



**Forty Eighth
Annual
Convocation
Addresses**

ADDRESS
BY THE
VICE-CHANCELLOR





Vice-Chancellor's Address to the 48th Annual Convocation of the University of North Bengal on 4th October, 2018

His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal and Hon'ble Chancellor of the University of North Bengal, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi, Respected Dr. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, Emeritus Professor, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) and Chief Guest of today's Convocation, Respected Dr. Partha Chattopadhyay, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of School, Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal, Respected Dr. Sukhadeo Thorat, Professor Emeritus, Centre for Study of Regional Development and former Chairman of UGC, Respected Dr. Sunil Thakur, the renowned Orthopedic Surgeon and Ex-Sheriff of Kolkata, Respected Shri Sanjiv Goenka, renowned industrialist of the country and social activist, Respected Shri Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Founder of Bandhan Bank, Hon'ble Ministers of State Cabinet, Distinguished Members of the University Court and Executive Council, Faculty Members of the University and Affiliated Colleges, Officers, Employees, Alumni, Parents, Members of the Press, Recipients of Awards and Degrees, My Dear Research Scholars and Students, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the University of North Bengal, I extend the very hearty welcome to the august gathering on the occasion of 48th Annual Convocation and express our deep sense of gratitude to the Hon'ble Chancellor, our esteemed Chief Guest, Honoured Guest for giving us valuable time, in spite of their truly busy schedule.

It is a great honour for me to be standing in front of you to deliver my first Convocation Address as Vice-Chancellor of this University. I welcome His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal and Hon'ble Chancellor of the University of North Bengal who has been leading this University on the road to academic excellence and good governance. Sir, on this memorable day, I am extremely thankful for your kind presence and for presiding over the Convocation.

On behalf of the University, I especially welcome our Honoured Guest Dr. Partha Chattopadhyay, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Higher Education. Hon'ble Sir, you have been an alumnus of this University and have remained a constant source of inspiration and guiding force in our quest for excellence. Today the University feels privileged to be able to confer the Degrees of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) on Professor Jayant Vishnu Narlikar and Dr. Sunil Thakur, Degrees



of Doctor of Literature (*Honoris Causa*) on Professor Sukhadeo Thorat, Shri Sanjiv Goenka and Shri Chandra Shekhar Ghosh.

Initiating its journey in the year 1962, the University of North Bengal has its checkered history in the field of higher education, teaching and research. The University has been re-accredited 'A' Grade University by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in the year 2016.

University has been awarded "University of Excellence" in the year 2018. At present the University has faculties of Arts, Commerce, Law, Science and Technology. There are thirty three (33) Departments under such faculties. The Department of Geology has started its integrated Undergraduate and Postgraduate Courses this year. In addition to these Departments, four new Academic Departments such as Education, Physical Education, Food Technology and Pharmaceutical Technology will be made operational from the Academic Session 2019-2020. Most of the Departments have Special Assistance Programme funded by UGC, DBT, DST etc. Other than the Academic Departments, the University has fifteen (15) Centres of excellence. A new center named "Centre for Innovative Studies" has been established in this year in collaboration with Techno Academia, a leading Educational Institution of India along with Bombay Stock Exchange and Indian Institute of Chartered Accountants. The Centre shall help in creating an access enabling environment for the students to business economy and global market directly.

I feel proud to mention that following the UGC guidelines and State Government directives the University has introduced Choice Based Credit System for teaching, learning and evaluation both at Undergraduate and Postgraduate level from the Academic Session 2018-2019. As a result, the yearly examination system has been replaced by six monthly semester system and corroborative continuous system of assessment and evaluation.

At this juncture, the University has two thousand eight hundred fifty three (2853) postgraduate students and around forty thousand (40,000) undergraduate students distributed among fifty two (52) affiliated colleges. Nearly, three hundred (300) research scholars have been working with fellowship. In this year, the University, by a special drive, recruited sixty (60) scholars under State Scholarship grants. This year our research scholars have registered one hundred two (102) number of research titles.

In today's Convocation, a record number of Ph.D. students (158) and one hundred sixty (160) students of higher merit shall receive Ph.D. degree and medals respectively. Twenty two (22) teachers of different Academic Departments have



visited foreign Universities from January 2018 to date for delivering lectures and to Chair International Seminars. Twenty three (23) books and over three hundred (300) articles have been published by the academic faculties during the last one year in different National and International Journals including the most prestigious Scientific Journals like 'Nature'. All these indicate that our faculties are going by internationally and nationally accepted parameters of excellence with national and international collaborations, research experience in globally acclaimed laboratories and institutions of higher learning, cutting-edge research, memberships to learned societies etc. We feel proud of Dr. Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Professor, Department of Economics, Dr. Mahendra Nath Roy, Professor, Department of Chemistry of this University and Dr. Rajendra Prasad Dhakal, Principal, Kalimpong College for being awarded prestigious Siksha Ratna by the Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal for their longstanding and commendable contribution in the field of higher education. Prof. Subir Sarkar, Department of Geography and Applied Geography has been awarded National Geospatial Chair Professorship under DST in 2018. Dr. Arnab Sen, Department of Bioinformatics has received the best Incentive Awards for publication of research paper along with cash prize of Rs. 5.00 lakh from the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. We are proud to announce here that Dr. Parthasarathi Chakraborty, a young scientist who completed his M.Sc. from our University, University of North Bengal has been selected for the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in 2018.

During this year three patents have been sent for registration under Intellectual Property Act. Our students have successfully qualified in the National Eligibility Test (NET) and State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) for being placed as College and University Teachers.

So far as the results of the University Examinations are concerned, the average rate of success at the Undergraduate level is nearly 80%, 96% at Postgraduate level and 99% in M. Phil Examination. Ours is the only University in the State where female students have outnumbered the male students. Here we acknowledge the contribution of the Kanyashree, a dream project of our beloved Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee.

Our Centre for Women's Studies has organized four awareness and gender sensitization programmes and the faculty members continue to participate in various outreach and advocacy programmes with the Government for the upliftment of women and downtrodden in this region. The Human Resource Development Centre has organized three orientation programmes, two refresher courses and one methodology course for the College and University teachers across the country.



Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) has effectively put in place a system of annual feedback, developed bench mark for excellence and initiated academic and administrative audit. Through its sub-committees, the IQAC has been processing all cases of direct recruitment and promotion of academic staff of the University.

Various conferences, seminars and workshops are organized by the Departments and the Centres of the University during the year in order to showcase their scholarly works as well as to establish professional contacts with national and international Universities and research centres. Several national and international dignitaries visited our University and delivered lectures with high level of faculty and student participation.

Registrar's Department has taken sincere drive to recruit teachers in all vacant posts. Out of one hundred twenty nine (129) vacant teaching posts ninety (90) teachers have already been appointed and rest of the recruitments are in the pipeline. This year fifteen (15) number of University teachers got the benefit of CAS strictly in adherence to UGC Regulations and Government Notifications. The process of recruitment of twenty five (25) vacant posts in the officer's category has been initiated.

Our Finance, Audit and Accounts Department is the regulator of the financial aspects of the University. In the recent time many fundamental and structural reforms have been initiated by this Department which will yield far reaching positive results in the years to come. The main objective of this reformation is to establish financial discipline and integrity. Emphasis has also been given on rigorous internal audit. Internal Audit Reports are prepared and duly submitted to the State Government after getting approval from the Finance Committee and ratification by Executive Council. The University of North Bengal is indebted to the Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal for providing every financial support. It is worthwhile to mention that almost 96% of the total expenditure of the University is borne by the Department of Higher Education. I, on behalf of the University, once again convey my heartfelt gratitude to the Government of West Bengal in general and the Hon'ble Education Minister in particular.

“All works and no play makes Jack a dull boy” – this proverb highlights the importance of sports activities of the University. To mention a few, University of North Bengal has achieved the fourth position in the All India Inter University Table Tennis Tournament in the year 2017–2018. Smt. Anwesha Roy Pradhan of Ananda Chandra College secured second position in the All India Inter University Athletics Meet in the year 2017–2018.



I must reiterate that the mission of our University is social inclusion and to create a gender friendly environment, where all feel comfortable to study and work. The University has been finding out ways of tapping the resources and actualizing the region's potential and taking initiatives for the benefit of the under privileged people of the region. We have also provided opportunities to differently abled persons who aspire for education.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the University Community at large and extend my best wishes and felicitations to the recipients of awards and degrees.

To obtain our cherished mission we have to traverse many miles as Robert Frost says:

*"The woods are lovely dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep."*

Thank you.

**Dated: Raja Rammohunpur
The 4th October, 2018**

**Subires Bhattacharyya
Vice-Chancellor**