

Ramakrishna Mission Sikshanamandira
13th Convocation Address by Prof. (Dr.) Kallol Paul,
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Kalyani University

Revered Secretary Maharaj, Principal Maharaj, and venerated monks of the Ramakrishna Order; honoured faculty members, distinguished guests, parents, and my dearest graduands-Namaskar.

It is a moment of profound honour and privilege for me to stand before you today at the 13th Convocation of Ramakrishna Mission Sikshanamandira. For decades, this institution has stood as a beacon of enlightenment, upholding the highest ideals of teacher education in India. It has consistently combined academic rigour with character formation in a manner that is both rare and deeply inspiring. A convocation is far more than a ceremonial conferring of certificates and degrees. It is a sacred rite of passage, a threshold where the learner steps out of the sanctuary of the institution and into the vast, complex, and noble responsibilities of the outer world. In the grand tapestry of Indian civilization, education has never been viewed as a mere mechanical transfer of data, but rather as a sacred pilgrimage of awakening. It is a path through which one ascends from confusion to clarity, from limitation to possibility, and from the narrow confines of self-centredness to a broader consciousness of duty and belonging. The ancient Indian conception of knowledge, immortalized in the Upanishadic declaration "**Sa vidya ya vimuktaye**" that is knowledge which liberates reminds us that true education is destined to emancipate the mind from the shackles of ignorance, fear, prejudice, and narrowness. In this illustrious tradition, the teacher is not a mere instructor but an **Acharya** one who teaches through the power of his own conduct. The student is not a passive recipient of content, but a seeker engaged in a timeless pursuit of truth. As you graduate today, you inherit not merely a profession, but a lineage the **Guru Shishya Parampara** where the teacher serves as a guide, a mentor, and an unshakeable moral anchor. Contemporary India stands at a pivotal historic inflection point. Old boundaries are dissolving, new horizons are emerging, and the nation is steadfastly preparing for the centenary of its independence in 2047. Over the next two decades, each of you will play an instrumental role in sculpting the minds of the generation destined to lead India's economic, cultural, and ethical renaissance. Our nation is undergoing a transformation not only in technology and infrastructure but in the very philosophy of pedagogy. It is shifting from rote learning to deep conceptual understanding; from narrow specialisation to multidisciplinary wisdom, and from passive absorption to the active creation of knowledge. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 serves, in many ways, as a resonant reaffirmation of India's

timeless educational ethos. It calls for holistic development, moral grounding, instruction in the mother tongue, and a profound integration of values with knowledge. This is not merely a policy document; it is a vision for India's intellectual and cultural resurgence. In the years ahead, your classrooms will serve as the crucibles of this transformation. You will introduce young learners not only to literacy and numeracy but to curiosity, compassion, courage, constitutional values, environmental stewardship, and a deep pride in India's civilizational heritage. You will be the bridge that balances tradition with modernity. As you embark on this noble professional journey, **let your character be the primary curriculum, and your commitment to selfless service your greatest lesson.** Never underestimate the sacred, transformative power you possess to influence the lives of children. May you always teach with diligence, lead with integrity, and serve the nation with compassion. You depart today not merely as qualified teachers, but as custodians of our civilizational future and the true agents of national consciousness. Go forth with the unwavering blessings of the Ramakrishna Mission and may the knowledge you acquired truly liberate both yourselves and those you teach. My profound thanks to the governing body, faculty, and all esteemed guests for their dedication and presence. Once again thanking you all I conclude with the Sanskrit sloka proverb "Vidya Dadaati Binayam".

Namaskar.