

# FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION

June 2, 2017

Address by

**PROFESSOR SOMNATH GHOSH**

Vice-Chancellor



ENLIGHTENMENT TO PERFECTION

Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL**

Rajarammohunpur, P.O. NBU, Dist. Darjeeling  
West Bengal, Pin 734013

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**Prof (Dr.) Somnath Ghosh**  
**Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor**  
University of North Bengal

Respected Guest-in-Chief of today's convocation Dr. Sekhar Basu, Guests of Honour, Hon'ble Ministers Dr. Partha Chatterjee and Sri Goutam Deb, awardees of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*), Dr. Sekhar Basu, Professor Amitava Raychaudhuri and Doctor of Literature (*Honoris Causa*), Sri Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay and Sri Pradip Kumar Banerjee, Court members, Members of the Executive Council, Deans of the Postgraduate Studies, Heads of the Departments, Members of the Faculty, distinguished invitees and guests, recipients of various degrees and diplomas, students, ladies and gentlemen.

I find it a pleasure to welcome you all in the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation of University of North Bengal. I express my deep gratitude to His Excellency, the Governor of West Bengal and Hon'ble Chancellor of University of North Bengal Shri Keshari



Nath Tripathiji for kindly authorizing me to preside over the today's Convocation in his absence under unavoidable circumstances.

My heartfelt thanks are accorded to Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Primary Education & Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal and his presence as Guest of Honour in this solemn ceremony will encourage all of us for further progress of the University. I welcome you Sir; it would be a privilege to hear you.

It is a great pleasure on our part to have Sri Goutam Deb, Tourism Minister, Government of West Bengal with us here on this important event of the University as Guest of Honour. I welcome you and we will be pleased to listen hear you.

I am indeed extremely grateful to Dr. Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission who is with us today as our Guest-in-Chief and also a recipient of the prestigious D.Sc. (*Honoris Causa*) of this University. Dr. Basu needs little introduction as he is an eminent Nuclear Reactor Engineer and has held many important positions in the nuclear energy field in India. He was the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Project Director of the Nuclear Submarine Programme, Chief Executive of Nuclear Recycle Board, the Board Member of Nuclear Power Corporation of India, the Chairman of Project Management Board, Neutrino Observatory, Director of Bharitya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam, Chairperson of the international committee of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor Programme and represented India in several administrative matters with US Government for re-processing of hypothecated fuel.

He has been honoured by way of fellowships and awards by many academic institutions such as the Indian National Academy of Engineering, Indian Society for Non-Destructive Testing, Indian



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Nuclear Society, DAE *etc.* The Govt. of India honoured him in 2014 with the Padma Shri for his contributions to the field of Science and Technology.

I am extremely pleased to enlighten you that University of North Bengal will confer the Degree of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) on renowned academician of international repute Prof. Amitabha Roy Chaudhuri, former Sir Tarak Nath Palit Professor of Physics, University of Calcutta.

Professor Roy Chaudhuri being a Theoretical Particle Physicist has worked in diversified domain of particle physics encompassing quantum chromo-dynamics, grand unified theories, classical solutions of left-right symmetric models, FCNC, Super symmetry, neutrino of physics including immense contributions in quantum mechanics. He is a recipient of the INSA Young Scientist Award, the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology in 1997 and the J.C. Bose Fellowship *etc.* He is the Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad and the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore to mention just a few of his achievements and awards.

I am extremely proud to announce celebrated Bengali writer Sri Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay will be conferred the Degree of Doctor of Literature (*Honoris Causa*). He received the Sahitya Akademy Award in 1989 for his novel "*Maanab Jamin*" in 1975; his contribution to children's literature was recognized by the West Bengal Government with the 'Vidyasagar Purashkar'. He is a three time winner of the 'Ananda Purashkar' and a recipient of the 'Bhualka Purashkar' in 1988. Many of his works have been adapted to silver screen by Bengali Film Directors like Tapan Sinha, Rituparna Ghosh, Haranath Chakraborty, Abhijit Choudhury and others. '*Patal Ghor*', short story '*Dosar*', '*Kagojer Bou*', '*Aschorjyo Prodeep*', '*Chayaamoy*', were among those works



which were made to films.

The University will confer the Degree of Doctor of Literature (*Honoris Causa*) to the distinguished football player and football coach Sri Pradip Kumar Banerjee. Sri Banerjee represented India as a remarkable football player in many international games and had also played in renowned football clubs of India. He made 84 appearances for India, scoring 65 goals during his career. He was one of the first recipients of Arjuna Award instituted in 1961. He was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri in 1990 and was named Indian Footballer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by FIFA.

In the midst of the august congregation of 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation ceremony, we have assembled to recognize and celebrate the achievements of the students and felicitate them and to review and reflect on the achievements and failures of the past year. We shall also focus on the strategic directions to address the challenges that lie ahead.

At the very outset I would like to mention that the University has been assessed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) which addresses issues of quality of higher education in India in the month of December, 2016. It is indeed a remarkable achievement that it has been accredited with grade "A" by NAAC that itself speaks for the growth of this University in the education scenario of our country and it has been made possible by the whole-hearted cooperation and involvement of all the teachers, officers, staff, students and researchers for which I personally specially thank them once again.

I am also pleased to announce that the new campus of the University of North Bengal at Jalpaiguri has been constructed solely with the funding (Rs. 23 crore out of an administrative approval of Rs. 42 crore) by the Government of West Bengal. It has recently



been inaugurated by our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Smt. Mamata Banerjee. The classes are being held in the newly constructed buildings since this year. I convey my sincere regards to our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Smt. Mamata Banerjee and also to our Minister-in-Charge of Higher Education, Dr. Partha Chatterjee for their unstinted support, generous funding and encouragement for setting up this new campus of University of North Bengal at Jalpaiguri.

It has been the policy of the present State Government under the leadership of our Chief Minister, Smt. Mamata Banerjee to set up colleges in different regions of North Bengal viz., Banarhat Kartik Oraon Hindi Degree College, Jalpaiguri, Govt. College of Pedong, Kalimpong, Govt. College of Gorubathan, Kalimpong, all of which have been affiliated to the University of North Bengal. In addition Pragati College of Education, Siliguri, NBS College of Education, Jalpaiguri and two other new B.Ed Colleges have initially come up under North Bengal University but presently they are affiliated to West Bengal University Teachers' Training Education, Planning and Administration.

Before we mention the highlights of the year under review let me tell you that in this convocation, the Court of the University of North Bengal will confer degrees upon **Thirty One Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty Two (31,262) students**, the details of which are delineated below:

- 1063 post-graduate students for the year 2016 and 46 post-graduate students for the year 2015.
- 1353 post-graduate students for the year 2015 from the Distance Education Mode.
- 28543 under-graduate students for the year 2016.
- 13 B.Ed. students for the year 2016.



- 16 B.P.Ed. students for the year 2016.
- 05 BSS students for the year 2016.
- 61 B.A. L.L.B. Honours students for the year 2016 and 74 B.A. L.L.B. General students for the year 2016.
- 19 L.L.B (Three years) students for the year 2016.
- 17 post-graduate Diploma students for the year 2016.
- 52 M.Phil. students for the year 2015.

Out of a total of one-hundred sixty-one (161) medals to be awarded in this convocation, seventy-six (76) endowment and university medals/prizes will be awarded to fifty-nine (59) students for under-graduate examinations and eighty-five (85) endowment and university medals/prizes will be awarded to sixty-four (64) students for post-graduate examinations. Ninety-nine (99) researchers will be awarded with degree Doctor of Philosophy. I congratulate the recipients of medals/prizes, Ph.D. degrees and all other successful candidates from various fields.

I am also delighted to mention that the University has fruitfully utilized the funds obtained from Rastriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), University Grants Commission (UGC) and Government of West Bengal to upgrade its infrastructure and has extended research facilities. Let me highlight you about some of the academic and infrastructural developmental growth of the University that have implemented during last one year.

#### **Academic, Administrative and Governance Reforms in the year under review:**

- Comprehensive syllabus revision of all Post-Graduate subjects.



- Introduction of CBCS for all Post-Graduate Courses from the Academic Year 2017-2018.
- CBCS to be implemented for UG Courses from next Academic Year 2018-2019 for which preparations are going on.
- High Performance Computer system (Power 8) installed for advanced research in 2016.
- Liquid Nitrogen plant installed as research support in 2016.
- Scanning Electron Microscope purchased in 2016 to aid research is in the process of installation.
- Students' feedback system has been initiated and implemented in 2016.
- Entire Examination system is computerized for the examinees (more than 1.5 lakh) of B.A., B.Sc. and B.Com. The process has been outsourced to a major software company. Result is also available online.
- Online admission process is being executed for Postgraduate Courses, B.Ed., LL.B., Directorate of Distance Education and also for affiliated colleges as per Government Order since 2015.

### **Infrastructure Augmentation details:**

1. Thorough renovation of Post Graduate Boys and Girls hostel, Research Scholar (Men & Women) Hostel (total number: 10) including installation of commercial chimneys have been completed. Total amount Rs. 4,02,52,695/-, funding agency: Govt of West Bengal and RUSA.
2. Horizontal extension of second floor Political Science Building construction has been completed. Total amount



- Rs. 51,54,466/-, funding agency: UGC XII plan general development grant and Govt of West Bengal.
3. Vertical extension of second floor Law department building completed. Total amount Rs. 1,14,87,091/-, funding agency: UGC XII plan General Development Grant.
  4. Improvement of road by Mastic Asphalt (1<sup>st</sup> Phase) total amount Rs. 1,87,50,095/-, funding agency: Govt of West Bengal. and University fund. - work is completed.
  5. Improvement of remaining campus roads by Mastic Asphalt (2<sup>nd</sup> Phase) including paver block pathways at Campus amounting to Rs. 6,66,49,073/- funding, agency: Govt of West Bengal.
  6. Fixing of LED street lights in NBU campus involving Rs. 52,31,992/-, funding agency: RUSA - work is completed.
  7. 125 KVA Generator installed in the Kolkata building at Salt Lake, sector 1, funding agency: Govt of West Bengal.
  8. Augmentation of Power Supply at SALBAGAN, NBU (250 KVA Transformer + 250 KVA Generator including construction of building for the same completed. Power supply has been enhanced in the campus which was urgently required for the installation of sophisticated equipments like the Cluster Computer, Nitrogen Plant - Estimated Cost: Rs.1,32,24,287/- Funding Agency: West Bengal State Govt.
  9. All Academic departments have been up-graded by formation of one sophisticated Smart class room for each department (total number: 40). Funding agency: RUSA - Amount Rs. 18,683,890/-.
  10. Renovation and up gradation of existing laboratories amount Rs. 20,99,3821/- funding agency : RUSA.



11. Installation of High Performance Cluster Computer system (Power 8) funding agency: RUSA - Amount Rs. 3,99,55,530/-.
12. Purchase of Books/Journals amount Rs. 19,999,875/- funding agency: RUSA.
13. Installations of Napkin Vending Machines and Napkin Incinerators have been made in all the girls' hostels of the University – funding Agency: University Fund.
14. Wi-Fi facility is being given to the students residing in the hostels.
15. Purchased Jeol Scanning Electron Microscope with EDS and Auto Fine Coater. Funding agency – RUSA - Rs. 69,85,980/-.
16. Water Purification Plant is in the process to be installed in the University on a turnkey basis by Department of Public Health Engineering, Govt of West Bengal. Money Deposited Rs. 94,65,044/- Funding Agency : UGC.

#### **E-governance initiatives:**

1. University Website has been improved and redesigned in 2016.
2. DPR prepared for – LAN higher bandwidth, all campus wi-fi and CCTV with surveillance cameras and the work order has been issued to WEBEL for the first phase.
3. Renewal of Microsoft Licence for greater number of units.
4. E-mail communications from Vice-Chancellor's office to all stakeholders.



### **Innovative Step taken:**

1. Steps taken to make the campus more green.
2. Sal Bagan is now exclusively protected from any thoroughfare which adds to the greenery of the environment.
3. The forest has now become the natural habitat of many birds and as many as 106 numbers of species have been identified.
4. Outreach Programmes including adaptation of technological packages done according to region and climate, are done through Centre of Floriculture and Agri-Business Management – to help local craftsman and farmers.
5. Innovative Research Projects have been undertaken by Faculty members.

All the vacant teaching posts have been advertised and recruitment of Assistant Professors to some of the Departments, namely, Microbiology, Tea Science, Sanskrit, Commerce and Management have been done. Appointment processes of teachers for other Departments are also in process.

The University has prepared Central Roster for appointment of teachers from Departmental Roster and approved by the Backward Class Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal. Similarly, Promotional Roster for backlog of reserved category for non-teaching staff has been sorted out.

### **Foreign Collaboration / Participation / Visits Received:**

- 20 Departments held seminars in FY 2015-16 and 22



Departments held seminars/workshops in FY – 2016-17 with National and International Scholars and 20 Departments had Visiting Fellow National and International in FY – 2015-16 & 2016-17.

- 12 Teachers visited Foreign Countries from UGC funds and 50 Teachers participated in National Conferences from UGC fund.
- UGC Human Resource Development Centre organized 3 Orientation Programmes, 6 Refreshers Courses and 3 Short term Courses during the last year.

During the period under review, the teachers of Science Faculty have altogether supervised 175 research students, alongwith active involvement with 37 research projects and have organized 20 seminars and conferences. Two-hundred and ninety-four (294) research articles in journals of national and international repute have been published and an amount of Rs. 7.68 crore has been obtained from various funding agencies as research funding.

Similarly, the teachers of Faculty of Arts, Commerce and Law have altogether supervised 122 research students, have undertaken 13 research projects, have organized 20 seminars and conferences. They have published 73 research articles in journals of national and international repute and different funding agencies have allocated Rs. 31 lakh for research purpose.

In Annexure – I, II and III, the tables reveal some of the activities of the Academic Departments and Centres in the year under presentation.

The University acknowledges with gratitude the assistance and support granted by the Government of West Bengal, UGC, DST, ICSR, ICAR *etc.* for the smooth progress of the University



and also hopes for the same in future.

This report would be incomplete if I do not mention the Grantha Bhawan, our University Library that speaks volumes regarding the academic pursuits of our university. During the period since the last convocation the Library has up-graded itself considerably.

A large number of our faculty members have been very dynamic nationally and internationally in a wide range of academic activities. Many chaired sessions and presented papers in conferences, participated in workshops and meetings held across the globe, quite a few of them presented invited and keynote addresses in some of the leading academic institutions of the world. Many faculty members have received prestigious honour, awards in recognition of their contributions to research from various national and international organizations/bodies like National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Chemical Research Society of India and Indian Academy of Sciences *etc.*

The UGC Human Resource Development Department regularly conducts Refresher and Oriented Courses for College and University teachers. The University provides study leave and travel grants to the teachers and journal publication grants to all Departments and Centres from UGC grants.

Similarly, the University Press has been successfully engaged in printing journals, books, monographs of various departments besides printing prospectus of different courses, abstracts of various seminars, different reports and newsletters, study materials for the Directorate of Distance Education *etc.* and the University Press is well equipped with modern machineries for the printing of scholarly works with finesse.

The University has excelled in the field of sports. The



University Sports Board organized and won prizes in the following programmes: Cycle Safari Programme, Adventure Trek Programme, Badminton Tournaments, Cricket, Football, Kho-Kho, Kabaddi *etc.* and Inter University Tournaments where a student (Smt. Anwesa Roy Pradhan of A.C. College) received a silver medal in the 77<sup>th</sup> All India Athletics Meet – 2016-2017 in 200 mtrs. Sprint (Women invent).

**The following University Grants Commission Schemes are being implemented for the overall growth of the University:**

a) Day Care Centre, b) Basic Facilities for Women, c) Facilities for differently-abled persons, d) Remedial coaching for SC/ST and Minorities, e) Coaching classes for Entry into Services for SC/ST and minorities, f) Coaching Classes for NET in respect of SC/ST and Minorities, g) Adventure Sports, h) Encouraging Travel within and outside the Country for teaching staff & officers and research scholars, i) Faculty improvement programmes, j) Industry-University Linkage, k) Innovative research activities etc to mention a few of the schemes.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) under the University of North Bengal coordinated different NSS units in Colleges and the University in the year 2016-2017. The University itself has five (5) units and there are more than one hundred (100) units in the affiliated colleges. The units undertake different programmes for spreading awareness against AIDS, Water Conservation, Immunization programmes, Blood donation campus *etc.* In 2016 a Digital India workshop funded by the Ministry of Science and Information Technology, Government of India was organized in the University to train NSS volunteers regarding Digitalization. The flower plants and trees were marked with their botanical names alongwith their regional/popular names in the University Campus



by our NSS students under the supervision of the Coordinator of NSS. NSS students from our affiliated colleges have participated in the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi.

One of the major problems the University is facing lies in the fulfilling the vacancies to the posts of officers and non-teaching staff for several reasons ranging from administrative to legal complicacies. The administration is actively considering all these aspects and necessary steps have been taken for early settlement of these matters.

The University elicits the co-operation of all its stakeholders to ensure the overall development of its students. All stakeholders of the university participate in activities and forums which ensure a family feeling and foster a vibrant cord among all stakeholders. In general almost all the teachers perform additional administrative jobs and the officers also take care of additional responsibilities.

In addition, it is heartening to learn that besides their academic endeavour the students have also participated in different state and national level competitions and have earned laurels and medals from such events. In the modern scenario higher education in India has challenged not only to provide knowledge but also to equip students for global competition. The University has to play a very positive role for creating social linkage, training graduates with necessary skills and core values besides disseminating fundamental knowledge along with excellence for growth of the country. It is my pleasure to observe that the University of North Bengal has already stepped into this arena and will contribute further in the coming days for achieving these objectives.

It is a historical truth that University play dynamic and decisive roles by dissemination of knowledge and information in any society. It also stand for humanism, tolerance, reason, the advancement of ideas and the search for truth. In this respect, the



University of North Bengal is propelling towards the frontiers of learning, finding out ways for tapping the resources and shaping the region's potential for the benefits of the underprivileged people of the region.

I would like to mention that for a University the convocation ceremony is one of the most important events in the calendar of activities. A year in the life of an academic institution is measured by the collective academic accomplishments of the teachers, administrative community of officers, staff and performance of the students that symbolizes the growth of the entire University. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal, to Sri Goutam Deb, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Tourism, Government of West Bengal, all the members of the Court and Executive Council, teachers, officers, staff, research scholars, students in devoting themselves untiringly for the future radiance of the University of North Bengal. My sincere thanks are extended to the print and electronic media for their constant cooperation and also to the local administration for their keen support.

On behalf of the Court of the University of North Bengal and as Vice-Chancellor of the University of North Bengal, I express my deep gratitude and sincere regards to all our dignitaries for accepting our invitation and attending in person the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation of North Bengal in spite of their extremely busy schedule and preoccupations.

My thanks are also accorded to all the members of Court and Executive Council, Departmental Heads, Directors of various Centres, all the Faculties, Officers, support staff, Research Scholars and Students for actively participating in the Convocation.



I extend my blessing and best wishes to all the recipients of the degrees and medal winners. I appreciate and congratulate all of them with a special word of appreciation for their achievements.

I also respectfully acknowledge the teachers, officers and staff of the University for their contribution to this University's growth and believe that they will extend their hands for further progress of this University. I advise the privileged graduates to devote themselves for creating a society free from darkness of ignorance, to illuminate the world with your knowledge and to meaningfully contribute to mankind and society at the time of need so as to achieve "Perfection" in truest sense.

Thank you all.

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017

Raja Rammohunpur

The table reveals some of the activities of the Departments in the year under review:

Sl. No.	Department	Research Fellow	Project undertaken	Seminar/Conference Organized	Research Publication	Grants received	Award received
1.	Anthropology	19	02	01	19	Rs. 3,30,500/-	-
2.	Biotechnology	14	01	-	15	-	01
3.	Botany	36	06	-	46	Rs. 96,64,200/-	-
4.	Chemistry	41	14	07	76	Rs. 612.35 Lakhs	04
5.	Computer Science & Application	02	03	01	15	Rs. 10,00,000/-	02
6.	Geography	05	01	01	18	Rs. 6,84,000/-	-
7.	Mathematics	-	01	02	13	Rs. 10,70,000/-	-
8.	Microbiology	04	01	-	06	-	02
9.	Physics	24	06	04	45	Rs. 26,61,700/-	-
10.	Tea Science	-	-	01	03	-	-
11.	Zoology	30	02	02	37	Rs. 1,65,000/-	Nil
12.	Library & Info. Sc.	-	-	01	01	-	-



The table reveals some of the activities of the Departments in the year under review:

Sl. No.	Department	Research Fellow	Project undertaken	Seminar/Conference Organized	Research Publication	Grants received	Award received
1.	Bengali	43	-	01	14	-	-
2.	Economics	8	7	2	3	Rs. 1,95,000/-	-
3.	English	01	-	01	05	-	-
4.	Hindi	04	-	01	08	-	-
5.	Law	-	01	01	05	Rs. 60,000/-	-
6.	Management	-	-	02	-	-	01
7.	Mass Comm.	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Nepali	08	02	01	04	-	-
9.	Philosophy	37	01	04	17	Rs. 17,75,000/-	01
10.	Political Science	11	01	03	03	Rs. 5,76,800/-	01
11.	Sanskrit	-	-	01	01	-	-

The table reveals some of the activities of the Centres in the year under review:

Sl. No.	Centre	Research Fellow	Project undertaken	Seminar/Conference Organized	Research Publication	Grants received	Award received
1.	Centre for Women's Studies	-	-	01	-	-	-
2.	High Energy & Cosmic Ray Research Centre	06	0	01	06	-	-
3.	Centre for Himalayan Studies	04	01	01	06	Rs. 5,00,000/-	-
4.	Computer Centre	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	USIC	-	-	-	01	-	-

