

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

28th ANNUAL CONVOCATION



Address by

Shri K. V. Raghunatha Reddy

Governor of West Bengal & Chancellor
North Bengal University

RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR

20th MARCH, 1996

Esteemed Dr. Mitra, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Faculty Members, Recipients of Doctoral degrees, graduates of the year, students, ladies and gentlemen.

I am happy to be here this morning for the 28th Convocation of the University of North Bengal. As the Chancellor of this University I thank Dr. Mitra for his thought-provoking address. Dr. Mitra needs no introduction. He is a distinguished scientist and eminent scholar who has contributed immensely to the growth of science and technology in the country. As Director of the National Physical Laboratory and also as the Director General of the CSIR he has been responsible in giving direction to the country's march towards self-reliance through greater application of science and technology as an important tool in economic and industrial growth. I am sure, the students and the faculty members will immensely benefit from his learned address.

To those who have won various awards, Doctoral degrees and other degrees of the university I offer my heartiest congratulations. I am sure, they would continue to serve the cause of learning and bring fame not only to themselves but also to their alma mater and the country. I wish them all success in the years to come.

I have heard with interest and satisfaction the various achievements which the North Bengal University has made in the field of academics as also in extracurricular domains. It is heartening to see the impressive research activities which are being pursued in the campus in different branches of learning.

The University has had the distinction of producing outstanding students who have excelled in various spheres of life and

have served the country in various positions of responsibility with a sense of dedication and service. These rich traditions have to be further nurtured. The University, the members of the faculty and the students have a special responsibility cast on them to work in this direction. Along with academics of high standards the university has also to work for fostering and enriching the cultural traditions of our great nation.

Education is not only for removal of illiteracy and for equipping us for pursuing excellence, it has a larger goal which according to our old traditions has been encapsulated in the statement "Education is that which liberates". It is also the goal of education to induce humility which in turn would confer eligibility and responsibility, recognition and reward. Here I quote our respected President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma who said—

"True education enables an individual to discover his or her own innate potential. It nurtures and develops our skills and talents through rigorous training and discipline. It is not merely learning by rote. It is the training to think objectively and in a rational manner; it is a process through which we equip ourselves with the tools to analyse, comprehend and in turn contribute to the accumulated store of knowledge. It builds character and helps us to participate as productive individuals in society. It enables us to be confident and self-reliant citizens. It inculcates humility in the individual and prepares the seeker for the long journey of life."

The philosopher Bertrand Russell wrote "The educational system, we must aim at producing in the future is one which gives to every boy and girl an opportunity for the best that exists". It may appear that Russell was perhaps over-optimistic in contemplating the emergence of such a system of education, for today, the atmosphere and situation that prevails in several of our educational institutions is hardly ideal for the kind of education that is a student's

right. Educationists, administrators and planners need to give a serious thought to remove aberrations from which the educational system suffers. Once this is done I am sure, we will have young minds who excel not only in creative activities but would also be sensitive to the social responsibilities which they ought to shoulder as responsible citizens of our country.

This occasion is of great significance for the recipients of various degrees as it marks the beginning of a new phase in their lives—a phase which would bring them to the wide world to seek their future and give them opportunities to engage themselves in the service of the society through diverse activities—be it teaching, service, business or trade. I am sure their stay in this temple of learning has not only equipped them adequately to face the challenges in life but has also sensitised them about their responsibility towards the community and the nation.

I do hope that you would acquit yourselves creditably and bring glory to your alma mater.

JAI HIND.