



GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE NORTH BENGAL  
UNIVERSITY.

ADDRESS

BY

PROFESSOR S. NURUL HASAN

CHANCELLOR

RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR

FRIDAY, 20 JANUARY, 1989.



GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Yash Pal, distinguished recipients of honorary Degrees, recipients of Doctorate Degrees graduates of the year, ladies and gentlemen :

Since I spoke to you at the last Convocation, Dr.D.B. Dutta, who held the office of the Vice Chancellor relinquished it at his own request. I would like to take this opportunity of publicly acknowledging the debt of gratitude which this University owes to Dr. Dutta for his stewardship during his term. I would be failing in my duties if I do not extend a very hearty welcome to the present Vice Chancellor, Dr. K. N. Chatterjee. Steeped in the rich tradition of India's past, he possesses an extraordinarily modern outlook and a fresh mind. I have no doubt that under his stewardship this University will make rapid progress.

On behalf of the University I would like to extend a very warm welcome to my friend, Professor Yash Pal, Chairman of the University Grants Commission and thank him for consenting to be the Chief Guest on this occasion.

Contd.....page 2.



GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

= 2 =

His presence today is of special significance. A scientist of international calibre, he is a source of inspiration to budding young scholars. I am happy that he can see for himself the efforts which the University has been making to raise academic standards and contributing to the study of some branches of knowledge which are regretfully neglected in the country.

In honouring Shri Gopal Halder, Professor Irfan Habib, Dr. Mani Kumar Chhetri and Professor M.G.K. Menon, this University is honouring itself. I have every confidence that the examples of these towering personalities will inspire the young people who are receiving their degrees today or who are its students.

I would like to express my satisfaction with the progress that has been made by the University during the last one year. I am deeply appreciative of the efforts which are

Contd.....page 3.



GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

= 3 =

being made to bring the results up to date and to eliminate the time lag between admission to courses and the admission of the candidates to the respective degrees.

The country today is faced with an uncontrollable rush of students in Colleges and Universities, even though the total number of students receiving tertiary education. It is still less than half of the number of students recommended by the Kothari Commission almost two decades ago. Suitable jobs are not available to those who get their degrees. This causes frustration and disappointment. It is an unnecessary drain on the country's limited resources; and yet the urge of the young people to avail of their constitutional right of equality of educational opportunity and of improving their social status cannot be ignored. The result is that a majority of our students are receiving a sub-standard education which neither helps them improve their personality



GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

= 4 =

nor their capacity to serve the nation. In this situation it would be wiser for the country to move quickly in the direction of the vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education at the 'plus-two' stage. Today, employment opportunities are more easily available to those who have acquired vocational skills rather than to those who have taken plain degrees in subjects like the liberal Arts. Belonging to a liberal Arts discipline myself, I am not denigrating the value of the studies of liberal Arts. The humanising impact of liberal Arts on young minds cannot be denied. Unfortunately, in many cases, the education in the usual Arts subjects becomes, what a distinguished educator once said, 'a body of knowledge which is conveyed by the teacher to his pupil without passing through the minds of either'. Vocationalisation on the other hand is not merely to provide more job opportunities to the students concerned but also enable young people, who are from now or are going to exercise their franchise, to

Contd.....page 5.



GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

= 5 =

contribute materially to the advancement of the country. I can mention by way of illustration many vocations such as Computer Programmers Machine Operators, Para-medical staff, mechanics, persons who can strengthen the agro-industrial base of our country and above all the primary school teachers. We need about four million teachers. Suitably qualified teachers are not available to serve in all parts of the country. With industries expanding at a rapid pace and the rate of agricultural growth continuing notwithstanding droughts and floods, the service sector of the economy has to expand rapidly and qualified personnel made available. Most of them can receive their training at the 'plus-two' stage. This would relieve the pressure on colleges and enable the country to spend more on a comparatively limited number of students and thus improving standards.

I would also like to plead for a quick implementation

Contd..... page 6.



GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

= 6 =

of the policy of detachment of the 'plus-two' stage from the colleges. The funds that are needed to provide more accommodation to colleges continuing to have the 'plus-two' stage can be more fruitfully utilised if they are provided to the schools and the colleges relieved of their responsibilities of 'plus-two' classes.

In this State, the teaching departments of the Universities are primarily responsible for Post-graduate Education and Research. I need hardly mention here that the standard of research cannot be raised unless we up-grade the syllabus of Post-graduate Education and continuously review the subjects that are taught and the departments which are organised for the teaching of these subjects. I have no doubt that the University community here would rise to the occasion and ensure that like the trees of

Contd.....page 7.



GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

= 7 =

Himalayas, dead-wood is chopped off and new plants continuously introduced. The unmindful deforestation of the Himalayan region has wrought havoc with the environment. This is true literally as well as metaphorically. I have every hope that teachers and the students of this University would not permit intellectual barrenness to pollute the atmosphere and degrade the soil of learning.

To the young graduates and prize-winners, I offer my blessings and my hearty congratulations. I hope that they will prove to be worthy citizens of this great land.

JAI HIND.