

# Ramakrishna Mission Sikshanamandira

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

by **Prof. (Dr.) Prasanta K Panigrahi**

Director, Indian Institute of Science Education & Research Kolkata (IISER), West Bengal, India

Respected Principal, Distinguished Guests, Faculty and Staff members and dear Students!

I am thankful for your kind invitation to be part of this August ceremony of celebrating the coming of age of the generation next. In our culture when the son turns sixteen, the elders are to be friends with them, treating them more as peers as the fellow travelers.

Ramakrishna Mission Sikshanamandira College is a place of special significance as it attracts people from all walks of life to feel the air which once was breathed by the saints Ramakrishna and Vivekananda, not to forget the all compassionate mother.

You all are now well disciplined and well prepared to face the world. The world out there is continuously changing and in a flux.

The environment demands utmost attention as the sustainability of our mother earth is at stake. Clean energy,  $CO_2$  reduction, control of pollution are issues of prime importance where you will soon get immersed. The world needs the soothing touch of evolved saints of which many have come from this sacred land. Meditation, Music, Yoga, Sports and Science need wholesome integration in all of our lives to make us complete human beings to contribute to the age old tradition of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

As my esteemed teacher Prof. Bunji Sakita of City College, New York, often used to repeat the Japanese saying, 'If one combines the sharpness of the youth with the wisdom of the old then there is no stopping the march ahead!' The true education in this era requires seamless merging of art and literature with science and skill-development combined with hands-on training to prepare our nation for contributing manpower for the betterment of the whole world, of which we are blessed with plenty of young men and women due to demographic dividend.

Let us learn from nature. The five petals of flowers, the reaction of the 'touch-me-not' plant to touch the blinking of the stars, the fascinating colours of peacock and its long tail, the 'Bahn' soliton on the river Hooghly, all have a lot to teach us about mysteries of nature. Let us use all tools of science from Physics, Mathematics to Biology making us a developed country by 2027. Let us make 'Our Mother Earth' a better place to sustain life for all times to come.

Jai Hind.