

Convocation Address by Hon'ble Mr. Justice I.P. Mukerji, High Court of Meghalaya

Hon'ble Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Dr. James Arjen Tete, Dr. G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor, Vellore Institute of Technology, Hon'ble Vice- Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj, Registrar, Prof. Ashis Mitra, distinguished guests, faculty members and my dear students.

When I received the invitation letter of 20th November, 2024 of Rev. Dr. J. Felix Raj, S.J., respected Vice-Chancellor of the St. Xavier's University inviting me to be the Chief Guest at the 6th Convocation Ceremony of the University today, I not only felt proud, privileged and honoured but my eyes filled up with tears. It was the recognition that Fr. Vice-Chancellor was giving to the little achievement this Xaverian had made in life.

When I was a child barely five years old, I walked into St. Xavier's Primary School in 1969, clutching the hands of my parents. I remained in the institution till 1985, graduating from St. Xavier's College.

St. Xavier's was my second home. It was not only a journey but perhaps the most significant part of my life's journey. For this child, the institution, was just like a sculptor making a statue. It helped me to develop into a human being not only by imparting education but also by inculcating moral and other precious values in me and by building my character.

I am reminded of the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola and his follower band, of most committed and pious Jesuits who taught me honesty, integrity, kindness, the joy in forgiving sinners, punctuality, devotion to work and a sense of fairness and justice.

I can only say that I feel most proud and the highest degree of happiness to congratulate the 841 students who are receiving their degrees today. I make a special mention of the inaugural batch of 102 students comprising 78 B.A. LL.B (Hons.) and 24 B.Com. LL.B (Hons.) graduates of the St. Xavier Law School who would also be receiving their degrees. I am confident that with the training you have received, you will strive for professional excellence while remaining committed to the ideal of justice.

As a proud Xaverian, I am delighted to be able to deliver the convocation address and I convey my heartiest congratulations to all the graduating students on this special day. I wish each one of you success and happiness.

I salute this august University and wish that from generation to generation, it continues to serve the society as it is doing and follows the rich tradition set by Fr. J. Felix Raj.

Thank you very much.

Nihil Ultra.

Mr. Justice I.P. Mukerji

Chief Justice, High Court of Meghalaya