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CHIEF MINISTER Mamata Banerjee on Friday announced that all student units in colleges and universities would get grants worth Rs 20,000 from the state government for organising cultural activities.

This comes in the wake of state Education Minister Partha Chatterjee on Friday announcing elections to the students' units of college and universities in November.

On the occasion of Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad, Mamata also announced the setting up of a new unit for students' welfare under the state youth welfare and service department. "All college and universities should organise programmes on Teachers' Day this year. The information and cultural affairs department will provide funds for it. Science and cultural fairs will also be organised by government colleges and universities," she said.

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Mamata went on to blame a section of the Opposition for creating hurdles in recruitment of teachers.

"A few politicians filed cases against teachers' recruitment and now want to know why teachers are not getting jobs. Opposition only exists in TV studios. If the media stops covering their events, they will give up protests," she said.

"I know about people like lawyer Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharya, who dragged the matter to court. He himself leads rallies demanding that teachers be appointed. If you withdraw the case today, we will be able to recruit 65,000 teachers in 15 days," she added.

Ruing that there are not enough doctors for super-specialty hospitals in the state, the CM said: "The central government should increase the quota of medical seats by 500 to 1,000 in every state. Then we will be able to produce more doctors." Encouraging students to set up their own businesses, Mamata assured them that if they applied online, the state would finance them. "My foundation in politics was through student politics. Those who emerge from student activism can never become thieves, they work for people. You can either work for a company or create an institution that creates jobs for lakhs for people," she told the students.