



GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL  
TWENTYFIRST ANNUAL CONVOCATION

ADDRESS  
BY  
PROFESSOR S. NURUL HASAN  
CHANCELLOR

RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR  
MONDAY, 29 FEBRUARY, 1988.



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Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Distinguished Chief Guest, Graduates of the year, Teachers, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be with you on the occasion of the Twentyfirst Annual Convocation of the North Bengal University. I have heard with interest the report of your Vice-Chancellor, of your many achievements, as also of the difficulties that the University is facing. I do hope that, with the support of all concerned, difficulties would be overcome and in the year ahead of us, the University would make further progress.

The Convocation Day brings great satisfaction to the students for whom it marks the culmination of a successful academic career; and to the teachers, as their pupils have successfully crossed the barrier of the test of their knowledge. This day, I am sure, brings particular happiness to the parents of the successful students. I offer my congratulations and greetings to all of you.

At the same time, I appeal to the new graduates to do some reflection : they have undoubtedly passed the test prescribed by the University, but they may like to subject themselves to a self-examination and measure their achievement with the yardstick which our Constitution has

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provided as a fundamental duty for each citizen of India. In particular, it is our duty to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity, so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement. This pursuit of excellence is not competitive but cooperative. The basic philosophy of our State assumes that the interest of the individual does not conflict with the interest of the society. Therefore, when we try to ensure that we have moved towards individual excellence and strive to become better human beings, we are simultaneously conscious of our duty to our nation and the country. Those who have taken University degrees belong to a very small group of privileged minority of less than three percent of their age group. To enable the Universities to function, society makes a great sacrifice. Have we repaid the debt that we owe to society or have we equipped ourselves to repay this debt ?

In the forty years of its independent existence the country has moved forward , and we should be proud of this achievement. But as Jawaharlal Nehru quoted from Robert Frost "we have miles to go" . The unity and integrity of the country will have to be safe-guarded; self-reliance has to be made a reality; the fight against poverty,



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deprivation will have to be accelerated and the quality of life of the masses of our people needs to be improved immediately. Are the University graduates ready to make their contribution to the achievement of these goals ? Many of our scientists and scholars have already taken remarkable strides forward. The most recent example of the achievement of Indian scientists and engineers is in the development of an extremely sophisticated high technology but totally indigenous rocket. There are several tasks which may not be so dazzling but which nevertheless are extremely valuable. These tasks can be performed only if our graduates have the competence and ability to make their full contribution.

While I would appeal to the students of this University to think of making their contribution to the progress of the country as whole, they must not neglect the development of their immediate environment. The human resources that this University is helping to develop, I am sure, would promote the best interests of this region also. We are all concerned in particular about the unfortunate events in the



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hill areas of Darjeeling. Violence , threats of intimidation have no place in a civilised society and can never contribute to the progress of any section of our people. What we need is compassion , sympathy, understanding and the desire to help those who need special attention to enable them to make progress.

I have come to you with great confidence in the people of this region and in the academic community that this University represents. I have no doubt that the expectations of the State and the Nation will be fully justified. My good wishes and blessings will be with you, young men and women, who are about to enter the wider world soon.

JAI HIND