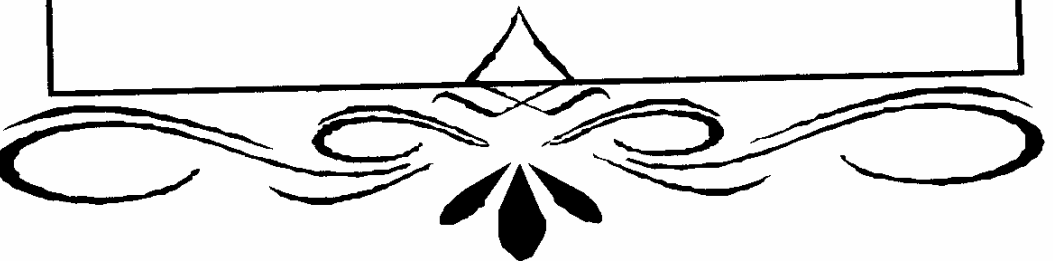


**Address  
by the  
Vice-Chancellor**



**Hon'ble Chancellor Sir, University of North Bengal, Sri M.K. Narayanan, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Hon'ble Chief Guest Professor Samir K. Brahmachari, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research & Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, Hon'ble Professor Manoj Kumar Pal, Hon'ble Professor Andre Beteille, Respected Members of the Court, Respected Members of the Executive Council and other authorities of the University, the recipients of the Degrees, Hon'ble Member of the Faculties, my dear and beloved Research Scholars, Students, Distinguished Guest and Invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

On the occasion of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convocation I have the great pleasure to welcome you all at the University of North Bengal Campus, which is situated at the foot of the Himalayas, which is described as '*an evaluative rod*' ('*manadanda*') of the whole world ('*prithivya iva manadanda*') by our poet Kalidas. That is, the Himalayas with its higher peaks are taken as evaluators of the whole world, because it can remain peacefully if it is graced by the Himalayas. Had there been no grace of the Himalayas the world would have turned into a desert.

I am grateful to our respected Hon'ble Chancellor Sri M.K. Narayanan for kindly consenting to preside over the convocation. Sir, on behalf of the University of North Bengal I welcome you heartily and most cordially.

I am very much grateful to Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari, a distinguished Scientist, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India for being here today amongst us as the Chief Guest.

Prof. Brahmachari has shown exemplary scientific leadership and has pioneered functional genomics research in the country which put India on global genomics map. He currently leads the Indian Genome Variation Project where in various populations in the country have been mapped for genetic risk of diseases and adverse drug reaction.

Prof. Brahmachari is a proponent of Open Innovation and has initiated the Open Source Drug Discovery (OSDD) initiative, which is CSIR led Team India consortium with global partnership.

Dr. Brahmachari was Professor at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He moved to CSIR system to establish the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR – IGIB), which he led for 10 years.

Prof. Brahmachari was first to conceptualize and implement *Genomed*, a first of its kind alliance in India between a Government Institute and a pharmaceutical company and a CSIR lab – Centre for Biochemical Technology (CBT) now IGIB.

Prof. Brahmachari has also conceptualized creation of “*The Centre for Genomic Application*” (TCGA). TCGA is a trendsetter in this direction, where a world class high throughput facility/infrastructure required to harness the knowledge, to provide support services for large scale development of Genomics & Proteomics in the country allowing India to lead and not merely to follow, in the post genomics era.

A distinguished scientist, Prof. Brahmachari is the recipients of a large number of prestigious awards including Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, Jagdish Chandra Bose Medal (INSA). Millennium Medal (Indian Science Congress), Ranbaxy Research award, FICCI Award and several others. He is a Fellow of all the three Science Academies of India and of Indian National Academy of Engineering. Prof. Brahmachari is an elected member of the Council of the international Human Genome Organization (HUGO), Advisory Board member of the international X Prize Foundation and member of Advisory group of Biotechnology & Human Rights to UN Human Rights High Commission, Geneva.

The Week magazine (Independence Day issue) has identified Prof. Brahmachari in 2009 as one of the 25 most valuable Indians.

Prof. Brahmachari has also acquired an impressive portfolio of 67 foreign and national patents (176 pending patents). Prof. Brahmachari has got more than 200 publications in various reputed International Journals.

The University of North Bengal feels extremely honoured in conveying its regard to Professor Manoj Kumar Pal, a renowned physicist, by conferring the degree of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) for his outstanding contribution to the field of Science and Technology. Professor Pal was the Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta, Senior Scientist, CSIR, Research Associate, University of Maryland, USA, Visiting Fellow, Australian National University and Fellow, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore etc. He is an author of about 60 original papers on various branches of Nuclear Physics published in International Journals apart from popular articles in Bengali and a book on Science, Religion and Philosophy.

The University feels proud in availing the opportunity to honour Professor Andre Beteille, a noted Sociologist and writer, by conferring the degree of Doctor of Literature (*Honoris Causa*) for his tremendous contribution to the field of sociological studies. Dr. Beteille, a prolific writer on Social Stratification, Inequality, Social Justice, Race, Caste, and Ethnicity etc. is the recipient of the *Padma Bhushan* as a mark of recognition for his work in the field of Sociology. Apart from this Professor Beteille was Professor Emeritus, National Research Professor, a member of National Knowledge Commission, Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer, Fellow, Institute of Advanced Study, Berlin, Chancellor, NEHU, Chairman, ICSSR etc.

### ***Award of Degrees / Medals / Prizes:***

The Court of the University of North Bengal will confer Master degrees to 1272 (regular) and 2284 (under D.E. Mode) Postgraduate students and Bachelor degree to 30,246 Undergraduate students for passing examinations held during 2008 and 2009 at this august 42<sup>nd</sup> Convocation. PG diplomas will be conferred to 35 students for their success in various professional examinations. The Endowment and University Medals/ Prizes will be awarded to 93 in PG and 92 in UG students as recognition for their academic excellence in the PG and UG examinations held in 2008 and 2009 respectively. The Court has proposed to award Ph.D. degrees in various subjects to 80 successful candidates in this Annual Convocation. I congratulate the recipients of medals/ prizes and all successful candidates in various fields. I sincerely believe that the candidates will prove their worthiness of such degrees through their future disinterested services to the society.

### ***Library***

During the period since last Convocation, 5, 641 new books were added to the collection of the University Library. The University Library has subscribed 183 number of foreign journals, 420 number of Indian journals and has provided access to 5, 720 numbers of e-journals available through on-line through UGC INFONET. University library has completed 95% of bar coding work of essential documents for smooth circulation and faster library services. The University library has introduced latest version of IBM Server for maintaining SOUL database and latest Canon Network Printer for providing speedy printing service. The University library has contributed 1,78,271 data with bibliographical details regarding books, journals, theses in the union catalogue of INFLIBNET. Library has made more provisions to check mails, browse net and download papers for the University students by providing an Information Hub with 24 nodal points. Total number of Data entered in the SOUL Database is 2,00,072. University organized a ***“University Archive Awareness Programme” in September 2009 and also a five-day Training Programme for Library Automation in December 2009*** in collaboration with INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad. University Library is kept open for all the seven days for the benefit of stakeholders.

### ***University Press***

The North Bengal University Press has been successfully engaged in printing journals of various departments besides printing of routine jobs, prospectus of different courses, abstracts of various seminars being conducted here and different reports of the University and the Newsletters. One additional building contiguous to the previous Press building having 3255 sft floor area has been allotted to the University Press recently. Two 18” X 25” Offset Printing Machines have been procured and installed at the University Press during the period under consideration. An additional stitching machine as well as one Perfect Binding Machine also has been procured and installed at the University Press during this period. One A3 size Colour Laserjet Printer / Copier has already been sanctioned by the Purchase Committee and will be installed soon. A weighting Machine of 1000kg capacity is in

operation at the University Press for the use and benefit of all the communities of this University.

### ***Sports Board***

The Sports Board, University of North Bengal organized successfully the ‘‘Ajoy Ghosh Memorial Trophy Tournament’’ (run by Cricket Association of Bengal) for the year 2009 at NBU Campus and Kanchanjungha Krirangan during November 2009 after a long interval. The Sports Board, NBU organized the second year High Altitude Trekking Programme to Sandakphoo and Phalute in association with Himalayan Nature and Adventure Foundation, Siliguri in November 2009. The East Zone Inter University Badminton Tournament was organized by Manipur University in December, 2009. The four Member University Badminton (Men) team lost in the pre-quarter final match against Mizoram University. The East Zone Inter University Table Tennis Tournament held at Dibrugarh University in September, 2009. The University of North Bengal Team became ***the Champion*** in the East Zone Inter University Table Tennis Tournament 2009-10 in Women Section defeating the Calcutta University. The Sports Board, NBU, has organized Coaching Camps in all the disciplines where the University Teams have taken part in the Inter University Tournaments.

### ***Profile of Growth***

I have the privilege to present you the profile of development of our University during the year 2009-2010 and outline the vision for a target of achieving highest excellence.

After assuming the office of the Vice-Chancellor in January, 2008, I put my attention to augment the growth on various sectors on priority basis maintaining interest of all the stakeholders. The resource generation from the non-conventional sources has recorded a considerable growth. Not only had the external growth, the University had taken initiatives in qualitative growth also by way of achieving excellence. Many new departments in emerging areas of knowledge like Mass Communication, Centre for Bio-Informatics etc. had been established. The Departments are well-equipped with research programmes from various agencies and received academic distinction and recognition. Such trend of development has been continued in 2009-2010. I believe in the principle-‘*Uttisthata Jagrata Prapya barannibodhata*’ (‘Arise, Awake and Fight till the goal is achieved’)

- ***Academic Achievements:*** Besides evolving innovating programme of study and courses, major strength of the University lies in its faculty – teaching, guiding and conducting research beyond the conventional bounds of the narrow areas of specialization. Academic activities like research projects, publication of books and papers, and organization of seminars/workshops have received an impetus leading to the development of the intellectual health of the University during the year 2009-10.
- Academic departments organized 54 seminars/workshops/ in 2009-10. The Department of History has organized the Annual Conference on ‘*Bangiya Itihas*

*Parisad'* this year in the University of North Bengal where more than 300 scholars took part.

- The teachers of different Departments are carrying out more than 64 research projects with the financial assistance from the UGC, ICCSR, ICMR, DST, DBT, Food Processing and Horticulture (Govt. of West Bengal), CSIR etc. Our faculty members have published 50 books and 325 research papers in various National and International Journals.
- To mention a few **Awards** received by our Teachers and Research Scholars –
  - i. Sri Somenath Bhattacharjee's paper was adjudged as the **Best Paper** for Young Scientist Research Paper Award in Pondicherry University. Sri Akhileswar Prasad and Malay Das's paper was adjudged as the **Best Paper** in Physics in the 16<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Liquid Crystals at Lucknow University.
  - ii. Professor Usha Chakraborty and Professor B.N.Chakraborty have received the **Best Paper Award** in the Fifth International Conference organized by TERI, New Delhi.
  - iii. Professor A.P.Das has received **T.R.Sahu Award** of Indian Association of Angio-sperm Taxonomy.
  - iv. Prof. B. Basu, Department of Chemistry received Bronze Medal awarded by Chemical Research Society of India, Bangalore.
- A MOU between the University of North Bengal (UNB) and the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune was signed on April, 6, 2010 to carry out research on Observational Astronomy and Astrophysics.
- **Visiting Faculty from Foreign Universities:** The following Professors of International repute have visited different departments and delivered lectures:
  1. Professor J.N. Capdevielle, University of Paris, France.
  2. Professor Andreas Haungs, Germany.
  3. Dr. Paolo Camarri, Italy.
  4. Mr. Gerrit van dar Cooi, Netherlands.
  5. Mr. Wim Kea, Netherlands.
  6. Mr. Woughter Creijghton, Netherlands.
  7. Mr. Johannas Eijgenraam, Netherland.
  8. Mr. Prem Poddar, Cambridge, UK.
  9. Professor Narahari Rao, Germany.
- **Our Faculty Visiting Foreign Universities:** A considerable number of teachers have visited abroad in connection with various academic programmes viz, Professor Asis Sengupta visited Sweden as a SASNET guest Professor, Professor Raghunath Ghosh visited Hukkaido University, Japan, Professor P.K.Mandal visited Poland and Germany, Professor S.R. Mondal visited China in connection with IUAES, Dr. A.

Sen visited International Conference at Singapore, Professor Swapan Ghoshal visited Bangladesh, Professor B.N.Chakraborty, Professor Usha Chakraborty and Dr. B.C. Paul visited Italy and Professor T.K.Chaudhury visited Singapore.

- **Contribution of UGC:** The University of North Bengal has been allocated Rs. 10 crores for XI Plan General Development by the University Grants Commission.
  - i. **23 new posts** for different faculties have been sanctioned by UGC - Out of which 5 are posts of Reader and the rest 18 are posts of Lecturer.
  - ii. **5 New Departments** namely, Department of Food Technology, Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Department of Mass Communication, Department of Management and Department of Microbiology are the new Departments in the University of North Bengal in the year 2009 – 2010.
  - iii. One more Department i.e., *Department of Geography and Applied Geography has received financial assistance under UGC Special Assistance Programme (SAP)* in addition to existing seven SAP-funded Departments.
  - iv. One more Department, namely, Department of Geography and Applied Geography has received financial assistance under UGC Special Assistance Programme (SAP) in addition to seven SAP funded Departments. In addition to the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Botany, UGC has approved two more Departments in Humanities, namely, Philosophy and Economics to be upgraded from DRS – I to DRS – II under SAP.
  - v. **80 students** from the Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe sections have received Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship to pursue PhD and M.Phil studies.
  - vi. **50 students** have passed NET Examination this year, which is the first time in the history of University of North Bengal.
  - vii. **Establishment of UGC approved Academic Staff College** (4<sup>th</sup> in West Bengal) for conducting Refresher Courses, Orientation Courses etc. This year Refresher Course (2), Orientation Programme (1) and Principals' workshop (1) have been organized in December 2009.
- **Setting up of Jalpaiguri Campus of North Bengal University at Jalpaiguri:** A new chapter in the history of the University of North Bengal is the setting up of Jalpaiguri campus. The mission is to provide a full fledged independent and self-sufficient infrastructure with eminent faculty, for bright and meritorious students, researchers and professionals particularly for the people in Coochbehar and Jalpaiguri Districts. The Jalpaiguri Campus of the University of North Bengal would be able to develop an excellent academic environment for developing itself to a Premier Higher Education Centre for Human Resource Development. The following Departments have been proposed in the Detailed Project Report (DPR):
  - a) **Faculty of Arts, Commerce & Law:** Four (04) Departments will offer courses on MA in Hindi/ MA in Education/ M.Ed and MA in Social Welfare.

- b) **Faculty of Science:** Five (05) Departments will offer courses on M.Sc. in Food & Nutrition, M.Sc. in Geography, M.Sc. in Physiology, M.Sc. in Environmental Science and M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics.
- c) **Faculty of Technology** (newly started): Three (03) Departments will offer courses on M.Tech in Pharmaceutical Technology, M.Tech in Food and Food Processing Technology, M.Tech in Disaster Management.
- d) **Other parts** include Administrative Building, Library, Hostels, Quarters, Roads and related utility services.

In this connection land measuring 36.138 acres has been taken possession of by University of North Bengal from Government of West Bengal. A detailed Project Report (DPR) has been submitted to the Government of West Bengal and to the University Grants Commission for sanction of funds.

- **Introduction of semester system:** Like IITs and many leading Universities of the country the semester system, as a modern methodology of studies and assessment, has been introduced for the post-graduate programmes of this University from the session 2008-09. A sincere effort is being made to explore the introduction of the semester system in PG under Distance Education mode and regular under-graduate courses with credits, grades etc.
- **Other Achievements:** We may recall here some of the achievements during 2009-10:
  - **Upgradation of 'University Campus Local Area Network (LAN) -VSAT connectivity'** through Fiber Optics (FO) cable network with the speed from 512 kbps to 10.0 mbps via leased line.
  - **University Archive** has been set up in the Central Library.
  - **University Computer Centre** has been upgraded with funding of Rs.40 lakhs from the UGC.
  - All types of articles in **Akshaya Kumar Moitreyra Heritage Museum** (inaugurated by the Chief Minister in 2006) have been insured and protected from theft, burglaries and damages for about Rs. 2.0 crore.
  - The Inspector of Colleges oversees the maintenance of discipline in the University. The University has taken measures in terms of UGC Regulation on curbing the menace of ragging in Higher Educational Institutions. **There was no incident of ragging in the University in the current academic session.**
  - **Centre of Floriculture and Agri-Business Management (COFAM)** has been providing technical consultancy to one of India's largest Cymbidium venture in Mirik.
  - **Centre for Remote Sensing Applications** has undertaken projects on master plan of Dalkhola Municipality and predicting Flood Inundation using RS & GIS techniques financed by ISRO.
  - Teachers' canteen along with relocation of utility services like Consumers' Cooperative Stores, Xerox Centre and Telephone Booth.
  - Construction of New Building / Extension works have been undertaken/ completed:



- a) New Guest House for the participants for the courses conducted by Academic Staff College.
  - b) New Buildings for Central Major Equipment Facilities (CMEF) for the Science and Technology Faculty to house major and sophisticated scientific instruments to cater to all the Departments.
  - c) New Hostel for Women Research Scholars.
  - d) Two-storied Annexe of Administrative Building (completed).
  - e) Extension of University Guest House.
  - f) Completed (G+4) storied new University Building at Salt Lake, Kolkata.
- Installed new 250 KVA Transformer and 250 KVA Generator for Science Faculty/western sector.

### ***Social Responsibility:***

We are not running behind in associating ourselves to cater to the social needs. The Department of Mathematics and Economics have organized ***voluntary blood donation camp***, the Centre for Women's Studies has organized one ***Refresher Course***, one ***certificate course on Mother and Child health***, one ***Hands on training for the differently abled and one training programme on gender sensitization***, the Weather Service Station managed by the Geography Department has been providing the ***information on weather***, the Department of Life-long Learning and Extension has arranged the certificate courses on ***Soft Skill and Personality Development, Office management, Public Health Care, Mushroom Cultivation, Income Generation Programme, Rural Development, Adolescent Girls' Education*** etc.

### **Major Activities / Programmes to be undertaken during 2010-11 in the University of North Bengal.**

1. ***Opening a new 'Centre for Studies in Climate Change.***
2. ***Providing new major sophisticated equipment to 'Centre for Major Equipment Facility' to cater to the needs of faculty and scholars of various Departments of Science and Technology.***
3. ***Introduction of Campus LAN through leased line up to 12 mbps and providing connectivity to all the Hostels with access of Computer facilities for the post-graduate students and research scholars.***
4. ***Offering financial assistance to new faculty (P.G. teachers) for research activities.***
5. ***Filling up vacant posts of Teachers/ Officers/Non-teaching Staff as per Reservation Roster.***

6. **Renovation of Quarters** for the campus dwellers (Teachers/Officers and Non-teaching staff) - a comprehensive proposal has been made for the first time since inception (since 1962) at a total estimate of Rs. 80 lakhs.
7. **Development of low-lying land and channelizing the Magurmari rivulet.**
8. **Renovation of one Godown** (previously rented to Public Health Engineering Department) for the storage and preservation of answer scripts and other examination related items at a cost of Rs.60 lakhs.
9. **Development of:** a) **Cricket ground** in collaboration with Cricket Association of Bengal, b) **Children Park.**
10. **Construction of first floor of the following existing building:**  
a) Central Library (Two floors).  
b) Department of Hindi.  
c) Institute of Plantation Science and Management.  
d) Department of Mass Communication.  
e) Department of Microbiology.
11. **Construction of New Building for:**  
a) Department of Management.  
b) NBU Faculty Club.  
c) NBU Students' Association.
12. **Procurement and Installation of Transformer (500 KVA).**
13. **A Stadium with capacity of 6000 seats is proposed to be built in the NBU Campus along with two youth Hostels – one for boys and another for girls.**
14. **A Swimming Pool at the back side of existing KIIELAGHAR.**

### **Our Vision**

The University of North Bengal, which is situated far away from the metropolitan city has got limitations. In spite of this the University is determined to provide quality education to the people of this region with a warm human feeling so that the principles like social inclusion, social well being etc can be extended to the downtrodden and other communities. 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 shall interact more with other public and private intellectual community; distribute our specialized knowledge to the cultivators, florists, agriculturists and other economically backward community with the help of our Departments/Centres like Department of Life Long Learning & Extension (DLLE), Centre of Floriculture and Agri-Business Management (COFAM), Institute of Plantation and

Science Management (IPSM) etc. 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, Gandhi 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 Humanities, Science and Technology.

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 workforce, critical thinking abilities and capability of giving responsible and creative leadership.

On behalf of the Court of the University of North Bengal, I express my deep gratitude and grateful thanks to our Honourable Chancellor, Sri M.K. Narayanan for his kind presence and active guidance. We seek his active support for all spheres of activities in the University. I convey my heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to Professor Samir K. Brahmachari for his kind presence in the 42<sup>nd</sup> convocation. We have been enlightened to listen to his illuminating address as Chief Guest. Our relationship will be ever-growing based on mutual understanding and fraternity. On behalf of the Court of the University of North Bengal I propose vote of thanks to all present at the 42<sup>nd</sup> convocation and also seek their cooperation in future.

### **TO THE GRADUATES, POST-GRADUATES AND DOCTORATES**

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 done for one's 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 and deprived people of our society.

If you are given option, try to avail what is 'good' (*'shreya'*), but not the 'pleasant' one (*'preya'*) as endorsed in our tradition-"*Shreyo hi dhiro'bhi preyaso brinite*" (i.e., the wise and balance man prefers the 'good' from amongst the 'pleasants').

Thank you all.

Dated: Raja Rammohunpur  
The 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

Professor Arunabha Basumajumdar  
Vice-Chancellor