

SPEECH OF THE HONOURABLE GOVERNOR OF
MEGHALAYA SHRI V. SHANMUGANATHAN FOR
TEACHER'S DAY ON 3RD SEPTEMBER AT DURBAR
HALL RAJBHAVAN SHILLONG

1. Most Learned Vice Chancellor's, Principal's, Professor's and Teacher's; I welcome you all. This Raj Bhavan is located amidst lush greenery and a soft hillock. It is over a century old. With its unique architectural structure the Shillong Raj Bhavan Building is one of the few remnants of the British Raj. Every part of the building has its own story to tell. During the course of its existence of over 100 years, the Raj Bhavan had been witness to many momentous events that have left deep imprints on the course of the history of this region. The present Raj Bhavan was constructed and occupied in 1903-04 after the destruction of the Chief Commissioner's residency in the Shillong earthquake in 1897. So this majestic Raj Bhavan is the product of imperial imagination. Once again, I welcome you all to this historic heritage building.

2. Today we are celebrating Teacher's Day in Raj Bhavan. Even though it falls on the 5th September, we are celebrating it in advance. The whole country is paying its respect to every teacher; I hope as a teacher this gives you happiness. The whole human race is undertaking a thrilling journey in search of happiness and joy. I invite you to share with me the happiest moment of your life as a teacher. -Any teacher may get up, introduce yourself and explain about your experience of a happy moment as a teacher..... (Discussion)

3. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be present here and address you all on Teacher's Day. I am happy to join you on this occasion where we recognize the dedicated services of our teachers throughout the country who are actively engaged in building and strengthening the intellectual and ethical foundations of our children. I also greet all the teachers of our State and express my gratitude for their services and commitment. In fact, the whole nation salutes the teachers. We recognise the great sacrifices that the teachers have made for the students, and commemorate those who have dedicated their life for the cause of educating and guiding the children. Teachers are a great source of inspiration.
4. The idea of celebrating Teachers' Day came into practice in most countries during the 20th century. When Dr S Radhakrishnan became the President of India, his friends and students requested him to allow them to celebrate his birthday which falls on 5th September He replied, "Instead of celebrating my birthday, it would be my proud privilege, if 5th September is observed as Teachers' Day".
5. It is rightly said that a teacher plays a key role in shaping our future. They treat their students like their own children and make them learn from their experiences. They make the students strong to stand on their own feet and face any challenge. They are the torch-bearers of our society. To imagine a society without teachers is impossible. In the words of H G Wells, "The teacher is the real maker of history."
6. The nation appreciates them for their crucial responsibilities of imparting knowledge and encouraging creative thought. They also help in building strong moral character and providing emotional support. I thank all the teachers present here for inculcating the virtues of punctuality, truth,

hard work, honesty, simplicity, hygiene, patriotism, love and sincerity in students. **Alexander the Great** once said, "I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well."

7. Once **Albert Einstein** told, "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think." A student must be able to imagine, think and analyse as to what is good and what is bad. A student must be able to understand the nature of his own mind and how it is functions. A good and trained mind acts as our friend, whereas a bad and an undisciplined mind acts as our enemy. So the Students need to have a clear idea of the mechanism of our mind. Can they train their mind to think clearly, positively and creatively? Is it possible? Definitely teachers can raise the standards of thinking of our students.
8. **Guru Rabindranath Tagore** established Santiniketan School (abode of peace). He was a great philosopher, artist, playwright, composer, and novelist. He brought a revolution in the education system. He gave a new definition to teaching by taking students out of the confinement of four walls and taught them under the trees in fresh air.
9. A Student should **Flow Like a River**. There is a story of a young martial arts student who was under the guidance of a famous master. One day, the master was watching a practice session in the courtyard. He realized that the presence of the other students was interfering with the young man's attempts to perfect his technique. The master could sense the young man's frustration. He went up to the young man and tapped him on his shoulder. "What's the problem?" he inquired. "I don't know", said the youth, with a strained expression. "No matter how much I try, I am unable to execute the moves properly". "Before you can master technique,

you must understand harmony. Come with me, I will explain”, replied the master. The teacher and student left the building and walked some distance into the woods until they came upon a stream. The master stood silently on the bank for several moments. Then he spoke. “Look at the stream,” he said. “There are rocks in its way. Does it slam into them out of frustration? It simply flows over and around them and moves on! Be like the water and you will know what harmony is.” The young man took the master’s advice to heart. Soon, he was barely noticing the other students around him. Now nothing could come in his way of executing the most perfect moves.

10. So from this we came to know that the most important activity of the mind is to control the emotions. There are two types of emotions namely, attraction and repulsion. There is a higher sense of mind which is filled with love, admiration, aspiration, sympathy and joy. There is also a lower sense of mind filled with negative thoughts like hate, anger, fear, sorrow, jealousy, disgrace. One has to conquer these lower senses of emotion. Highest level of achievement is found in a person who has learnt to conquer himself. Can we strengthen the will power of the student? If a teacher is able to instil the confidence and evoke a spirit then the student can develop into a great mind with a great heart. There is a very famous old Chinese saying “Tell me and I will forget, Show me and I will remember, involve me and I will understand.” Unless the students comprehend well, teaching is a one way traffic. Good teaching inspires, motivates and guides the students for self learning. Teachers need to believe that to teach is to learn twice – first to understand themselves and secondly to learn how to transfer it to students.

11. **Madan Mohan Malaviya** created history in Indian education with his institution- the Banaras Hindu University. This University came to be known as a Capital of Knowledge acknowledged across India and the World. He popularised the phrase Satyameva Jayate, from the Mundaka Upanishad, which means Truth Alone Triumphs. It was adopted as India's national motto and appears on its emblem. His vision was to blend the best of Indian education drawn from the ancient centres of learning like Takshashila, and other hallowed institutions, with the best traditions of modern Universities of the West.

12. Many times, our teachers impart learning by their own examples. They conduct themselves as a role model. Here is a wonderful example of Ishvar Chandra Vidyasagar... Once, **Ishvar Chandra Vidyasagar** was travelling to a village for one of his regular speeches to the villagers, a young officer, who wanted to listen to Vidyasagar's lecture, got down from the train with a suitcase to go to the lecture hall. Vidyasagar also got down from the same train with a suitcase to go to the Lecture hall. The young officer was shouting for a coolie. Vidyasagar went to him and said, "Why do you need a coolie to carry this small suitcase? Can't you carry it yourself and save the money?" The young officer replied, "It is not in keeping with my dignity to carry my suitcase. I am an educated person." Vidyasagar told him, "The hallmark of education is humility and not pride. If you cannot carry your own bag, how are you carrying your body? If however, you cannot carry your bag, I shall do so." Ishwar carried the officer's suitcase, acting on his life's motto of "simple living and high thinking." Vidyasagar left the suitcase where the officer wanted it. The young man then offered money to his 'porter'. Vidyasagar told him, "To serve you is my reward" and went away. The young officer then

left and started proceeding to the venue of the meeting. He was stunned to see that people were welcoming Vidyasagar with garlands in the Lecture-Hall. He realised that the man who had offered to carry his suitcase at the station was none other than the respected lecturer of that evening, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. He felt ashamed that he had made such a great man carry his suitcase. He introspected. "What is his education and what is mine? I have behaved like an uncivilised man." When he looked at himself he felt he was like a glow worm whereas Ishvar Chandra Vidyasagar was like a sun.

13. The aim of education is not the acquisition of information, or acquisition of technical skills, though essential in modern society, but the development of that bent of mind, that attitude of reason, that spirit of democracy which will make us responsible citizens.
14. In the fast changing world of today where new ideas, values and concepts are rapidly replacing the old ones, the importance of quality education for any student has further increased. The education has to liberate a person from narrow world view and the boundaries of caste, community, race and gender. Teachers have taken the responsibility of moulding the young minds to understand the world and make it a better place to live in. To achieve this, teachers working in the schools, colleges and universities can play a big role and they can make their performance meaningful and useful to the society.
15. I believe that more than ever, today we need inspired teachers to instil in our children the values of sacrifice, tolerance, plurality, understanding and compassion. I would define an inspired teacher as a value-oriented, mission-driven, self-motivated and result-oriented individual.

Responsibility of producing conscious and intellectual citizens who build the future of our nation lies with our teachers.

16. A sound education is the bed rock of an enlightened society. To build India of our dreams the foremost task before us is to improve the quality of education, embrace modern technology and address the concern of inequalities.
17. In present times, emphasis on values such as hard work, integrity, truthfulness, scientific temper, sensitivity towards our environment and honesty is very essential.
18. My dear scholarly teachers, it is you who can inculcate such important values, by practising these by yourselves and giving it to your students to make them virtuous citizens. I convey my best wishes to the entire teaching community in the State and call upon them to stay firm on the path of leading India forward to its next golden age.

This year has a great significance for India as it is the 1000 birth year Shri Ramanujacharya. He used to believe in a philosophy of spreading knowledge to everyone, without any discrimination. Ramanujacharya was the disciple of Shathakopa Swami. Swami had revealed the secret of God-realisation to Ramanuj and after having the knowledge of Vedas and God realisation, Ramanuja decided that he will spread his knowledge to everyone in the society irrespective of the status of the person and when the people from the upper caste came to know about this they were totally against the decision of Shri Ramanuja and even warned him that if he gave the knowledge of Vedas to people from low cast community then he will be committing a sin and god will punish him. Ramanuja called the people who were so-called downtrodden and from low cast community in the temple and he

himself climbed on the top of the temple and there he gave all the education he had received from his guru about God realisation. Ramanuja said to people present there that if you are able to recite all the vedic slokhas, then you will be able to attain godhood and you can go to heaven all the people became very happy and embrace him. The people from upper cast community got very angry when they called Ramanuj and told him, “You are revealing the secret of spiritual practice by disobeying the elders of the society. This is Adharma (unrighteousness). This is a sin. Do you know what will be the effect of this?”

On this, Ramanuj replied, “A tree gives everything it has got to the people. Is it ever selfish? Whatever I did, I did it with the intention of betterment of the people, people should also get the bliss of God-realisation and for this, even if I have to go to Hell, I will not regret a bit.”

The Swami was pleased seeing the intense yearning of Ramanuj of spreading the knowledge of spiritual practice for God-realisation to the people. He blessed Ramanuj and sent him with great love to spread the real knowledge of spiritual practice among people.

Ramanuj tried to spread the knowledge he had received from his Guru to others. Swami was pleased with this selfless attitude of His disciple. Similarly, we too should spread the knowledge we have to others.

THANK YOU