

**First Convocation held on October 31, 1965**

**Message from Smt. Padmaja Naidu\***

I send this message to convey to the staff and students of the University of North Bengal my deep regret that owing to my inability to leave Calcutta, I have to forgo my prerogative of presiding over its first Convocation being held at Raja Rammohunpur on 31st October, 1965.

By a strange coincidence it was on this very date, three years ago, that I received just before midnight, an urgent appeal to grant the use of the entire University campus to the Army Corps that was being stationed there to protect the Sikkim border against Chinese aggression. Though the University was due to hold its first classes the very next day, we handed over the campus willingly to the Army for a whole year and were proud to be associated, even in this indirect fashion, with the defence of India.

Because of the difficulties it had to overcome in the early years of its existence, this historic day is a matter of deep rejoicing to all of us who are associated in any way with this University which was conceived by Dr. Roy as part of his comprehensive, coordinated scheme for the political, social, economic and educational development of our Northern districts which, following the partition, had unfortunately, over a decade, been isolated from the rest of West Bengal. With the prophetic vision that made him truly the creator of modern Bengal, Dr. Roy had realised that all these plans of development would fail to serve any useful and enduring purpose unless adequate academic facilities for higher education and research were provided to fulfil the growing needs of the people of the hill areas and plains of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, West Dinajpur and Malda.

**\* Chancellor of the University of North Bengal**

It is my hope that this University, situated in the foothills of the ancient Himalayas, will evolve into a centre of national integration for all the peoples of different ethnic origins who live in these districts—the people of the hills and the plains including the tribal people. May this University as it grows and prospers produce not merely scholars equipped with academic qualifications but young men and women poignantly conscious of and eager to fulfil their social responsibilities so that they may become valuable citizens of this great country to which we all have the ineffable honour of belonging.

I send my greetings to all the new Graduates and wish them success in the future.

31.10.65

MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
CHANCELLOR  
(Shrimati Padmaja Naidu)  
on the occasion of the  
FIRST CONVOCATION

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CONVOCATION ADDRESS OF  
Shrimati Indira Gandhi,  
Prime Minister of India.

Madam Chancellor, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, members of the Teaching Staff, and New Graduates, ladies and Gentlemen,