

# Ramakrishna Mission Sikhshanamandira

## 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation Address

by

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Reverenced Swami Shastrajnananda ji Maharaj, Prof. Jadab Krishna Das ji, Swami Vidyamritananda ji, Swami Urjitananda ji, Esteemed Faculty, Eminent Guests, Proud Parents and dear students.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to visit this blessed place and share my thoughts with our students who are the future leaders of Bharat.

At the outset, I congratulate all the members of this great Institution Ramakrishna Mission Sikhshana Mandir on its 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation. I also congratulate all the students who are getting degrees on successful completion of their respective academic programmes. It's a great day for you all and the same time for our country Bharat that such competent people after completing their studies in this prestigious institution are all set to work for our shared dream of making Bharat a Vishwa Guru.

I congratulate teachers and proud parents also on this occasion that their hard work and perseverance in shaping great future citizens has become a reality. However, education is a continuous process and does not confine itself within the four walls of an academic campus. The Rigveda says “*आ नो भद्राः क्रतवो यन्तु विश्वतो*” (*Let Noble thoughts come to us from all directions*). So, learning or process of educating should never stop. So your quest for learning must continue.

There is a proverb that ‘If you are planning for a year, plant rice. If you are planning for 10 years, plant trees and if you are planning for 100 years, educate.’ You are graduating at a time when our country has adopted New Bharat centric ‘National Education Policy,’ to come out of the shackles of the colonial mind-set. Bharat has completed 75 years of her independence. The National Education Policy 2020 coincides with our entry to “Amrit Kaal”. It's time that we are planning for Bharat in 2047 and education is the most important instrument that will usher our country to the orbit of a developed nation.

21<sup>st</sup> Century is the century of knowledge. Richness in 21<sup>st</sup> century is measured not in terms of your wealth but in terms of the knowledge you possess. Learned people are respected globally.

**विद्वत्त्वं च नृपत्वं च न एव तुल्ये कदाचन।  
स्वदेशे पूज्यते राजा विद्वान् सर्वत्र पूज्यते॥**

This Subhashitani from Vedas has acquired greater significance under the changing global scenario where we envisage a ‘Knowledge World’. Knowledge will rule the roost in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. And why not, as knowledge unlike other assets is permanent in nature.

**न चोरहार्यं न च राजहार्यं न भ्रातृभाज्यं न च भारकारि।  
व्यये कृते वर्धते एव नित्यं विद्याधनं सर्वधनप्रधानम्॥**

(*The wealth of knowledge is indeed the supreme among all wealth as it cannot be stolen by thief, also not be taken away by king as tax, not divisible among the brothers, nor is it a burden and if spent, it always increases.*)

So, expectations from you are that you will not only use your learning for yourself, but for the larger interest of the society, you will share and enlighten others too.

‘**Tamso ma Jyotirgamaya**’, you being trained educators, have to spread light of knowledge to dispel ‘darkness’ from this planet earth. So it's time to educate ourselves for future and also spread the light of learning to dispel darkness of ignorance.

You are privileged to get the blessings of Reverend Swami Ji of RKM. They are the enlightened souls who have dedicated their lives for their fellow human beings. It reminds me of few lines that I learned during my school days. “**Vriksha kabhi na phal bhake, Nadi na sanche neer, Parmarath Ke Karne, sadhun dhara shareer.**” While saluting reverend Swamis of RKM, I urge my young friends never to lose concern for society. What you have learned here, let that be used for transforming ‘Bharat.’

We are a fast-developing nation and we are relying heavily on reaping ‘Youth Dividend’. To become a developed nation, we will have to make our country a \$20000 Per Capita GDP from our present \$ 2000, which means we will have to increase our GDP by 10 times. It's a big challenge.

It's tough but not impossible. We will have to increase our skill base. NEP 2020 is committed to transform education sector and you are expected to play a pioneering role in transformation of our country.

By 2050, our population will increase from 17% of the global population to 19%. We will have to increase our global trade share also to commensurate with population increase. Can we look back to our traditional 'Gurukul' system, which, besides strengthening scholastic thinking, focussed on life skills and developing skills that helped them earned their livelihood. Education needs to be directed towards achieving 'Holistic Development' of the learners.

In 1850, our share was 17-20% in world trade. To become a global player, we will have to work to regain our glorious past. We have already overtaken England and are 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy. By the year 2047, we will be among the top economies in the world.

Bharat has become an example for the world to have sustained its democratic structure. Participation of masses has shown the world that we are heading for an inclusive society where everyone shall have equal opportunity.

Besides focussing on GDP, we also have to maintain 'Green Economy'. We have promised to reduce carbon footprints, and we cannot betray our future generation.

When I meet young professionals like you, I feel fully convinced that future of our country is in safe hands. Swami Vivekananda once said, 'Youth are not use less. They are rather used less'. We have to use the energies and potentials of our youth to the fullest and our dream to be 'Vishwa Guru' shall no more be a mirage.

To conclude, I will share Swami Vivekananda's wise advice to teachers. He said, 'A good teacher is the one, who goes down to the level of the weakest students and brings her to her level'.

Once again I congratulate all the students who received degrees today. I also thank the Sikshanamdnira fraternity to give me this unique opportunity to me to be with you on this auspicious occasion. God bless you all. God Bless our Motherland Bharat Mata. Jai Hind.