

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

29th ANNUAL CONVOCATION



Address by

Shri K. V. Raghunatha Reddy

**Governor of West Bengal & Chancellor
North Bengal University**

RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR

15th March, 1997

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Faculty members, recipients of doctoral degrees, graduates of the year, students, ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be with you for the 29th Annual Convocation of the University of North Bengal. On behalf of the University as its Chancellor I welcome Sri Muchkund Dubey for having accepted the invitation to address this convocation. He has distinguished himself as one of the outstanding career diplomats who were involved in giving shape to the foreign relations of our country when far reaching geo-political changes were taking place in some parts of the world. He is also intensively involved with academics. His address, I have no doubt, would inspire the teachers and students of this University to serve the cause of knowledge with greater devotion.

I am gratified to hear the address of the Vice-Chancellor and to know about the significant progress that this institution of learning has made. I am particularly satisfied to note the significant research work being done in the University in diverse disciplines of learning. I am sure the University would continue to meet the demands of higher education of this region.

To those who have received awards and have been admitted to the doctorate and various degrees of this University, I offer my heartiest congratulations. I am sure they will persue the cause of excellence in learning and make significant contributions in the service of the society. I offer to them my good wishes and blessings on this memorable occasion.

The University has had the distinction of producing several outstanding students who have been doing admirably well in various spheres of life and have been serving the country in various positions of responsibility with a sense of dedication and service. These inspiring traditions have to be further nurtured and in this task the members of the faculty and the students have a special responsibility cast on them. They have not only to stripe for attaining higher standards of excellence in academics but also have to work untiringly for fostering and enriching the cultural traditions of our great nation.

A special word for the young men and women who are today receiving degrees which certify their educational attainments. I would like you to do your best to spread education and remove ignorance wherever it is found.

When every young man and woman who leaves the University with the hallmark of its stamp upon

him or her, he or she should also bear in mind that it is his or her duty to extend the light of knowledge to those millions of men and women who constitute major section of our population. To my mind involvement in this work is of considerable value.

The sacrifices of our people and the wise leadership provided by some of the greatest sons and daughters of India enabled us not only to become free and to give unto ourselves a Constitution that would weld our people in a unified nation. The founding fathers of our Constitution had the vision of an independent India where all citizens would enjoy equality before the law and equal protection of its laws. The Constitution also enjoins that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, sect, place of birth or any of them. The Constitution also provides for equality of opportunity to every citizen in matters relating to employment or appointment under the State. Such an enlightened and progressive Constitution gave us hopes that the country would move forward economically, socially and politically. However, in many cases disparities still exist.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was full of hope regarding the future of India. This hope arose because of his faith in the youth. It is, therefore, for the new

generation of India, especially those who are fortunate enough to receive University education to ponder over the threats confronting the country and raise their voice determinedly against divisive forces.

Soon after the dawn of freedom, addressing the University community at Allahabad, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said "a University stood for humanism and that if Universities perform their duties properly all would be well in the country." These prophetic words have become truer today and the newer generations of the University graduates have to face greater challenges than what we had to face. I have no doubt that you will succeed and that the country would overcome various challenges and emerge stronger and healthier and more determined to change the quality of life of our people.

I wish you all godspeed in the life that lies before you.

JAI HIND.

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