

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

25th ANNUAL CONVOCATION



Address

by

Professor K. N. Chatterjee
Vice-Chancellor

RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR

7th February, 1992

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Professor Satyasadhan Chakravarty—our Chief Guest, Members of the Court, the Executive Council, Teachers, Officers, Non-teaching colleagues, Students and Guests :

The University of North Bengal holds the twenty-fifth Annual Convocation on this day, the Seventh of February, 1992. I welcome you all on this solemn occasion.

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

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

Convocation is a great ceremony for a University and as such it should be observed in the manner it deserves. But in view of the fact that the national and state Finances are under severe strain which in turn have affected the university finance as well, we have arranged the function on a smaller scale.

In spite of financial constraints, however, the University has continued to make a steady progress in teaching and research. This year 31 scholars were awarded the Ph. D, degree of the University. The number of the students who received P. G. diplomas is 711 of whom 475 in Arts, 170 in Science and 66 in Commerce. The number of students receiving undergraduate diploma during the year is 7518. Of them, 4652 received diploma in Arts, 1034 in Science and 1832 in Commerce. The number of students qualifying in Honours examination is like this : 590 in Arts, 357 in Science and 125 in Commerce. The number of students receiving diploma in Engineering is only 125, in Medicine 45, in Law 176 and in Education 751, in Physical Education 19 and in D. C. A. 16. The number of recipients of Medals is 77 and of book prize 03.

I have reasons to feel proud of our institution that has proved to be a home of brilliant and creative activities in diverse disciplines and I am glad to say that all this has been achieved as a result of the combined efforts of the teachers, students, officers and the non-teaching colleagues. I put on record the services rendered by each and every individual of the University community.

I am also thankful to the members of the Court, the Executive Council, the Faculty Councils, the Undergraduate Councils and all other bodies for their support, advice and guidance.

At the Post-graduate level, our Science Departments have engaged themselves in a number of research projects supported by different funding agencies. The department of

Physics has earned a good name for itself and it has been provided with E-mail service by IUCCA. The Centre for High Energy Physics also duly supported by the UGC and the State Government of West Bengal has started functioning. The department of Chemistry has engaged itself in research in basic and applied areas. A number of papers have been published by the teachers and scholars of the department.

The department of Mathematics has maintained a steady progress in research in addition to its normal work-load of teaching. The teachers and the scholars of the department have also made positive contributions to the world of academics through the publication of brilliant papers. The department organised a workshop in collaboration with NCERT for upgrading the graduate level syllabus.

The department of Botany and Zoology under the banner of the Centre for Life Sciences have added glory to the University through study and research. Under the auspices of this very Centre, an exercise on the updating of the Biology syllabus in collaboration with NCERT was recently made.

The department of Geography has drawn the attention of scholars of international repute and some scholars from outside visited the department and delivered lectures. Some of the teachers are working on some research projects as well.

The department of Computer Science is forging ahead with MCA and DCA programmes of study and it is likely to be upgraded soon with larger support of finance and staff.

The University Science and Instrumentation Centre, too, has been maintaining a good record of service.

The language and literature departments like Bengali, Nepali and English have remained very steady in imparting knowledge in the finer shades of literature and literary criticism. The department of Bengali has published a few volumes of catalogues of manuscripts kept in its own custody.

The Nepali Academy, too, has started to function anew and it is likely to undertake a few new projects.

The department of History in addition to its normal work of teaching and research arranged a number of guest lecturers. It also observed the fiftieth anniversary of the Quit India Movement. The University Museum named after Akshaya Kumar Maitreya is run and managed by the department of History. This year, the museum has published a bulletin that contains information in regard to its valuable collections made over the years.

Under the auspices of the department of Economics, the 1991 Annual meeting of the society of Econometrics was held in which a number of scholars from India and outside participated.

The department of Philosophy keeping in view the tradition it has built up over the years, has been engaged in teaching and research. A number of seminars and guest

lectures has been delivered during the year in the department. It is organising one more seminar on Philosophy, Language and Man to be held by the end of February this year.

The department of Sociology and Social Anthropology has undertaken a few research projects. It has now found a new home in its own premises. The department organised the first Benoy Kumar Sarkar Memorial Lecture delivered by Professor Haridas Mukherjee.

The Department of Political Science has moved to its new premises and it has been maintaining its own record of repute in teaching and research.

The Department of Commerce has been striving very hard to reach its goal of excellence and it has remained to attract students from other universities.

The Centre for Himalayan Studies has kept focus of study and research on Eastern Himalayas. Besides publication of the Himalayan Miscellany, the journal of the Centre, the centre has published its project findings in the form of occasional papers.

The documentation cell of the Centre, too, has kept itself engaged in its activities like accession, publication, press-clippings and library services.

All the departments under the Faculty of Arts, Commerce and Law are engaged in M. Phil programmes.

The syllabi in different subjects taught at the undergraduate level, have been revised and up-dated through workshops and seminars participated by teachers of both the Post-graduate departments and the Under-graduate colleges affiliated to the University.

University Law College, in addition to its normal work of teaching organised seminars and special lectures during the year.

The Regional Engineering College at Jalpaiguri and the North Bengal Medical College have been functioning well in perfect collaboration with the University. Courses on Electronics and Computer Science were newly added to the syllabi of the Engineering College as additional subjects while post-graduate studies in selected subjects in our Medical College are likely to be approved of very soon by the Medical Council of India.

The Centre for Adult Education and Extension programme organised 117 centres and made 603 males and 669 females literate during the year. It organised five training programmes in which 133 trainees participated. It organised a number of seminars like 'Mother and Child' during the year.

The Sports Board of the University in addition to inter-college tournaments/meets on Athletics, Cricket, Volleyball, Table-tennis and Badminton organised Zonal and Inter-Zonal meets on Athletics, Cricket and Badminton.

The University Sports Board also conducted East-Zone Inter-University Badminton Tournament (Men and Women) for the year 1991-92 in which the North Bengal University team put up an excellent performance.

In spite of financial stringency, the Sports Board sent the Table Tennis team—both men and women for participation in the Zonal tournament and it is a matter of pride to note that the men-team qualified itself for participation in the Inter-Zonal meet held in Ahmedabad.

It is a matter of pride again to note that Sri Souvic Dey, Captain of the North Bengal University men-team was declared 'Man of the Tournament' in both East Zone and Inter-Zonal Tournament.

The University of North Bengal has got to involve itself in fulfilling the aspiration of the people around. This part of the Country has remained underserved for long and time has come for all concerned to give proper and timely attention to solve the social needs of the people around us.

We strongly feel that institutions of higher education and research have their own share of responsibility in this respect.

It is in this context, that the University has directly addressed itself to popularisation of Science, removal of illiteracy and creating environmental awareness and I put on record the services rendered in this respect by the teachers, officers and non-teaching employees of the University.

I am particularly thankful to the students of the University who have given ungrudging help and support in maintaining a peaceful atmosphere on the Campus so essential for running all such programmes.

Students coming from remote regions covered by our University have no avenue to equip themselves for entrance to the job-market. We, therefore, feel that a few job-oriented disciplines be introduced in this University. Any expansion, however, puts severe strain on our resources and unless we get timely help for additional faculty support both from the University Grants Commission and the State Government, we cannot give shape to our hopes and aspirations.

Problem of space has been haunting us for long and we started in right earnest to go with the process of having a few more buildings to provide minimum space to the faculties but we had to cry a halt to it for the flow of fund stopped in the meantime and the half-finished buildings stand there on the Campus, only as so many marks of our unfulfilled hopes and desires.

This University is almost a residential one and so hostel facilities need to be increased further. We are glad that one hostel for girls and one for boys have come up during the seventh plan period. But that, too, is not enough. We have asked for two more similar hostels to be raised during the eighth plan. We hope necessary fund will be made available to us for the purpose.

For further growth of the University, the limited stock of the land under the possession of the University needs to be protected against unlawful encroachment by outsiders resulting in unnecessary involvement in litigation, by constructing a boundary wall around the Campus.

The University is fully aware of its limitations and hence it invites suggestions from all its wellwishers to overcome its shortcomings and all through it has been our desire to improve performances in our functioning with the help and advice from everybody concerned.

Before I end, I once again convey my good wishes to the recipients of different degrees and diplomas of this University, and I sincerely believe that they will help maintain the tradition of glorious performance of the University over the decades. I sincerely believe that the success of the students means success to the University and I hopefully cherish that our students while joining the mainstream of the society will draw a mark of distinction they have earned here on this Campus. May they succeed in life.

Sarve sukhinah santu sarve santu nirāmayāḥ ।

Sarve bhadrāṇi paśyantū ma Kaśchid duḥkhabhāg bhavet ॥

May all be happy, I pray, may all be free from diseases, may all see all that is good around them and let not anybody be afflicted with pain.

With this, I conclude and I thank everybody present here on this occasion.

Namaskara.
