

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

## 24th ANNUAL CONVOCATION



Address

*by*

**Professor K. N. Chatterjee**

*Vice-Chancellor*

RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR

18th December, 1990

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Professor S. K. Joshi, the Chief Guest, 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-fourth Annual Convocation on this day, the eighteenth of December, 1990. I welcome you all on this solemn occasion.

It is a matter of great pleasure for us that our honourable Chancellor could find some time to be with us here on this occasion. I express my heart-felt thanks to him.

It is equally a matter of joy that Professor S. K. Joshi has been so kind as to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. We all remain thankful to him.

The University also remains thankful to Smt. Lila Majumdar, Professor R. N. Dandekar, Professor Syed Zahoor Qasim and Dr. Baidyanath Chakravarty who have so kindly agreed to the proposal of the University to award the honorary D. Litt /D. Sc. degree to them for their outstanding contribution to the advancement of human knowledge and to the advancement of the human society. The University honours itself while honouring these towering personalities.

Convocation is a great ceremony for a University and its community. It is an occasion where teachers, students and all other members of the said community renew their pledge to hold high the ideals that their University stands for and fight out all such forces as stand counter to the achievement of such ideals.

This University stands boldly poised to the threshold of a glorious chapter of achievement over the few years of its eventful history and it is only a chapter of sustained progress holding within it a cherished vision of excellence and a charter for the triumph of the human mind.

India has for long cherished the idea of a egalitarian society where development with equity has been accepted as the watchword and for that, upliftment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections has engaged the attention of all concerned. Plan for any educational development, therefore, must incorporate within itself the task of harnessing the human resources of the country with equity and justice. Programmes for the eradication of poverty, improvement of healthcare, control of population growth and social welfare, too, should form so many components of educational planning. The question of raising the quality of life of the people is so very pertinent to educational planning and as such, programmes for eradication of illiteracy and making people free from social inequality and economic exploitation should also come within the purview of educational planning. There must, therefore, be sufficient scope for undertaking programmes for research in community and social development so that students are duly initiated in our commitment to the people.

Keeping all this in view, the academic departments of the University have made sustained efforts to rise to the occasion and render positive and meaningful service to the nation.

The Department of Bengali has earned the recognition of an organised institute of study and research. A number of seminars both local and national has been organised under its auspices and teachers and research scholars have made notable publications during the preceding year.

With the financial help from the National Archives, the Department has published the first volume of the catalogue of manuscripts that are in its custody under the authorship of Dr. Sunil Kumar Ojha.

The Department of Nepali, too, does not lag behind. It arranged extension lectures and organised seminars on various topics. Prof. Chudamani Bardhu delivered a lecture on Sisu Sahitya. The birth anniversary of poet Bhanubhakta Acharya was also observed by the department with all seriousness. The first volume of the tri-lingual dictionary has been published as well much to the credit of the department.

Teachers of the department like Shri L. K. Sharma, Shri Ghanasyam Nepal and Shri Mohan Dahal participated in seminars and conferences held in different universities and colleges.

The Department of English held a national seminar on Trends in Twentieth Century Literature and many of the teachers of the department participated in seminars and workshops organised outside. Dr. B. K. Banerjee attended an international seminar organised by the French Embassy in New Delhi. Mr. G. N. Roy has received a grant from the UGC for a research project.

The department has also brought out the second volume of the departmental journal.

The Department of History arranged Special/Extension Lectures by eminent scholars in the discipline. The Department organised an U. G. C National Seminar on the theme : 'Art and Literature in Indian History : Their Social Contents'. Scholars from outside, teachers of the Department and other Departments of the University presented papers and participated in the deliberations. Teachers and Research Scholars of the Department have actively participated in various National Seminars and All India Conferences/Symposiums. Research Papers/articles have also been published by them in different journals during the current year. A number of teachers of the department are engaged in Research Projects sponsored by the UGC, ICHR and the like.

The Department of Political Science organised a number of Special Lectures during the year. Professor S. H. Ahmed of Aligarh Muslim University visited the Department and delivered a Special Lecture. Two Special Lectures on 'Recent Trends in Centre-State relations in India' and 'Recent Development in Communism' were delivered by Professor ( Mrs ) Sharda Rath and Professor S. N. Rath of Utkal University, Bhubaneswar respectively. Professor Shyamal Kr. Roy of Burdwan University delivered a Special Lecture on 'Development Administration : Problems and Prospects with Special Reference to India' in the Department.

The Department of Philosophy brought out its journal : PHILOSOPHICAL PAPERS.

Dr. S. A. Shaida, I. I. T., Kanpur delivered a talk on 'The Concept of woman in Islam'.

Dr. Amitabh Das Gupta, Hyderabad University delivered lectures on 'In search of a new framework in Philosophy of Language' and 'Linguistic Rule'.

Shri Benulal Dhar, Junior Research Fellow proceeded to Tubingen University, Germany on a 3 months Fellowship.

A National Seminar on 'Man and Nature' was held under the directorship of Dr. P. K. Roy.

The Department of Economics organised an inter-disciplinary seminar on 'Man and Environment : The need for Global Consciousness' together with an exhibition on the theme.

Professor J. Ray, Head of the Computer and Statistical Services, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, presented seminars on the use of Computer in Social Sciences.

Dr Sukumar Nandi, Reader in the Department of Economics with Rural Development, Vidyasagar University, presented a seminar on 'Management of Sick Industries'.

Professor H. N. Banerjee of Calcutta University presented a seminar on the 'Economics of Dualism'.

Professor Nikhilesh Bhattacharyya of the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, presented a seminar on 'Identification of Rural Poor'.

A number of seminars were presented under the academic seminar programme by research students of the Department.

Mrs. Indrani Ghosh Chakraborty presented a seminar on 'Choice and Constraints in Indian Industry and Agriculture' at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, and a Research Seminar at the Department of Economics, Calcutta University.

Dr. Rabindra Nath Bhattacharyya delivered Guest Lectures on 'Evaluating Development of Environmental Resources' at the Department of Economics, Vidyasagar University. He was also a Visiting Professor at the Department of Analytical and Applied Economics, Tripura University during the year.

Shri Sanjib Chandra Basu presented a Paper at the 1990 Annual Conference of the Bengal Economic Association.

Dr. Pinaki Chakraborty is visiting Columbia University, New York City as Sabbatical Scholar for one year on fellowship from the Ford Foundation.

A few research projects like 'A socio-economic study of the Catchment Areas of the Jaldhaka, Mahanda and Rammam Hydrel Projects', 'Impact of the integrated Development scheme on SC/ST population of West Bengal were completed under the directorship of Professor M. Dasgupta.

UGC Major Research Project on 'Measurement of Purely Surplus and Disguisedly Unemployed Population of West Bengal's Agriculture' is on progress under the directorship of Prof. P. C. Sarkar.

Teachers of the department have a few notable publications to their credit. Prof. M. Dasgupta published two of his books during the year and these are :

1. 'The Labour Theory of Value in Soviet Russia' Econ. Record, March-April, 1990.
2. 'Uttar Banga Kshetriya Gramin Bank and the Problem of Rural Investment' UBKGB Annual Bulletin, 1990.

Dr. H. K. Chakraborty published a book called 'The Background of the Evolution of the Agriculture—Dependent class of Coochbehar District'.

A Research Monograph, 'Technological Diffusion: A study based on Indian Agriculture' was published from the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta under the authorship of Ms. I. Ghosh Chakraborty.

An article called 'A More General Dynamic Economic Model of the Optimal Rotation of Multiple-use Forests' was published in the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, under the authorship of Dr. Rabindranath Bhattacharjee.

One more article 'The Optimal Forest Rotation: Some Economic Dimensions' was also published by him in the Indian Economic Journal.

The Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology organised a national seminar on 'Social Dynamics of Urban India' during the year.

It also organised a series of special lectures delivered by Prof. S. M. Dubey of the Department of Sociology, Dibrugarh University.

A special lecture entitled—'Anthropology of Dr. S. C. Sinha' was delivered by Prof. P. K. Misra of the Department of Anthropology, NEHU.

The Department has some notable publications to its credit. Prof. R. K. Bhadra published a book entitled—'Caste and Class: Social Stratification in Assam'.

Dr. S. R. Mondal published a paper 'Economic and Social Situations among Muslims of West Bengal: Some Empirical Observations'. He also published a project report 'Muslim Women from Veil to Virtue'.

Dr. R. S. Mukherjee published a paper 'Role of Gossip Centres in Village Communication: A Case Study'.

Mr. P. Debbarman published a paper 'Folk Remedies in North Bengal' in Folklore.

The Centre for Himalayan Studies is one of the Premier Research Centres on area studies in India which have been set up by the U.G.C's special assistance and housed in different campuses of Indian Universities to promote socio-scientific research on concerned areas within their jurisdiction. The Centre for Himalayan Studies in this University is the only research centre committed to embark upon socio scientific research on the Eastern Himalayan Region comprising broadly of the Sikkim and Darjeeling Hills, Bhutan, Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh and Nepal. Presently, the centre as usual is engaged in various research activities.

The documentation cell of the Centre has brought out two vital publications in 1990 entitled 'Dissertations on Eastern Himalaya' and 'Documentation: Eastern Himalaya

through Parliamentary Proceedings' in addition to the current awareness list and the Accession notification etc. It has procured 50 new publications and 65 offprints of research papers.

Special Lectures delivered by two research scholars during the year from the University of Berlin and the University of Uppsala ( Sweden ) deserve mention. Among other eminent scholars who spoke on different aspects are Dr. Bhutani of Delhi University and Dr. Majumder of ICSSR, New Delhi.

Prof. B. P. Misra participated and presented a paper in the Joint Indo-Soviet seminar in Calcutta. He also presented a paper in a national seminar at Shillong organised by the ICSSR.

Dr. P. S. Dutta participated and presented papers in a few seminars held outside the state. Dr. T. B. Subba also presented a paper in a national seminar organised by the School of International Studies, J. N. U.

The Centre also organised a number of departmental seminars in which the teachers and the research scholars of the Centre duly participated.

The Centre has also brought out following publications during the year.

Occasional papers : Four have been already published and two are likely to be published shortly.

Himalayan Miscellany : The Fourth issue of this journal was published in March, '90.

One book edited by Dr. T. B. Subba and Mrs. K. Dutta on religion and society in Eastern Himalaya is likely to be brought out within this year.

Area reports have been prepared and published on Tibet, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh under the authorship of Dr. R. Dhamala, Dr. T. B. Subba and Shri U. C. Lama.

Dr. R. Dhamala also edited a book on People of India-Sikkim sponsored by the Anthropological Survey of India in which Dr. T. B. Subba, Shri U. C. Lama and Shri Nilotpal Sharma have contributed papers on different tribes on Sikkim.

Some of the faculty members have got to their credit individual publications in reputed research journals during this period.

The Centre is going to open a Pre-Ph. D. research programme leading to the degree of Master of Philosophy in addition to its regular Ph. D. Programme.

Preparation of a data bank in the Centre is in progress. Research consultancy is also being rendered on a regular basis to scholars from within and outside the University.

The Centre has also embarked upon language teaching and there is provision for instruction on Tibetan language at the certificate level.

Under the auspices of the University Museum, special lectures have been arranged (in the current year). Professor M. Choudhury, Kurukshetra University spoke on (I) Decline of Buddhism in Eastern India (II) Manuscripts and Manuscriptology. The Museum has purchased recently some antiquities ( terracotta, ivory works and coins ) with the financial assistance provided by the National Museum, Govt. of India. One coin has also been received as a donation in the present year. For the conservation of valuable

Manuscripts preserved in the Museum, a fumigation chamber has been installed. The Museum publications have also been displayed and sold in the Annual Book Fair held at Siliguri in the current year. The Museum has undertaken the decision to publish series of picture Post Cards very shortly.

The Centre for Adult and Continuing Education organised a seminar on Population Education.

A refresher Orientation Programme for the Programme Officers of different college units was also organised at Calcutta in collaboration with the State Resource Centre for Adult Education, West Bengal.

Training Programme for the Mass Programme for Functional Literacy for Volunteers were organised at different Colleges.

The International Literacy Day i.e. 8th September, 1990 was observed through various programmes. It was observed centrally and also by the college units separately. At the University Level, a programme was organised in the village Chaitanyapur adjacent to the University Campus. The villagers of Rangia Jote, Balason Colony, Salkavita, Badlavita, Bairatisal, Chaitanyapur and Jyotirmoy Colony took part in the programme. Two Adult Education Centres were inaugurated during the occasion. The programme concluded with a Cultural Programme.

For involving the school students in the Eradication of Illiteracy Programme, the centre for Adult & Continuing Education imparted training to the class IX students of Falakata High School on August 14th and 16th, 1990 for M. P. E. L. activities. 262 students were oriented on that occasion. It may be mentioned here that the involvement of school students in the Adult Education Programme was the first effort in North Bengal.

Programmes on communal harmony is contemplated. The activities of Population Education Club and Jana Shiksha Nilayam are to be strengthened.

The Department of Physics has received the sanction of a few new research projects.

- a) Neutron scattering studies of order and phase transition in liquid crystals: Sponsored by D. A. E., the investigators are Dr. R. Paul, Mrs. S. Paul, Dr. P. K. Mondal.
- b) Electromagnetic Fields near surfaces and photo emission theory: Sponsored by CSIR, the investigator is Dr. N. Kar.

The departmental teachers participated in different conferences and workshops.

- a) Dr P. K. Mandal attended NATO advanced study school at Erice, Sicily and worked for 2 months in Amsterdam University.
- b) Dr. D. Dasgupta worked in the Physics Department, Polytechnic of Turin, under a programme sponsored by ICTP.
- c) Dr. R. Paul attended the International Liquid Crystal Conference held in Vancouver, Canada and also gave an invited talk in a IUC-DAE sponsored workshop at Goa.
- d) Dr. N. Kar and Mrs. S. Paul participated in the DAE Solid State Physics Symposium at Madras.

- e) Prof. S. Mukherjee participated in two international conferences on :
- i) Supernovae and High Energy Astrophysics and
  - ii) CP-Violation, at Calcutta and also delivered lectures at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

Prof. S. Mukherjee has also been awarded Senior Associateship of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics for 3 years.

Teachers of the department have made some notable research publications as well.

The department of Chemistry is one of the most developed departments in the University. It has earned reputation of good teaching and in the field of research also its contribution has remained to be remarkable. Many of the departmental teachers and the research scholars working under them have undertaken a number of research projects funded by UGC and other bodies.

The Department of Mathematics has undertaken research in the field of Elasticity, Operational Research, Astrophysics, Real analysis and functional analysis.

It also arranged a talk given by Prof. A. B. Roy of Jadavpur University on the following topic :

‘Qualitative analysis of a model food-chain with material cycling’.

The Department of Geography has earned a name for maintaining a high standard of good teaching and research.

Prof. B. Bhattacharjee attended seminar on ‘Watershed Development and Management’ at C. S. Ajad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur.

He is also the Director of a UGC research project ‘the small and medium towns : an alternative to super-cities for checking urban explosion and a challenge for improving urban conditions with a case study of North Bengal’.

‘Sikkim in Geographical Perspective’—A major research project financed by the I. C. S. S. R. is also entrusted to him. He also published a paper on ‘The changing environment : An ecological crisis in Darjeeling Himalayas’.

Prof. ( Mrs. ) A. Bhattacharjee attended seminar on : ‘Watershed Development and Management’ at C. S. Ajad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur.

She also published articles like ‘Ethnicity in North-East India’.

‘Population policy in India in Spatial frame work’.

Dr. M. M. Jana attended seminars on ‘Coastal Environment’ at Khulna in Bangladesh and chaired a technical session.

He has under him the research project on ‘The study of growth centres and their role in the development of rural areas in Kharibari-Phansidewa block of Darjeeling district’—An I. C. S. S. R. Project.

He is also the Chief Investigator of ‘To study the Problems and prospects of large cardamom cultivation in Sikkim’—A U. G. C. Project.



The Department of Zoology has been working on some research projects funded by U. G. C. and C. S. I. R. Dr. J. Pal is working on the project 'Ecological studies & culture of the Asian Climbing Perch *Anabas testudineus* ( Bloch ), a highly esteemed air-breathing fish in North Bengal with special emphasis to increase productivity.

Dr. A. Mukherjee is working on the projects 'Influence of dieterics, nutritional and allelochemic, on growth and reproduction of two polyphagous heteropteran pests, *S. Panduras* and *E. Sordidus* and on 'Evaluation of the predatory role of the big-eyed bug, *Geocoris* ( Lyg. : Hempt. : Insecta ) on some tea-garden pests of the plains of North Bengal, with an assessment of the effects of common pesticides on the predator's biology.

Dr. A. Mukherjee has completed the work on the UGC Research Project entitled 'Taxonomic analysis of fern attaching insects of tea-growing plains of Darjeeling district, North Bengal ( India ) with bionomical study of some economically important species'.

A good number of insect species has been recorded in this investigation. At least 10 species are actual or potential pests of economic plants. Some bionomics of the pests and their relation to biochemical factors of the host plants have also been revealed.

The teachers of the department have made some publications as well.

1. Datta, T. & Pal, B. C. Space partitioning in relation to nesting among six bird species in the Heroury of Kulik Bird Sanctuary West Bengal. *Environ. Ecol.* 8 (1) : 86-91 (1990).
2. Datta, T. & Pal, B. C. Clutch size, laying date, and reproductive success of Open-bill stork. *Environ. Ecol.* 8 ( 1 ) : 368-373 ( 1990 ).
3. Pal, B. C. & Sinha, D. ABO gene distribution among the totos : an isolated tribe of Indo-Bhutan border, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. *Environ. Ecol.* 8 (2) : 527-530 (1990).
4. Sikdar, B. K. & Pal, B. C. Factors associated with biting behaviour of dogs. *Environ. Ecol.* 8 (2) : 634-634 (1990).
5. Pal, J. and Pradhan, K. (1990) Bacterial involvement in ulcerative condition of air-breathing fish from India. *J. Fish Biol.* 36 : 833-839.
6. Pradhan, K. and Pal, J. (1990) Experimental Induction of ulcer in the Fish *channa punctatus* by Bacteria. *Environ. Ecol.* 8 : 812-815.
7. Mukherjee, A. Das, S. & Roy, P. (1990) Some bioecological observations of *Spilostethus hospes* ( Fabricius ) ( Lygaeidae : Heteroptera : Insecta ) on a new host plant *Solanum khasianum* Clarke. *Rec. Zool. Surv. India* 88 ( 1-4 ) : 1-5.
8. Vasan, R. S., Mehra, N. K., Malaviya, A. N. & Chaudhury, T. K. Lymphocytotoxic antibodies in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus & their household contacts. *Indian J. Med. Res. (B)* 92 : 147-150 ( 1990 ).

The Department of Botany too, has been trying hard to maintain its name in good teaching and sustained research. The teachers have participated in a number of seminars and workshops held outside and they have made notable publications as well.

The Centre for Life Science has been engaged in research and the teachers have made quite a good number of notable research publications in international journals.

The Department of Computer Science and the Centre for Computer Applications are two new glorious additions to the University. In spite of serious odds and difficulties, the teachers and the students have been able to make notable contributions to the field of acquiring knowledge in Computer Science and Application.

The University Science Instrumentation Centre also enjoys a position of pride and recognition. The UGC has recently upgraded the USIC from level I to level II. The UGC has sanctioned some teaching, technical and administrative posts. It has also sanctioned funds for upgrading the Mechanical and Electronic shops and for equipping a new teaching laboratory in the centre. It has also sanctioned 100% fund to construct an additional building of USIC with a floor area of 250 sq. mts.

The USIC also organised and conducted a course on 'Microprocessors : Architecture, Software and Interfacing Techniques' in collaboration with Western Regional Instrumentation Centre, University of Bombay, during the year.

It is indeed heartening to note that the colleges which are eligible to receive assistance of the University Grants Commission have received Rs. 161.00 lacs of plan assistance and Rs. 22.00 lacs of non-plan assistance during the Seventh Plan period. This is a marked improvement of performance over the Sixth Plan period when the colleges received only Rs. 34.00 lacs of plan assistance. This has been possible because of dedicated services of the Principals of the Colleges and the guidance they have received from the University. I hope the collective efforts will improve the condition of the colleges further during the Eighth Plan period.

The University has at hand twenty two sanctioned constructional projects-plan and non-plan together. The construction of thirteen of them have been completed and the rest are in progress. The construction of Gymnasium will commence very soon. The University is awaiting the approval of the State Government to the construction of a Seminar Hall as well.

The Eighth Plan proposals have been submitted to the Government of West Bengal and to the U. G. C. as well. Detailed discussions, too, over the proposals have been held. The University is eagerly waiting the detailed recommendation and sanction from the U. G. C.

The university, however, with the knowledge of both the Government of West Bengal and the U. G. C. has introduced the Diploma Course in Library Science.

The University Law College in addition to their normal work of teaching participated in various extracurricular activities and earned good name for its teachers and students.

The Sports Board of the University has undertaken a lot of activities during the year and here is a brief report of such activities :

Inter-University Table Tennis Tournament, E. Zone was held. In it, 15 men's team and 9 women's team participated. The game was played at A. C. College, Jalpaiguri.

The women's team of the University became the winner while the men's team

became the runners up. Both Men's and Women's teams in Table Tennis were qualified for participation in Inter-Zonal tournaments to be held at Hyderabad.

Inter-College Athletic Meet, 1990-91 was also organised by the Sports Board. A good number of both boys and girls from different colleges affiliated to the University participated in the same meet. The football team of the University is to participate in the Inter-University East Zone Football tournament at the Utkal University.

The University Cricket Team also is to participate in the Inter-University East Zone Cricket Tournament to be held at the Banaras Hindu University.

The Sports Board also organised the Inter-College Cricket Tournament in which many of the affiliated colleges participated and Alipurduar College became the winner.

The NBU cricket team took part in the Ajoy Ghosh Memorial Cricket Tournament played at Burdwan. The NBU team reached the final for the first time in the tournament defeating Visva Bharati and Kalyani University in the earlier rounds. The NBU Sports Board was entrusted with the responsibility to conduct the CAB Open Collegiate Cricket Tournament from February 5-10, 1990. It was organised in two venues i.e. at the University ground and Kanchanjanga Krirangan, Siliguri. The final match of this zone was played between Rabindra Bharati University and Ashutosh College and the Rabindra Bharati University became the winner.

Inter-College tournaments in Badminton, Table Tennis, Football were also organised by the Sports Board.

A Summer Camp in Basketball sponsored by the A. I. U. was also organised by Sports Board and it was held at the Raiganj University College.

The performance of a University largely depends upon the quality of co-operation lent out by the teachers, students, officers and employees and I am happy to announce that I have received qualified support from all of them. The students particularly are the sources of my strength and vigour.

This year 1039 graduates are to receive their under-graduate diplomas, 585 the post-graduate diplomas, 33 the Ph. D. degree, 18 Computer Science and 82 students will receive medals for their performance in different examinations.

I wish them well.

Before these students leave their Alma Mater on completing their graduation, I have an appeal to them as well as to those who have passed out of this University over the decades.

The University cannot afford to make progress depending merely on the support it receives from the Government or the UGC. The real development and progress of the University, depends largely upon its students and well wishers. Their warmth and love will impart strength to the University and help maintain the cherished bond of affection that binds a University and the society.