

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL



**FORTIETH
ANNUAL
CONVOCAATION**

**MARCH 11, 2008
VIDYASAGAR MANCHA**



**Address
by the
Vice-Chancellor**



Hon'ble Chancellor of the University of North Bengal, Sri Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Hon'ble Chief Guest, Professor R. A. Yadav, Hon'ble Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Respected Professor Pijushkanti Saha, Former Vice-chancellor, University of North Bengal, Members of the Court, Members of the Executive Council and other authorities of the University, the recipients of Honours and Degrees, Members of the Faculties, Students, Research scholars, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen :

With great pleasure I welcome all of you to the Annual Convocation of the University of North Bengal on this morning of the 11th Day of March of the year 2008. I am grateful to our Respected Hon'ble Chancellor, Sri Gopalkrishna Gandhi for kindly consenting to preside over this Convocation. Sir, on behalf of the University I welcome you most cordially.

I am grateful to Professor R. A. Yadav for being here today amongst us as the Chief Guest. Professor Yadav holds a Master Degree specializing in Strategic Management and Financial Management with first-class first rank (Gold Medalist) from the University Business School, Punjab University, Chandigarh. He did his Ph.D. in Management from Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. His main areas of interest in teaching, research and consultancy are Corporate Restructuring, Corporate Turnaround, Management of Bank & financial Institutions, Financial Engineering, Risk Management, Venture Capital, Mutual Funds, Management of Financial Services, Project Appraisal, Portfolio Management, Financial Derivatives and Strategic Management.

Professor R.A. Yadav has eight honours and awards to his credit. He is recipient of European Commission Fellowship during 1993-94. He has been Visiting Professor in Katholieke University, Leuven, Belgium.

Professor Yadav has authored three books and completed five research projects. One of his books was awarded DMA – Escorts Best Book Award 1987.

Professor Yadav was Professor of Finance and Strategic Management at Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi and founder Director of Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, New Delhi. Presently Professor Yadav is the Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome him here today.

It is also my pleasure to welcome Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi. Professor Bagchi is an eminent political economist from India. His original contributions to political economy have spanned economic history, the economics of industrialization and de-industrialization, and development studies from an overall Marxist perspective, incorporating insights from other schools of radical political economics, including left keynesionism.

His professional and academic career is extremely rich and versatile. To mention a few Professor Bagchi has been Visiting Professor in several prestigious international academic institutions. Professor Bagchi has received prestigious award and honours- some of them are V.K.R.V. Rao award for Economics, Muzaffar Ahmad award and Padma Shri of the Government of India.

Professor Bagchi has authored over 250 academic articles and has authored and edited numerous books and monographs.

Professor Bagchi is one of the foremost economists in the field of banking and finance, and acted as official Historian of the State Bank of India from 1976 to 1998. At present he is the Founder Director

of Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, a multidisciplinary Centre of excellence in Social Services. The contribution of Professor Bagchi is too great to confine within these few words of mine. It is also my pleasure to announce that the University of North Bengal will confer the Degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa on Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi for his outstanding contribution in the field of Economics today the 11th March, 2008.

Award of Degrees/ Medals/ Prizes:

The Court of the University of North Bengal will confer degrees to 3629 post-graduates and 26011 under-graduate students for the examinations held in 2006 and 2007 respectively at the 40th Convocation. PG diplomas will be conferred to 70 students for their success in various professional examinations. The Endowment and University Medals/ Prizes will be awarded to 74 PG and 92 UG students as recognition for their academic excellence in the PG and UG examinations held in 2006. The Court has proposed to award Ph.D. degrees in various subjects to 63 successful candidates in this Annual Convocation. I congratulate the recipients of medals/ prizes and all successful candidates in various fields. Hope they will prove their worthiness of such attainments through their future works and render services with all sincerity.

LIBRARY

During the period since last Convocation 7000 new books were added to the collection of the University Library. The University Library has subscribed 10 number new foreign journals, 20 nos. Indian journals and has provided access to 100 e-journals. 70% of bar coding work for essential documents, has already been completed for smooth circulation and faster library services.

A. K. M. HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Akshaya Kumar Maitreya Heritage Museum functions as a regional museum and is one of the few university museums in India. The main objectives of the museum are to collect, preserve and study archaeological relics lying scattered in the six district of North Bengal and sub-Himalayan region. During the period under review A.K.M. Heritage Museum has received a number of valuable artefacts i.e. paper currency, coins of Indian and foreign countries. A large number of Indian, foreign visitors / scholars / academicians visited the museum during the period under consideration.

UNIVERSITY PRESS

The North Bengal University Press has been engaged in printing of journals of various department besides printing of routine jobs, prospectus of different courses, abstracts of various seminars being conducted here and different reports of the University and Newsletter of University.

SPORTS BOARD

During the year under review the University participated in six Inter-University tournaments and seven Inter-College tournaments in athletics (Men & Women), Badminton (Men & Women), Cricket (Men), Football (Men), Table Tennis (Men and Women), Volley Ball (Men) and Kabbadi (Women). The University hosted Inter College Volley Ball Tournament (Men), S.P. Roy Memorial Inter College Table Tennis Tournament (Men & Women) and Gour Chand Memorial Inter College Badminton Tournament (Men & Women). The University has completed two schemes entitled 'High Altitude Trekking' & 'White Water Rafting' in collaboration with Local Adventure Sports Association, Siliguri under a UGC funded project entitled 'Adventurous Sports'.

UNIVERSITY SCIENCE & INSTRUMENTATION CENTRE (USIC)

During the period under review USIC has undertaken and serviced successfully (Repair, Fabrication, Design, Installation, Upgradation etc.) the jobs on Computer & Peripherals, Electrical & Electronics,

Mechanical and AC Machines. During the period under review Officers of the USIC presented seven papers in various National Conference / Seminar. Besides above they also actively participated in four National Seminar / Conference.

AFFILIATION

During the period under review four newly established colleges have been given affiliation by the University.

PLACEMENT CELL

During the above period 60 students of University of North Bengal have been selected for employment through Campus Interviews organized by the Placement Cell with different reputed organizations like TCS, ICICI, CIPLA, Coca Cola etc. The Placement Cell is also exploring to increase the number of companies, agencies and institutes for taking Campus Interviews for placement of our students.

PROFILE OF GROWTH

The University has recorded a steep growth during the last decade in all spheres of activities. As I have assumed the office of the Vice-Chancellor from January, 2008, my first priority would be to augment the given rate of growth and development in order to achieve the goal of placing the University of North Bengal to a global standard in totality. Simply not the external growth, the University has taken actions in ensuring quality education and enhancing the status for excellence. The Departments are well-equipped with various research programmes from different agencies and acquired distinctions.

Academic activities like research projects, publication of books and papers, and organization of seminars/workshops had received an impetus leading to the development of the intellectual health of the University during the year 2007-08.

Academic departments organized 40 National level seminars/workshops in 2007-08. The University library organized a four day long Exhibition for books and rare documents on *Sepoy Mutiny* from the 27th December 2007 to 1st January 2008 in collaboration with History department to honour the advice of our Honourable Chancellor, Sri Gopal Krishna Gandhi.

The International events like the 6th Congress of the Asia and Oceania Society for Comparative Endocrinology (AOSCE) on '*Hormone Bio-technology and Molecular Signalling*' etc were organized in the University Campus in 2007.

The Department of Zoology and Sociology has received grants under SAP (DRS level) of the UGC from 2007 as a mark of recognition of the collaborative research works of the faculty members. The Departments of Chemistry, Botany, Economics, Political Science and Philosophy have been granted further extension of their SAP. The University has been granted *Centre for Nehru Studies* under the Department of Political Science by the UGC from 2007. Apart from the existing Centre for *Buddhists Studies* and Centre for *Ambedkar Studies*, this is the third one under the scheme of 'Epoch-making thinkers' of the UGC.

NEW SCHEMES/CENTRES

We are successfully running the following schemes under UGC Funded Merged Schemes Programme:

1. Remedial Coaching for SC/ST & Minorities,
2. Coaching for NET for SC/ST and Minorities,
3. Coaching class for entry in services for SC/ST and Minorities &

4. Instrumentation Maintenance Centre.

Under the above merged scheme, this year we are in the process of establishing “Centre for persons with disabilities” along with “Day Care Centre” & “Improvement of Basic Facility for Women. We are also going to implement the following state funded schemes this year i.e. Rain Water Harvesting, Augmentation of Power Supply in the Campus, Extension of Administrative Building, Centre for Local Language & Culture and also UGC funded “Construction of Women’s Hostel’.

I am glad to inform you that University of North Bengal has been identified to undertake a Project on “Extension of Cultivation of Medicinal Plants” under Rashtriya Krishi Bikash Yojana & funds have been provided

VISITS ABROAD

A considerable number of teachers have visited abroad in connection with various academic programmes viz, Professor Raghunath Ghosh visited Malasiya, Singapore and France (under Indo-French Cultural Exchange Programme sponsored by ICPR), Dr. K.L. Das visited Hiroshima, Japan, Professor K.K.Nandi is awarded Honourary Professorship in Bashkir State Padegegical University, Ufa, Russia, Professor P.K. Mandal, Prof. I. Sarkar is at present enjoying SAARC Fellowship (UGC), Dr. M.K.Das, and Mr.S.Halder have visited Military University of Technology, Warsaw, Poland, Dr. B.C. Paul visited Beijing, China, Prof. S.K.Ghoshal has visited Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Prof. B.Basu has received Visiting professorship at the University of Paris Sud and Dr. A.K. Panda has received Endeavour India Fellowship 2007 at the University of South Australia etc.

VISITS OF VISITING FACULTIES

Many Professors and scholars of International repute have visited the Departments/Centres and delivered lectures, namely, Dr. Eric R. Christian from NASA, Dr Adam Klein, US Fulbright Visiting Fellow, Professor D. Lynden Bell, Cambridge University, Dr. Prabasaj Paul, Dension University, USA etc.

CENTRAL MAJOR EQUIPMENT FACILITY

We all know the geographically remote location of our University and we are not having any other institution equipped with state of art equipments for fulfilling the requirement of sophisticated equipments needed for our advanced research work. Considering the above we have already decided to establish a ‘Central Major Equipment Facility’ under one umbrella encompassing USIC, allied departments and centres so that it will cater to the need of various departments of our University as well as the demand of surrounding institutions and industries.

This year the University of North Bengal is in the process of development of incubation centre in collaboration with Department of Science & Technology, Department of Bio-technology, CSIR, Department of Food Processing towards fulfilling our requirement for academic and infrastructural development. I believe the above centres will play a crucial and pivotal role for sustainable and inclusive growth of the University of North Bengal which is situated in the backward and under developed region of West Bengal.

The University of North Bengal has established Faculty of Technology to provide Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary convergence of knowledge in higher education especially in the field of Science and Technology after amendment of NBU Act, 1981.

The University is considering the opening of following new departments under Faculty of Technology, i.e., Department of Food Technology, Department of Material Science and Processing Technology, Department of Infrastructure Engineering, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Computer Science, Department of Bioinformatics and Department of Pharmacy.

We know Sanskrit is the mother of all languages and we have decided to establish a full fledged PG department in Sanskrit under Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law considering the role of Sanskrit in society in relation to cultural heritage of India. Besides above we have also decided to establish a P.G. department in Journalism and Mass Communication under the Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law. The above Department will cater to the present day extensive requirement of trained human resources in the area of Multi-media, Animation, Graphics Designing etc. We have already submitted XIth Plan Proposal to the UGC for establishment of above new PG Departments under Faculty of Technology and Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law.

Director Distance Education Council (DEC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have visited the Directorate of Distance Education and Professor Nurul Hassan Centre for Management Studies respectively and expressed their satisfaction on the academic achievements of the Centres. As a result Director of Distance Education and Professor Nurul Hassan Centre for Management Studies have received recognition from DEC and AICTE respectively.

OUR VISION

The University of North Bengal has a visionary approach to cater to a quality education with a touch of humanity. The University will be unique in serving the people of North Bengal, especially the socially exclusive, undereducated and low-income group. We are committed to provide multilingual, multicultural and gender-equitable learning.

Our society has got much expectation from the University community and hence we do not want to confine ourselves within the four walls of the University. We are interacting with intellectual community and are disseminating our specialized knowledge to the cultivators, florists, agriculturists and other economically backward community through linkages established with the help of our Centres like DACEEFO & COFAM.

Our Centre for Women's Studies will enhance the sensitization programmes of the rural women regarding their health, education etc. The Centres of the University established to promote for the ideas of the epoch-making thinkers like Buddha, Ambedkar and Nehru will adopt extended works to awaken the moral and reasoning faculty of the rural people and to remove superstition from their minds. We have strong commitments to shape the future of our country by providing quality teaching, research and development of human resource in the field of Science and Technology.

Our University shall a) integrate the science, arts and humanities, technology and professional training, b) realize and recognize the importance of global problems and interdependence c) develop a cross-cultural competence and respect d) emphasis to develop the regional culture, economy, ecology and peace and e) exercise a substantial amount of autonomy and independence in an environment of democratic policy..

Our under-graduate and post-graduate students will have an understanding of social and moral values, distinctive technical skill, abilities to contribute to India's high quality work-force, critical thinking abilities and capability of giving responsible and creative leadership. May noble thought come to us on all sides.

On behalf of the Court of the University of North Bengal I express my deep gratitude and thanks to our Honourable Chancellor, Sri Gopalkrishna Gandhi, for his kind presence and active guidance. We seek his active support for all spheres of activities in the University. I convey my heartfelt thanks to Dr. R.A. Yadav, Chairman, AICTE, for his kind presence in the 40th convocation inspite of very busy schedule. We have been enlightened to listen to his illuminating address as Chief Guest. On behalf of the Court of the University of North Bengal I propose vote of thanks to all present at the 40th convocation and also seek their cooperation in future.

TO THE GRADUATES

Before concluding I turn to the graduates, post-graduates and doctorates who are going to obtain their degrees today and extend them my best wishes on behalf of the entire University community. To them I say : whichever profession you choose, I would request you to keep the interest of your country uppermost in your minds along with your duties and obligations to the society. Please remember that advancement of learning is not something to be pursued for its own sake. May you find joy and happiness by putting to work the knowledge that you have acquired here for the development of the country and for the upliftment of vast mass of downtrodden, underdeveloped & deprived people of our society.

Thank you all.

The 11th March, 2008

Arunabha Basumajumdar
Vice-chancellor

Research Projects and Publications in the Departments/Centres

Sl. No.	Department/Centre	No. of Projects	Grant received	No. of Publications
1.	D.D.E.	1	Rs. 30,000/-	9 (Papers)
2.	Cosmic Ray	2	Nil	Nil
3.	English	Nil	Nil	3 (Books) 28 (Papers)
4.	Bengali	3	Rs. 7,53,800/-	1 (Book) 3 (papers)
5.	Nepali	1	Nil	2 (Books) 2 (Papers)
6.	History	1	Nil	1 (Book) 10 (Papers)
7.	Philosophy	2	Rs. 4,08,000/-	2 (Books) 10 (Papers)
8.	Political Science	3	Rs. 50,000/-	14 (Papers)
9.	Economics	3	Rs. 8,78,000/-	8 (Books) 41 (Papers)
10.	Sociology	5	Rs. 1, 60,000/-	1 (Book) 12 (Papers)
11.	Mathematics	1	US \$ 40,000/-	9 (Papers)
12.	Anthropology	4	Rs. 3,00,000/-	20 (Papers)
13.	Physics	5	Rs. 66,00,000/-	15 (Papers)
14.	Chemistry	16	Rs. 1,64,00,000/-	39 (Papers)
15.	Botany	13	Rs. 2,25,00,000/-	59 (Papers)
16.	Zoology	6	Rs. 1,18,04,980/-	19 (Papers)
17.	Geography	7	Rs. 12,50,000/-	6 (Papers)
18.	Computer Science & Application	Nil	Nil	6 (Papers)
19.	Computer Centre	Nil	Nil	2 (Papers)
20.	MBA	6	Nil	Nil
21.	Law	Nil	Nil	1 (Book) 5 (Papers)
22.	Library & Information Science	Nil	Nil	1 (Paper)
23.	Bio-Technology	9	Rs. 1,70,000/-	3 (Papers)
24.	I.P.S.M.	Nil	Nil	3 (Papers)
25.	Hindi	Nil	Nil	9 (Papers)
26.	USIC	Nil	Nil	7 (Papers)