

Demand for Cachar varsity

By Our Correspondent

SHILLONG, September 6: The movement for a separate university in Cachar district of Assam is steadily gaining momentum.

The demand was voiced again at a recent convention held at the district headquarters of Silchar. The meeting was presided over by a former Assam minister, Mr. Altaf Hussain Majumdar. The West Bengal education minister, Prof. Shambhu Ghosh, the renowned educationist of West Bengal, Dr. Ashim Kumar Datta, of Jadavpur university, explained the need for a separate university for Cachar in view of its geographical location, population structure, language and culture — all of which had given the district a distinct identity.

The proposed university would cater to the needs of not only the Bengalis, who constituted 85 per cent of the district's population, but also other minority communities in the district, he added.

Prof. Shambhu Ghosh was of the opinion that if a university failed to solve the socio-economic problems of the regions under its jurisdiction, then the graduates and post-graduates produced by it would only add to the problems faced by the country.

A university's main function was to facilitate the growth of the language and culture of minority groups in the area. If that was done, separatist and fissiparous forces in the country could be effectively checked, he added.

Mr. Jagannath Sinha, a former minister of Assam, said that a university in Cachar was a "must." He appealed to all sections of people in the district to unite on his issue.

The convention adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of a university in Cachar with a view to strengthening national integrity and giving more educational opportunities to the people.

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