7 July, 2017. Professor Madhumangal Pal, Department of Applied Mathematics with Oceanology and Computer Programming presented a Research Paper at the *5th India Taiwan Conference on Discrete Mathematics 2017* held at Tamkang University, Taiwan during 18 – 21 July, 2017. He also delivered an Invited Talk on *Application of graph theory* at an International Conference on *Recent Advances in Mathematical and Physical Sciences* held at Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh during 27 – 29 January, 2018. Dr. Sumahan Bandyopadhyay, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology participated and acted as a Chairperson in an *International Seminar* held at Rajshahi University, Bangladesh during 28 – 30 July, 2017. Professor Subrata Kumar De, Department of Zoology presented a Research Paper at the *Microscopy and Microanalysis 2017 (M & M 2017, USA)* held at St. Louis, Missouri, USA during 6 – 10 August, 2017. Professor Amiya Kr. Panda, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology presented a Research Paper at the 7th Asian Conference on "*Colloid and Interface Science (ACCIS 2017)*" held at University of Malaya, Kualalumpur, Malayasia, during 8 – 11 August, 2017. Professor Joydeb Sasmal, Department of Economics with Rural Development presented a Research Paper at the *34th*

International Academic Conference of International Institute of Social and Economic Sciences (IISES) held at Florence, Italy during 13 – 16 September, 2017. Dr. Asmita Bhattacharyya, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology has received JSS-ILC travel grant award for Non-Japanese young scholars from overseas for her Paper *Coping with Techno-stress* for presentation in *90th annual conference of Japan Sociological Society*, held on November 4 & 5, 2017 and organized by The Japan Sociological Society (JSS), University of Tokyo. Professor Sankar Kumar Roy, Department of Applied Mathematics with Oceanology and Computer Programming delivered an Invited Talk in the *20th International Mathematics Conference 2017* during 8 – 10 December, 2017 at the Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh. He also chaired a session in the Conference. Professor Kaushik Sankar Bose, Department of Anthropology attended USAID under the *Food and Nutrition Assistance III Project (FANTA) Programme* held at Washington D.C. during 12 – 13 February, 2018.

I am delighted to mention that Professor Chandradipa Ghosh of the Department of Human Physiology with Community Health has received the prestigious *Shiksha Ratna Award* from the Government of West Bengal and Professor Sebak Kumar Jana of the Department of Economics with Rural Development has been conferred with the *Venus International Research Award, 2017 of Distinguished Scientist* by the Venus International Foundation, Chennai. Congratulations to Professor Ghosh and Professor Jana!

Since the last Convocation, a host of developmental activities have taken place at Vidyasagar University. The entire University campus is fully Wi-Fi enabled with high bandwidth connectivity for users and has been declared as a Smart Campus. Vidyasagar University is the first University in West Bengal to have achieved this feat. Apart from the Smart Card based Biometric Attendance System, Leave Management System has been implemented in Vidyasagar University for the first time ever in any University campus in West Bengal. Other than the state-of-the-art Video Conferencing System, *Chhatrabandhu* Mobile Application and IP based CCTV Surveillance System, access to confidential section through Electronic Smart Door has been implemented at Vidyasagar University to give impetus to transparency and confidentiality. Vidyasagar University is the first University in the State to introduce state-of-the-art Smart Classrooms and Virtual Classrooms in its campus. Accordingly, 5 Smart Classrooms and 8 Virtual Classrooms have already been installed, with recording studio and archiving facilities along with most sophisticated digital classroom ICT components, to enhance the quality of teaching-learning process. I am all the more delighted to report that Vidyasagar University is now a National Academic Depository (NAD) compatible University and it is the 1st State Aided University to be listed under NAD. A Modern BSNL Exchange is coming up shortly in the Vidyasagar University campus with CENTREX facility and a MOU has already been signed between Vidyasagar University and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, in this regard. Vidyasagar University is going to add another feather to its cap as it is all set to set up a Community Radio Station in its campus. I am happy to pronounce that the vibrant Publication Division of the University has published

one of the most authentic and updated version of Vidyasagar's works entitled *Vidyasagar Rachanasamagra (Part-I; Volume-I)*. This edition of the collected works of Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar is the first such publication ever published by a University. It has also been resolved to publish the Biography of Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar in English. The 42nd Indian Folklore Congress is going to be held at Vidyasagar University during November 16 – 18, 2018 and this is for the first time in its history that Vidyasagar University is going to host such an event. Apart from imparting quality higher education in the *Junglemahal* area, Vidyasagar University is also committed to serve the society and has adopted ten villages, since the last Convocation, to empower the villagers by making them self-reliant through imparting various handicraft skills and by conducting Awareness Programmes on Health, Hygiene, Education, Sports and on Live Stock Management. I am delighted to report that a unique initiative has been taken up by the Vidyasagar University authority jointly with the *Vidyasagar Smritiraksha Samity*, Karmatar, Jharkhand to protect the memories of Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and to propagate his ideals, on a long term basis, by conducting Seminars/Workshops/Lectures on Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar to celebrate his Bicentenary. Resolutions have also been adopted to construct a Library and a Vidyasagar Memorial Museum in memory of Vidyasagar in Karmatar. Representatives from Vidyasagar University have also visited Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar's house in Karmatar to chalk out a detailed plan in this regard. Initiatives have also been taken by the University to preserve the ancestral house of Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar in Birsingha, Paschim Medinipur and to construct a Memorial Museum to preserve his memories at his birthplace. I am glad to report that efforts have been

initiated to digitize all Ph.D. theses of the University. As a part of this digitization programme, a MOU has been signed with INFLIBNET to check Plagiarism. I am glad to report that we have adopted all possible options to make the University transaction cashless and have entered into an agreement with Billdesk to receive all fees through online payment mode.

I take this opportunity to report that Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal has been pleased to sanction a Mini Indoor Games/Recreation Complex for the students at Vidyasagar University and has already laid the Foundation Stone on January 15, 2018. Hon'ble Chief Minister has also been kind enough to initiate Government Bus Services to and from Vidyasagar University for the greater interest of the students and the staff alike. I, on behalf of the University, convey our sincere gratitude and thanks to you, Respected Madam, for your kind initiative.

Today is International Women's Day. Empowerment of women is a crucial plank in the policy of regeneration of youth we are toeing at present. *Kanyasree*, which has been internationally acclaimed, has been now extended to our Undergraduate and Postgraduate level students and will be an important tool to educate and infuse confidence and self-respect in women. I remember Chuni Kotal, a young *Adivasi* girl and the first women graduate among her tribe of the *Lodha Shavars*. It is well known that long ago she became a victim of caste based harassment by her teachers and elders in the Department of Anthropology at this University. Let us take an oath today that we shall all work together to ensure that Chuni Kotal

incidents are never repeated and *Adivasi* girls can pursue higher education and hold their heads high.

To cope with the ever increasing demands of the users, our University Central Library has switched over from traditional library services to RFID enabled Library System. Vidyasagar University is the first State-aided University in West Bengal to have adopted this state-of-the-art RFID Technology that includes self-issue/return kiosks, anti-theft mechanism, book inventory mechanism etc. and is one of the best computerized libraries in our State having an excellent and effective IT infrastructure. The Central Library of Vidyasagar University is a full-fledged modern computerized library with its excellent digital institutional repository from where the complete state-of-the-art documents in digital formats, like universities publications, university notifications, previous PG and UG question papers, online books and journals, etc. are readily available. Being a partner of the National Digital Library of India, a MHRD project, all these digital data are now harvested into the NDLI server and can be accessed by any NDL user using his / her username and password. The new annex building has now been opened for expansion of some library services. To make provision of more spaces, the construction work of first and second floor of the annex building is also going on in full swing and is expected to be completed within this year. A new integrated Library Management Software has been introduced with web 2.0 and responsive OPAC theme. In this new system, automatic issue/return notices are generated and disseminated through sms / e-mail (by minimizing the use of paper) to make the patrons aware of their recent transactions. Cloud based file sharing system is also introduced

for sharing internal office file with a view to reducing the use of papers which leads to a step towards green library. A new model of remote access facility is available to our registered members with the introduction of INFED services provided by the INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad. Besides these, the existing digital library system has also been upgraded with responsive theme that includes more features.

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 been relentlessly catering to the demands of learning through the Distance Mode, in the *Junglemahal* areas, through its 47 Study Centres. I am also happy to pronounce that the *Aranyak Guest House* and the *Canteen* have been fine tuned to cater to the demands of the members of the Vidyasagar University community.

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 Cell has been conducting its regular activities in an orderly manner. It is pertinent

to mention here that 1 NSS Volunteer from Vidyasagar University participated in the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi and 17 NSS Volunteers, along with 1 Programme Officer, participated in the Republic Day Parade at Red Road, Kolkata on 26th January, 2018. The NSS Cell of Vidyasagar University monitors a prestigious and valuable programme named *Bio-diversity Enrichment and Personality Development* keeping focus on the health and food of dogs and birds residing in the campus. Each dog has its name assigned by the University authority and this endeavour of the Vidyasagar University NSS Cell is really a pioneering model.

Under the aegis of the Department of the Dean of Students' Welfare, the Placement Cell of our University, consisting of different placement coordinators 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 – Elagoon Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Kolkata; Senco Gold; Reshmi Cement; Haldiram; ISIS Design Services; PCS Global Pvt. Ltd. Kolkata; Idiosys Tech Pvt. Ltd. Kolkata; National Informatics Center, Kolkata; Indusnet Technology, Kolkata; Mindfire Solution – Odisha; AvalGate Soft ware LLP, Kolkata; PCS Global Pvt. Ltd. etc. Apart from this, a good number of students also got selected through on and off campus placement activities.

The 19th Inter College Cultural meet was held during November 2-3, 2017 at Vidyasagar University. Total numbers of Events were 23. Around 500 Students from 26 Colleges and 15 Postgraduate

Departments of the University participated in this competition. Vidyasagar University P.G Team emerged as the Overall Runners up in this Competition. Vidyasagar University Cultural Team Participated in the 33rd East Zone Inter University Youth Festival 2018 organized by Gauhati University during January 5-9, 2018. The University team bagged 06 prizes in different events in this competition and qualified for 33rd All India Inter University National Youth Festival 2018 organized by Ranchi University, Jharkhand during February 16-20, 2018 where the University Team bagged 03 prizes in different events. Vidyasagar University Cultural Team is going to participate in the 11th South Asian Universities Youth Festival 2018 (SAUFEST) which is being organized by Ganapat University, Gujarat, during March 2-6, 2018 in the Folk Orchestra event.

The University Sports Department organized and conducted Inter College Foot Ball, Volley Ball, Cricket, Kho-Kho, Chess, Kabaddi, Tournaments and Annual Athletics Meet (both PG & UG), etc. under the auspices of the Students' Welfare Department. Vidyasagar University Football Team has secured 3rd position in the East Zone Inter-Varsity Football Tournament and 4th position in the All India Inter-Varsity Football Tournament held at Vidyasagar University during February 3 - 10, 2017 and February 13 - 17, 2017, respectively. The University Men's Kho-Kho Team secured 3rd position in the All India Inter-Varsity Kho-Kho (Men's) Tournament held at Vidyasagar University during March 3 - 6, 2017. Again, the University Men's Kho-Kho Team and the Women's Kho-Kho Team have secured 4th position in the East Zone Inter-Varsity Kho-Kho Tournaments held at V B S Purbanchal University, Jounpur, U.P.

during December 2 - 6, 2017 and November 22 - 26, 2017, respectively. It is noteworthy to mention that two players of Vidyasagar University Cricket Team, namely Mr. Susovan Roy and Mr. Rahul Thakur, have been selected for the Vizzy Trophy Tournament. I am happy to report that Ms. Abha Khatua of Vidyasagar University Athletics Team has bagged the Gold Medal in Heptathlon in the Inter-University All India Athletics Meet held at Nagarjuna University, Guntur during December 12 - 16, 2017. I congratulate them for their commendable achievements.

Universities like Vidyasagar are capable of playing a significant role in the regeneration of the nation. 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 promise to be proactive to compete for a prominent slot in the academic map of the country and beyond.

I would like to convey one important message to the bright young people present here today. That is to become a patriotic Indian. There was a time when most foreigners saw India as a country of conflicts, deprivation, diseases, empty vainglory, filth, illiteracy and poverty. You are graduating at a time when the world expects our country to become one of the leaders to solve global problems. Now India is allowed to sit at high table in major multilateral deliberations. What India says today is heard with attention and seriousness. Unlike me, when I was young, you have gotten this opportunity and also a responsibility to strengthen this new respectability. I would like to

say quoting Swami Vivekananda: *'The infinite future is before you, and you must always remember that each word, thought, and deed, lays up a store for you and that as the bad thoughts and bad works are ready to spring upon you like tigers, so also there is the inspiring hope that the good thoughts and good deeds are ready with the power of a hundred thousand angels to defend you always and forever.'* I am confident that the young people of India will build a strong and powerful nation - a nation that is politically mature and economically strong, a nation whose people enjoy high quality of life as well as justice, fundamental rights and equality. Let a new dawn emerge. It is the time to move ahead with faith in our collective future and confidence in the largest democracy in the world, where rule of law prevails, robust institutions function and the Constitution serves as the Supreme Law. Institutions of higher education, with their emphasis on sound value systems and character building can play an effective role in developing a greater sense of responsibility and a rational approach to all issues. In this context, the duty of teachers is to inculcate in their students a balance - of knowledge and skills with the moral and aesthetic values. Good teaching is very difficult to define. Bertrand Russell once said that there are terms which are intelligible without definition. Good teaching belongs to the category of such terms. Not only is the term indefinable but the manner of teaching also has considerable variations from one good teacher to another. Teaching may not also remain confined within four walls of the class room. New technologies need to be adopted which have useful applications for teaching, learning and professional development. This will bring a significant improvement in the quality of our teaching and research. Universities must promote creativity and innovation. Creation of a

knowledge society requires that Universities encourage autonomous research.

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. You have received a good education from your teachers. I would like to thank them who worked toward molding your young spirit while with the university. I wish you unlimited ambition and forecast great success for all of you. As you are moving from a protected environment to a challenging environment, with all its ups and downs, you have to learn and listen because the whole world is going to be learning and listening. Your success is going to be your humility. You are the ones who will not only make your own destiny but have a say in the entire country's destiny. Do everything possible to expand the name and image of your mother institute as your life and career expands. You can do it and you surely will. I wish each one of you the very best in life. I would like to remind you the famous saying by Swami Vivekananda: *'The earth is enjoyed by heroes - this is the unfailing truth. Be a hero. Always say - I have no fear'*. My dear students, I look forward to your contribution - each one of you - to the building of our great nation.

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 Twentieth Convocation of Vidyasagar University a grand success.

Thank you all.



VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY
Twentieth Convocation

Address by

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