

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

**23rd ANNUAL CONVOCATION**



**Address**

**by**

**Prof. K. N. Chatterjee**

*Vice-Chancellor*

**RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR**

*17th February 1990*

**Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Professor Gourinath Sastri, Members of the Court, the Executive Council, Teachers, Students, Officers, Non-teaching Employees of the University and Guests ;**

The University of North Bengal holds the twenty-third Annual Convocation on this day, the seventeenth of February, 1990. I welcome you all on this solemn occasion.

It is a matter of pleasure for me that our honourable Chancellor has taken the trouble to be with us here on this occasion and I express my heartfelt thanks for that.

I am particularly grateful to my teacher, Professor Gourinath Sastri for having been so kind to accept our invitation to be the Chief Guest. Neither age nor many other pre-occupations could deter him from having graced this occasion with his personal presence. This speaks of his abiding love and affection for us. I express my sincere gratitude to him.

Professor Hiren Mukherjee, Professor Sudhi Pradhan and Dr. A. S. Paintal are here and the University is honouring itself while honouring these towering personalities. I am thankful to them for having given me the opportunity to honour them.

Convocation is a great ceremony for a University and its community and it is an occasion where teachers, students and the other members of the University community renew their pledge to hold high the ideals the University stands for and rise above the forces that go counter to the cause of education and social upliftment.

In this Convocation, 9233 students will receive their diplomas, 620 of them at the Masters level and 8613 at the first degree level in Arts, Commerce, Science, Law, Education, Medicine, Engineering and Physical Education. 19 scholars will get the Ph. D. degree, 8 of them in Arts and 11 in Science. I congratulate them all and wish them well.

During the last one year, the departments under different faculties have made a steady progress in teaching and research.

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE

### Department of Physics :

The Department of Physics and the Department of Mathematics jointly hosted the 15th Conference of the Indian Association for General Relativity and Gravitation on November 4-7, 1989. A national seminar on recent trends in Relativity, Cosmology, and Quantum Gravity was held in this connection. About ninety Indian and seventy foreign scientists participated in the Conference. Professor P. C. Vaidya, the Chief Guest, delivered the inaugural address. The Conference proceedings consisted of 6 special lectures, 12 invited talks and 40 papers. The lectures were well attended. Participation of eminent scientists like Professor P. C. Vaidya, J. V. Narlikar, N. Mukunda, J. Weber, P. Nath, K. C. Wali, E. Lord, N. Panchapakesan, J. C. Bhattacharjee to name a few made the proceedings lively and an academically rewarding experience. Professor J. V. Narlikar delivered a popular talk in the evening of November 5 for the general public in an auditorium in Siliguri. The programme on November 7 was held in Loreto College, Darjeeling where Professor N. Mukunda delivered the first IAGRG Lecture. The proceedings were summarised by Professor A. Kembhavi. Professor J. C. Bhattacharjee presided over the concluding session.

Very recently, concurrence for the project, High Energy and Cosmic Ray Physics has been accorded by the Govt. of West Bengal.

At the same time, a project entitled 'Regional Research Faculty in Cosmic Ray Physics' as submitted by the Department has been given assent to by the UGC and the Govt. of West Bengal.

### Department of Chemistry :

The post-graduate and under-graduate courses in Chemistry have been restructured and newer topics having relevance to the growing needs of the society have been introduced. It is being contemplated to introduce a course in Computer Science—"Applications of Computer in

Chemistry" in the M. Sc. final year. This has become necessary as the UGC/CSIR has introduced Computer Science as a compulsory paper in the National Education test from 1989.

Research work in basic and applied areas is conducted in the department and this year about 30 papers have either been accepted or published in various journals. Five scholars have been awarded the Ph. D. degree of the University and about 10 thesis have been submitted for adjudication.

During this year three major research projects (UGC/CSIR) have been initiated in the department.

Recently, the second floor of the department has been constructed and handed over to the department. It is hoped that after furnishing this floor, research in other areas will be undertaken.

#### **Department of Mathematics :**

A symposium of Teaching of High level Mathematics was organised by the Department of Mathematics during the year. Professor S. P. Pal attended a seminar on Technical Physics and a symposium on Number Theory during the year organised by the Calcutta Mathematical Society.

#### **Department of Geography :**

1. A National Seminar on "Environmental degradation and development strategies in India sponsored by UGC and the West Bengal Pollution Control Board was held in the department of Geography and Applied Geography. It was attended by more than seventy delegates from all over India, including 10 from Bangladesh.

2. Extension Lectures by scientists of the Polish Academy of Sciences were also arranged during the year.

a) Prof. L. Starkel—Fluvial System of the world.

b) Dr. Froelich—Sediment budget in mountain basins based on radio-active cesium methods.

3. a) Prof. ( Dr. ) S. R. Basu attended the International Conference on Geomorphology and Geo-ecology in Frankfurt/Main F. R. G. and presented a paper on, "A study of the Impact of Land slides on Himalayan rivers" during the year.

b) Prof. (Dr.) S. R. Basu and Sri A. K. Pal attended the International Symposium on Aerospace Survey and National Disaster Reduction, organised to mark the retirement of Prof. Dr. H. Verstappen at I. T. C., the Netherlands, during the year.

c) Six teachers of the Department attended various National Seminars in India.

#### **Centre for Life Sciences :**

The Centre for Life Science in addition to its normal time-table of teaching and research during the year, arranged two seminars lectures delivered by Professor Madhav Gadgil on i) Deforestation; Patterns and Processes. ii) Niche segregation in Indian societies.

#### **Department of Zoology :**

The Department has introduced special papers on Entomology or Insect Science during the year for the M. Sc. curriculum.

Teachers are engaged in research projects from CSIR, ICMR, UGC, and DAE, and two research papers have been published by the teachers of the department while seven are reported to have been accepted for publication.

The department was also represented to the 7th International Congress of Immunology held in West Germany.

The students of the department too, have the distinction of being declared University champions in drama, debate and certain itmes of sports for two consecutive years.

#### **Department of Botany :**

The Department has undertaken a Research Project which Dr. P. K. Sarkar is the Principal Investigator and the topic is Studies in Kinema-Micro-biological and biochemical changes accompanying fermentation. The project is sponsored by IFS Stockholm, Sweden.

Dr. P. K. Sarkar attended 29th Annual Conference of Association of Microbiologists of India held in Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar during 9-11 February, 1989.

Dr. B. N. Chakraborty attended 41st Annual Meeting of Indian Phyto Pathological Society, held at New Delhi in Jan-Feb, 1989.

Dr. (Mrs.) U. Chakraborty attended 41st Annual Meeting of Indian Phyto Pathological Society, held at New Delhi in Jan-Feb, 1989,

Dr. B. N. Chakraborty has been selected for the award of a long-term Associateship for working abroad, by the Deptt. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India. He is doing research at the Deptt. of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary, Canada.

#### **Department of Computer Science :**

A six week BASIC course was organised during the year. Participants included people from school, affiliated colleges, banking sector in addition to the teachers and scholars from the University.

Teachers from the department participated in i) an International Conference on Computer Communication ( Symposium 1989 ) held in Peiching and ii) an International Conference on Data Management, 1989 held in Hyderabad.

#### **University Science and Instrumentation Centre :**

The Centre organised a course on Microprocessor for University teachers, research scholars and technical staff of this University and it has sent a proposal to UGC for organizing such courses for college teachers and technical staff in near future. The USIC has been helping different science departments of this University in fabricating, designing and constructing various instruments. The USIC has carried out many repair jobs of instruments of science departments and colleges.

A special UGC team led by Prof. E. S. Raja Gopal, Chairman, Instrumentation and Services Unit of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and a member of the UGC standing Committee on USICs visited the centre in April last. Prof. Raja Gopal has expressed great satisfaction and has assured help from UGC in upgrading the centre. The Centre has submitted a proposal for starting a post-graduate course in Instrumentation.

The centre has also provided technical help to post-graduate students of the Physics department in fabricating small chasis for electronic instruments.

The centre has also submitted a research project to BARNS,

trombay, Deptt. of Atomic Energy for development of Microprocessor-based Instruments.

## FACULTY OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND LAW

### Department of Bengali :

The Department held a few seminars on themes like Tagore and Soviet Russia, Modern Bengali poetry and Fiction and Bankimchandra.

The Department has launched a project on manuscript publication for which necessary funds have been sanctioned by the National Archives.

### Department of English :

The department held seminar on topics like Death in Tragedy, Narrative technique in Fiction, Augustain Satire, Modern English poetry, Comparative Literature and Literary Theory.

### Department of Nepali :

The department of Nepali invited Dr. A. C. Shukla from Sambalpur University, Orissa as a visiting Lecturer and he delivered Two Lectures on i) 'Sadharanikarana and Aristotle's theory of Catharsis' and ii) 'Sanskrit poetics in the present context'.

Sri Indra Sundas, the Vetern Novelist and Sahitya Akademi Award winner delivered a set of special lectures on "Upanyas Ra Kathaka Snadarbhama Afnai Kura".

The department celebrated Bhanu Jayanti on 13th July, 1989.

Sri L. K. Sharma, Reader and Head of the department published a paper on DHWANI VIVECHAN in Dristikone.

Sri B. K. Upadhyaya, Reader published the following papers— i) "Mera Barika Bhate Karela Bare Samalochana" in Srasta, Vangnaya Visesanka, 1989.

ii) "Yudhabir Rana Ra Unako Chihan Napayeka Takmharu" Madhyam, 1989.

Sri Ghanashyam Nepal edited two separate anthologies of short stories and poems in Nepali and a journal entitled Dristikone. All these were published by Jana Paksha Prakashan, Gangtok.

Published one paper on folklores in Srasta, Vangmaya Visesanke, 1989.

### **Department of History :**

During the period January to December, 1989 the Department organised the following special lectures by eminent persons :

i) Professor Ashin Dasgupta, Director, National Library, Calcutta spoke on : Martime history ( on March, 1989 )

ii) Dr. Ratnavali Chatterjee, Deptt. of Islamic History and Culture, University of Calcutta spoke on : Painting and the Mughal experience ( illustrated ) 29th August, 1989.

The department has introduced M. Phil courses in the current Academic Session.

One teacher and a teacher fellow attached to the Department were awarded the Ph. D. degree in the current year.

Most of the teachers of the department participated in National Seminars and Conference during the year.

### **Department of Economics :**

The department organised a National Seminar on Decentralised Planning of the grass-root Rural Area Economics.

Professor P. C. Sarkar, the present Head of the department presented papers in Seminars and conferences like the Indian Econometric Conference held in Bombay, seminar on Data Base for Poverty Studies held at Ahmedabad, the golden jubilee conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics held in Bombay. Professor Sarkar has during the year published a research paper entitled Women's Role in Productive Activities in North Bengal published in the Indian journal of Economics



in addition to a few occasional papers published in the departmental journal.

Professor Manas Dasgupta has published a book on 'Economic Development of Darjeeling Hill Areas' and a number of research papers like The Labour Theory of Value—the continuing debate, The Labour Theory of Value in a Socialist country published in Economic studies.

Other teachers of the department attended seminars and conferences.

### **Department of Philosophy :**

The department of Philosophy keeping in view the tradition it has built up over the years has been seriously engaged in teaching and in research on the different aspects of Philosophy including Indian Philosophy and Philosophy of Science.

During the last year, a number of seminars and conferences were held and one of the seminars was on 'Man, Religion and Society'.

Teachers of the department published a number of research papers and participated in a number of seminars and conferences.

Dr. Pabitra Kumar was invited as a visiting Professor of Philosophy during the year by the University of Puna.

### **Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology :**

During the year, the department arranged four special lectures and published three occasional papers viz.,

- i) Inducing Technical changes in India's Agriculture ; some Anthropological considerations by Dr. R. S. Mukherjee.
- ii) Human Resource Development (observations on Muslims in India) by Dr. S. R. Mondal.
- iii) Class question in Urban India by Sanjoy Roy.

The students participated in drama competition and other cultural activities and won the first prize in Quiz Competition. In sports and games too, the first prizes in single and mixed doubles table tennis went to the Department.

## **Department of Political Science :**

The department, during the year, organised a seminar on 'The Indian Political System—Challenge and Response'. Two special lectures were also arranged one of which was delivered by Professor Raghawan Iyer from California the topic being 'The Republic of Conscience' while the other one by Professor Mohit Bhattacharjee on 'Secularism in India'.

## **Department of Commerce :**

The department organised a Panel Discussion on the Central Budget 1989-90 and brought out the following publications ;

- i) Industrialisation in China—Changes and challenges in the post-Mao Era by Professor K. Deb.
- ii) 'A critique on an emerging stock exchange in Sikkim' by Dr. I. Roy and Dr. M. K. Roy.

A UGC seminar on Indian Industry—Challenges and Responses was also organised and on invitation of the Deptt. Professor Anil Kr. Sengupta of I. I. M., Calcutta and Professor Paresh Chattapadhyay of Burdwan University delivered a series of lectures in the department.

## **Centre for Himalayan Studies :**

The Centre for Himalayan Studies has its focus on the study of the problems of development and change in the Eastern Himalayas including Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh.

Besides publication of the Himalayan Miscellany, the journal of the centre, the centre has published the project findings of its faculty research in the form of occasional papers.

## **University Law College :**

During the year, in addition to normal teaching the college organised seminars and special lectures. Students of the department participated in debate competitions and in games and sports.

## **Adult Education and Extension Programme :**

The Adult Education Centre has launched its programme of eradication of illiteracy on a massive scale in collaboration with local bodies.

## **Sports Board :**

The Sports Board of the University organised a number of tournaments and meets and Inter-University and Inter-college Football, Cricket, Basketball, Table-Tennis and Badminton tournaments and Athletics meet and organised a summer Camp in Badminton under NSO Scheme besides usual camps in Football, Table-Tennis, Volleyball and Cricket.

The Employees' Union of the University also organised sports and games like Bridge Competition, Carrom Competition, Volleyball and Badminton tournaments.

The Research scholars too have an association and in addition to their normal work of research, they participated in many indoor and outdoor games and in cultural activities.

I take this opportunity to place a progress report in respect of the VIIth Plan projects.

The VIIth Plan period will come to an end on 31st March, 1990. I report here briefly the short appraisal of the VIIth Plan development schemes implemented so far.

The University received from the University Grants Commission financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2 crores plan and non-plan schemes together, during the VIIth Plan. Out of these, Rs. 20 lakhs were meant for purchase of books and journals, Rs. 59 lakhs for purchase of equipments, Rs. 33 lakhs for teaching posts, Rs. 9 lakhs for development of sports facilities, Rs. 63 lakhs for constructional projects and Rs. 10 lakhs for academic programmes including research projects, holding of seminars, arrangements for visiting Professors, Scientists etc.

The University has utilised most of the grants on the basis of distribution decided by the Development Committee save those for constructional projects.

We may not be able to utilise all the grants allocated for different constructional projects before 31st March, 1990. We had altogether 23 constructional projects at hand during the last five years for implementation. Out of these, 8 were spill-over projects of the 6th Plan and 15 were sanctioned during the 7th Plan. The University Grants Commission's

approval for some of the projects came as late as October, 1989 thereby making the implementation impossible within the 7th Plan period. The Commission, however, normally carried over the unutilised amount to the next plan without charging the spill over to the following Plan allocation. It is expected that the Commission will not deviate from the guidelines it has been following since the 5th Plan.

The following 7th Plan constructional projects funded jointly by the State Government and the University Grants Commission on usual sharing basis are in progress. 1. Men's Hostel, 2. Women's Hostel, 3. Teachers' Quarters, 4. Health Centre, 5. Pol. Science department.

The extension of the administrative building funded wholly by the State Govt. is also in progress.

The work orders for construction of Computer Science block, building for Nepali department, visiting faculties complex, building for the centre for the Himalayan Studies, non-teaching employees' quarters, extension of Life Science block and Law College have been issued by the University Engineer.

The University is trying hard for construction of an auditorium. The plan and estimate for an auditorium was considered by the State Planning Board in February, 1989.

The Planning Board has suggested that a revised project may be submitted by the University excluding costly equipments, fittings and fixtures to bring down the cost to within 45 lakhs. The University has decided to go in for a good seminar hall with accommodation for 500 persons without air-conditioning facilities so that the project cost stood around 42 lakhs. The University Grants Commission has agreed to assist with a sum of Rs. 5.19 lakhs for the project. It is expected that the State Planning Board will favourably consider our revised proposal for the seminar hall.

The Colleges affiliated to the North Bengal University which are eligible to receive development assistance of the University Grants Commission received Rs. 1.2 crores during the 7th Plan against Rs. 0.52 crores during the 6th Plan under the same terms and conditions prevalent during the 6th Plan period,

The 8th Plan proposal has been submitted to the Govt. of West Bengal. Besides consolidation of the existing academic departments, introduction of some new disciplines has been thought of.

In the long run, I put on record the unstinted help and assistance from teachers, students, officers, and the non-teaching employees of the University. I express my sincere thanks to all. Namaskar.