

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

26th ANNUAL CONVOCATION



Address

by

Prof. K. N. Chatterjee

Vice-Chancellor

RAJA RAMHOUNPUR

12th May, 1993

Honourable Chancellor, Sir, Professor Reddy, 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-sixth Annual Convocation on this day, the twelfth of May, 1993. I welcome you all on this solemn occasion.

We are so very glad that our Hon'ble Chancellor is with us. We feel encouraged by his presence. We put on record his love and affection for us. We are grateful to him.

We are fortunate as well to have Professor Reddy as our Chief Guest. In spite of a very busy schedule, he agreed to be with us. His presence has added grace to the occasion. We appreciate his concern for us and we shall ever remain thankful to him.

Convocation is not a mere ritual. It has a message of its own for the new graduates. Every society expects that a University should impart a kind of education that would make the students conscious of their obligation to the society and equip them to discharge their duties to the society with courage, conviction, commitment, dedication, love and affection.

Students after having graduated from a University are to enter the real life. The problems of real life are vast and complex which they have to face both as individuals and as members of the society.

What lesson the University seeks to impart on this occasion is that the graduates must aim at serving the society so that its quality of life improves. All their efforts, whether in the field of scientific discovery, economic planning, formulation of ideas, application of knowledge or sharing of experience, must be addressed to the task of meeting the societal needs.

I am happy to note and glad to announce that our University has lived up to our expectation. Our teachers, students, officers and non-teaching colleagues through their sustained efforts have developed this institution into a centre of brilliant individuals tutored and trained in the philosophy of serving man and his society with whatever knowledge and experience they have acquired here in diverse disciplines of Arts, Science, Social Science, Commerce, Medicine, Law and Engineering. I appreciate the services rendered by each and every individual of the University community and I express my heart-felt thanks to them.

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

This year 45 scholars were awarded the Ph. D. degree and the number of students who received the M. Phil degree is 43. The number of those who received the Master's degree is 595 of whom 393 in Arts, 158 in Science and 44 in Commerce. The number of students receiving the Under-graduate degree is 7777 amongst whom 5394 in Arts, 855 in Science and 1528 in Commerce. The number of students qualifying for Honours is like this : 644 in Arts, 263 in Science and 90 in Commerce. The number of students who received the degree in Engineering is 125, in Medicine 45, in Law 163, in Physical Education 20, in Library Science 39 and the number of students receiving the B. Ed. degree is 773. The number of the recipients of medals is 90 and of book-prize 5.

At the Post-graduate level, the Science departments during the year kept themselves engaged in teaching and research in spite of the fact that the University could not provide a single foreign journal or periodical to any of the departments. Because of the peculiar geographical position of the University, it has all such problems as are not shared by many and unless we get the facilities of INFLIBNET or the like, our problem is not going to be solved otherwise.

In addition to their normal schedule of work the departments held some national and international seminars and workshops with funds provided by different funding agencies.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY has a long tradition of active research work in various front-line areas of chemical and physical sciences. Despite heavy odds, the department was able to sustain its activities in different fields. Following are the few to mention.

- i) Five students have been awarded the Ph. D. (Sc.) degree in the current year.
- ii) Three M. Sc. students have qualified in the NET examination conducted by CSIR/UGC.
- iii) Four CSIR and one DST (W. B.) projects are being pursued in the department, at present, by the following teachers.
 1. Dr. B. P. Pradhan (CSIR)
 2. Dr. A. Roy [DST (WB) & CSIR]
 3. Dr. P. Banerjee (CSIR)
 4. Dr. B. Basu (CSIR).

Besides this, two teacher fellows, one research associate, eight senior fellows and one junior fellow, are presently working in the department under different schemes.

Two personal computers (AT 386) have been purchased and installed out of the above mentioned CSIR project by Dr. P. Banerjee and B. Basu.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY arranged a lecture to be delivered by Professor Starkel and his colleague of the Polish Academy of Science on "Problems of Soil erosion in the Darjeeling Himalayas".

THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY has undertaken a programme of research on tea. The most widely consumed and the cheapest hot beverage in the world today is tea. A major share of India's export earning is from tea. Towns like Siliguri owe their growth and prosperity largely to the tea that surrounds them. Tea, which forms the backbone of the economy of North-East India, is subjected to attacks by various fungal pathogens and insects, which reduces the quality and quantity of beverage production. Situated as we are in midst of so many tea plantations, it has been considered an excellent opportunity to study several aspects of host-pathogen interactions. Funding agencies like D. S. T., C. S. I. R., and U. G. C. have sponsored research projects which include elucidation of defence mechanism in tea, detection of major cross reactive antigens shared between tea and its pathogens and attempt for biological control of foliar diseases through antagonistic phyllosphere micro-organisms. Some of these projects have already been completed while others are in progress.

The department has also undertaken a programme on plantation as a source of non-conventional energy. A plantation programme covering 70 hectares of land for fast growing tree species for fuel and fodder, suitable to this region has been undertaken by this University since March '92, which has been sponsored by the Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources, Ministry of Power, Government of India. In its first phase approximately 10,000 saplings of eight species have been raised in the nursery and subsequently transplanted in specific plots identified for the purpose.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY : At present a number of research projects are going on in the department. Prof. A. K. Chakraborty is running a project of the U. G. C., Prof. B. C. Pal is supervising a project of D. S. T. West Bengal, Dr. J. Pal is progressing with a project of C. S. I. R., Dr. A. Mukhopadhyay has two projects one of CSIR and the other of U. G. C., Dr. T. K. Choudhuri has got two projects one from U. G. C. and the other from the Deptt. of Health, West Bengal, Dr. C. Chakraborty and Dr. S. Barat are advancing with the U. G. C. minor research projects. Dr. D. C. Deb is supervising the research works of a number of part-time scholars. Other teachers have their scholars for their major project works. In the meantime Dr. Tapan Mandal has been awarded the Ph. D. degree under the supervision of Dr. T. K. Choudhuri. Four other students have submitted their dissertation from the department, one each under the guidance of Prof. B. C. Pal, Prof. A. K. Chakraborty, Dr. J. Pal and Dr. A. Mukhopadhyay.

All the teachers have published a number of articles in national and international journals, Dr. T. K. Choudhuri went to U. K. for 3 months under the International Exchange Programme during this period.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS held a N. C. E. R. T. training programme for the resource persons in the thrust areas of plus two mathematics. The department is working on some minor and major research projects granted to some of its teachers.

THE DEPARTMENT OF USIC submitted a proposal to the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of West Bengal for setting up a Microprocessor training laboratory at USIC and received a grant of Rs. 3.17 lakhs for this purpose. The department has equipped itself with many sophisticated instruments and accessories out of the above grant. The USIC has plans to offer training course on both 8 bit and 16 bit Microprocessors in the basic and advanced level, with emphasis on software and hardware developments. For this purpose, USIC has acquired 8 bit and 16 bit Microprocessor boards, in-circuit emulator, logic analyzer etc.

The head of the department, Dr. S. K. Sengupta has designed and developed an unique handheld bedside electronic Lung function meter to measure maximum static respiration pressure with digital display in collaboration with Dr. A. K. Ghosal of the Chest Deptt. of North Bengal Medical College. This instrument has tremendous potential in detecting respiratory disorders. The State Govt has appointed a high level committee headed by Dr. D Sen, Director, P. G. I. M. R. E., Calcutta to evaluate this instrument.

THE HIGH ENERGY & COSMIC RAY CENTRE : The inauguration of the Regional Centre of research in High Energy Cosmic Rays sanctioned by the UGC took place together with the opening of the Centre for High Energy Cosmic Ray Research on March 28, 1992. On this occasion a Regional Seminar on High Energy Cosmic Ray Physics was held at the Centre.

Senior research worker from the Research Institute & Universities in North Eastern Zone participated in the seminar. On the occasion of completion of one year of High Energy & Cosmic Ray Centre and of the Birth Centenary of Late Prof. M. N. Saha, a seminar on the origin of the Universe was held on Feb. 8, 1993. Prof. A. W. Wolfendale, U. K., Prof. S. N. Ghosal, Calcutta, Prof. S. N. Sen, Prof. B. Bhattacharjee & Dr. T. K. Chatterjee NBU delivered talks on the life & work of Prof. M. N. Saha. Prof. A. W. Wolfendale, Prof. S. Mukherjee, Dr. K. K. Nandi & Prof. S. Karanjai participated in the seminar.

The Commission on Cosmic Rays of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics invited the North Bengal University High Energy & Cosmic Ray Centre to participate in the International Cosmic Ray Conference to be held at Calgary, Canada in July-August, 1993.

THE DEPARTMENT OF BENGALI organised a number of departmental and inter-departmental lectures. Prof. P. K. Kundu, the present Head of the department has two publications to his credit during the year.

1. Bibhutibhusan Mookherjee Rachanavali, Vol. XI, Mitra & Ghosh 1992 (edited by Dr. P. K. Kundu).
2. The Sky and the Nest : Tagore's Gitanjali and World Literature, INDIA AND WORLD LITERATURE, Ministry of Information & Culture, New Delhi, 1992.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY organised a workshop in collaboration with the National Institute of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi on 'Evaluation of Text Books in the context of National Integration' on 12, 13, 14, March, 1992.

This department organised a workshop in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Bio-social Research and Development, Calcutta on the topic 'Problem and prospect of Participatory Community Development' on 21, 22, 23 August, 1992.

The department also organised a training programme for forest officials in connection with the 'Participatory Forest Management' in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Bio-social Research and Development on 26, 27, 28 December, 1992.

A project on 'Participatory Forest Management' was taken up on 1 12. 92 in the department in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development, Calcutta. Prof. R. K. Bhadra is the Director of the project.

Prof. R. K. Bhadra has received Visiting Associateship from the U G. C. for working at the Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.

Prof. A. K. Danda delivered the Platinum Jubilee Lecture in the section of Anthropology of the Indian Science Congress Association in its annual meeting held at Baroda in January, 1992.

Dr. S. R. Mondal has completed and submitted his research project on State of Education among the Muslims of West Bengal sponsored by ICSSR.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY arranged lectures delivered by Prof. Dr. Maurice Friedman, Prof Emeritus, San Diego State University, U. S. A. on (i) Phenomenology and Existentialism from the standpoint of dialogue and (ii) Restoration of trust in family, community and society from 30th January to 1st February, 1992. The fund for arranging these lectures was provided by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi.

Dr. Mishka Jambor, University of Sydney, delivered a lecture on 'The Ethics of the Face, in the department on 18. 12. 92.

A national seminar on 'Philosophy, Language and Man' sponsored by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi was held in the Deptt. of Philosophy, NBU from 27. 2. 92 to 29. 2. 92 under the Directorship of Dr. Chandidas Bhattacharjee. In this seminar thirteen papers on the related topics were presented, commented upon and thoroughly discussed in thirteen sessions of more than 20 hours. Apart from the scholars coming from all over India the departmental teachers actively participated in the seminar.

THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE organised a three-day national seminar on 'Role of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in Indian Society and Politics' funded by the UGC on May 11-13, 1992 in which outstation experts as well as teachers and scholars from the department and other departments of the University took active part. The seminar was organised under the direction of Prof. S. N. Roy. The proceedings of the seminar are likely to be published.

Prof. S. N. Roy presented a paper entitled 'Rural Development strategy and communication Planning : Projections for an Integrated Policy Framework' at the national seminar on Rural Development, Communication and the Media, in the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, during October 26-30, 1992 and chaired a session. Prof. Roy has been entrusted with the responsibility of editing the proceedings of this seminar. Prof. Roy has the following publications to his credit : Communication and Rural Development in India ; The Changing Perceptions and the Need for a New Public Policy (Occasional paper : 33).

THE CENTRE FOR HIMALAYAN STUDIES is a research organisation which undertakes socio-scientific studies of the Eastern Himalayas region. The areas/regions covered by this Centre are Tibet, Bhutan, Sikkim, Darjeeling and Arunachal Pradesh.

It also offers courses in M. Phil (1991) and Tibetan Language (1988). In February, 1992 the second batch of students took admission to M. Phil course. The classes for Tibetan language started in April 1992.

Two of its former research fellows were awarded the Ph. D. degree in 1992. Shri Debi Prasad Boot worked on the 'Urban Development and its future prospect in Sikkim', while Smt. Suparna Sen worked on 'Indo-Bhutan trade (1774-1907)'.

Shri Nilotpal Sarma and Smt Rashina Gowloog submitted their dissertation for the award of Ph. D. degree.

The academic staff of the Centre also undertake research projects on a regular basis. During this period one important project entitled 'Impact of the GNLF movement on the tea industry of Darjeeling' by Smt. Karubaki Dutta was completed.

The Centre strives to bring out regularly the output of its research and also some documentation and bibliographical works in order to help the researchers working on the

Himalayan region. The following publications were released by the Centre during the period :

- i) The Himalayan Miscellany, 5 : 1, 1992
(It incorporates the research papers of its academic staff which are based on the findings of the projects undertaken at the Centre).
- ii) Area Report on Tibet, Bhutan, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- iii) GNLf Agitation—A Compendium—Vol. 3.
- iv) Occasional Paper : a) Contribution of North Eastern Council to Development in Arunachal Pradesh, P. S. Dutta. b) Some observations : R. Sahu.
- v) Political situation in Darjeeling Hills—A select Bibliography.
- vi) The Buddhist Himalaya : A select Bibliography.

SPECIAL LECTURE : Prof. R. K. Sprigg, formerly of School of Oriental and African Studies, London, visited the Centre in February, 1993 and delivered a series of lectures on various aspects of the Tibetan and Lepcha languages between 1. 2. 93 and 6. 2. 93.

NORTH BENGAL MEDICAL COLLEGE has introduced a P. G. Course on Ophthalmology and it has been functioning well.

THE NORTH BENGAL DENTAL COLLEGE is making a steady progress.

THE GOVT. ENGINEERING COLLEGE, JALPAIGURI too, has been maintaining its tradition of good performance.

THE NORTH BENGAL UNIVERSITY LAW COLLEGE proposes to introduce the L.L.M. course from the next session.

In addition to its normal work, it provides legal aid to the local people and it has organised, during the year, a number of legal aid programmes. It has actively participated as well in the programme of Lok-Adalat.

The University has a Publication Department. This year a book entitled "Report of the Indigo Commission 1860" edited by Dr. Pulin Das has been published and a number of other books is in the process.

THE SPORTS BOARD organised the following tournaments ;

- i) Daju Sen Inter-College Football Tournament ;
- ii) S. P. Roy Memorial Inter College Table Tennis Tournament ;
- iii) Dr. G. C. Kundu Memorial Inter College Badminton Tournament ;
- iv) Kiranchandra Memorial Inter College Cricket Tournament ;
- v) Inter College Volleyball Tournament.

The N. B. U. Table Tennis team (Men & Women) took part in the E. Zone Inter-University tournament held at L. N. Mithila University from 28. 11. 92 to 30. 11. 92. The

men team reached final and became E. Zone Champion defeating Dibrugarh by 3-1. The Women team could not put up performance. The men team took part in Inter-Zonal tournament which was held at Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry (H. P) from 1. 1. 93 to 4 1. 93. The NBU team won the first match against Indore by 3-0 but lost in the Qr. Final against GNDU by 3-0.

Badminton : The E. Zone Inter University Badminton Tournament was held at Bilaspur under the auspices of Guru Ghasi Das University from 29. 10. 92 to 2. 11. 92. The NBU team took part and reached final defeating Ranchi 2-1, Guru Ghasi Das by 3-2, L. N. Mithila by 3-0. But in the final the NBU team lost against Manipur 0-3. Being the runner-up team of the E. Zone, it took part in All India Inter University Tournament held at Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (H. P).

Multi-Gym : A 16 stations Multi-Gym has been installed in the University. The most modern weight-training equipment would be very useful to the players of this University for the promotion of sports and also to the staff and students who are interested in Physical fitness.

The University of North Bengal has got to evolve itself in such a manner as may help serve the people around itself and I am glad to say that the University community is fully aware of its share of responsibility in this respect. Teachers, students, officers and the non-teaching employees of the University have addressed themselves to the cause of creating an awareness that favours the growth and development of a scientific temper which alone can fight the evils of fundamentalism or communalism out. Removal of illiteracy amongst the masses, therefore, has been taken up in right earnest by the Centre of Adult Education.

The University in collaboration with the Paschimbanga Vijñanamañca and the Computer Society of India has taken up the task of educating the students in the adjacent rural schools in Computer Science.

The University is running a Coaching Centre to train up students for various Competitive examinations and the performance of the Centre under the able guidance of Prof. D. J. Bhowmick is extremely satisfying. I wish a few more job-oriented courses were introduced in this University and timely help for faculty support were made available to the University.

I am thankful to everybody in the University for the response I receive and I am particularly thankful to the students of the University for their giving me help and support in maintaining peace in the University.

Before I end, I once more convey my good wishes to the recipients of degrees and diplomas of the University and wish them a grand success in life.

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

Namaskara.