



Prime Minister's Office



PM addresses the Convocation Ceremony of Visva-Bharati University



There is no limit for Creativity and Knowledge : PM

in Tagore was proud of Bengal, he was equally proud
of India's diversity: PM

Nation-First Approach leads to solutions: PM

Bengal is inspiration for Ek Bharat-Shreshth
Bharat: PM

National Education Policy is a major milestone in
the making of an Aatmnirbhar Bharat: PM

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The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Convocation Ceremony of Visva-Bharati University today through a video conference. Governor of West Bengal and Rector of Visva-Bharati, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Union Education Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Union MoS for Education Shri Sanjay Dhotre were also present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister while addressing the convocation quoted the poem of Gurudev Ravindra Nath Tagore on Veer Shivaji which inspired him and called for unity of India. PM stressed that the students and the faculty were not just a part of a university, but also bearers of a vibrant tradition. He said Gurudev named the University as Visva Bharati meaning Global University since he expected that anyone who comes to learn in Visva Bharati will see the whole world from the point of view of India and Indianness. So he made Visva Bharati such a place to learn, which can be seen in the rich heritage of India. He gave a call for assimilating and researching about the Indian heritage and working towards solving the problems of the poorest of the poor. He said Visva Bharati for Gurudev Tagore was not just a knowledge imparting institution but an attempt to reach the topmost goal of Indian culture, which is to achieve oneself.

f The Prime Minister said Gurudev believed that we have to discover ourselves among the varied Ideologies and differences. PM said that Tagore used to be proud of Bengal but at the same time, he was equally proud of India's diversity. And it was due to Gurudev's vision that humanity thrives under the open sky of Santiniketan. He praised Visva Bharati as an unending sea of knowledge in itself, the **🐦** foundation of which was laid for experience-based education. He said there is no limit to creativity and knowledge. It was with this thought that Gurudev founded this great university. PM urged the students to **🗨️** always remember that knowledge, thought and skill are not static but a dynamic and continuous process. He said responsibility comes with knowledge and power. Just as one has to be restrained and sensitive **✉️** while in power, every scholar also has to be responsible towards those who do not have knowledge.

in. The Prime Minister, while addressing the students said Your knowledge is not only yours but society's and is the heritage of the country. Your knowledge and skill can make a nation proud or can push society into the darkness of slander and ruin. He said many who are spreading terror and violence across the world are highly educated, highly skilled. On the other hand there are people who are risking their lives and stationed at hospitals and labs to save people from a pandemic like COVID. He said this is not about ideology but mindset, whether it is positive or negative. There is scope for both and paths are open for both. He urged the students to decide whether they want to be part of the problem or the solution. He added if they put the nation first then their every decision will move towards some solution. He advised the students not to be afraid of taking a decision. He said as long as the youth of the country have the passion to innovate, take risks and move forward, then there is no worry about the future of the country. He assured the Government's support for the youth in this endeavour.

Recalling the historical strength of the traditional Indian education system, the Prime Minister referred to Gandhian Shri Dharampal's book 'The Beautiful Tree- Indigenous Indian Education in the Eighteenth Century'. He said that the 1820 survey had said that there was more than one gurukul in every village which were linked with the local temples and literacy rate was estimated to be very high. This was recognized by the British scholars also. Shri Modi said, Gurudev Ravindranath developed systems in Visva Bharti which were the medium of modernising Indian education and freeing it from the shackles of slavery.

Similarly, the new National Education Policy also breaks old restrictions and allows students to realize their full potential. It allows flexibility in selection of subjects and medium of instruction. The policy promotes entrepreneurship and self employment; research and innovation. 'This education policy is a major milestone in the making of an Aatmnirbhar Bharat', said the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister informed that scholars have recently been given free access to lakhs of journals by the Government. This year's budget has proposed 50 thousand crore in 5 years for research through the National Research Foundation. This Education Policy has made provision for the Gender Inclusion Fund that will give the girls new confidence. Higher drop out rate of girls was deeply studied and arrangements were made for entry-exit options and yearly credit in the degree courses.

Calling Bengal inspiration for Ek Bharat-Shreshth Bharat, the Prime Minister said that Visva Bharati will play a big role in the 21st century knowledge economy, taking Indian knowledge and identity to every corner of the world. Shri Modi called upon the students of the prestigious institute to prepare a vision document for next 25 years about the 25 biggest goals of Visva Bharati in 2047. The Prime Minister

f asked the students to spread awareness about India. Visva Bharati should lead all educational institutions to carry India's message and enhance India's image globally. The Prime Minister concluded by calling upon the students to find ways to make nearby villages Aatmnirbhar and taking their products globally.



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