

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

30th ANNUAL CONVOCATION



Address by

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Governor of West Bengal & Chancellor
North Bengal University

RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR

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Esteemed Prof. Bagchi, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Faculty Members, recipients of Doctoral Degrees, graduates of the year, students, ladies and gentlemen.

I am happy to be here this morning for the 30th Annual Convocation of the University of North Bengal. As Chancellor of this university I thank Prof. Amiya Kumar Bagchi for his thought provoking address. Prof. Bagchi is too well-known to need any introduction. He is a distinguished economist and an eminent scholar who has contributed significantly in the field of economics. He has had the distinction of being the member of the State Planning Board of West Bengal apart from holding various teaching assignments in United Kingdom, United States of America, France and Denmark. He was also a senior consultant to the International Labour Office and United Nations. Prof. Bagchi has authored several books on Banking. I am sure the students and Faculty members will immensely benefit from his learned address.

We are glad that the University has resolved to confer the degree of D. Litt. (Honoris Causa) on Shri Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, Shri Somnath Hore and Shri Samsur Rahaman and D. Sc. (Honoris Causa)

on Dr. Saroj Ghosh. Shri Justice Krishna Iyer is not only an eminent jurist of our country but is also an ardent crusader of democratic values, socialism and secularism. Shri Somnath Hore is a painter and sculptor of world repute. Prof. Samsur Rahaman from Bangladesh is an eminent poet and litterateur whose work has been well received not only in his own country but also in West Bengal. He has enriched Bengali literature through his writings and has always expressed himself strongly on social issues. Dr. Saroj Ghosh is a well-known personality. I congratulate them all on behalf of the university for their accepting this small token of respect.

To those who have received various awards, Doctoral Degrees and other degrees of the university I offer my best wishes and heartiest congratulations. I am sure, they would continue to associate themselves with the cause of learning and bring honour not only to themselves but also to the North Bengal University and our country. I wish them all success in the years to come.

North Bengal University is comparatively a new university of West Bengal. However, in this short period it has earned the reputation of being a Campus engaged in serious academic pursuits. I have heard with great interest and satisfaction the various achievements of the university in the field of aca-

demics as also in the extra curricular domains. The university has to its credit impressive research activities. I am sure, this tradition would be kept up.

Very rapid and far-reaching changes have been taking place all around us—these encompass the fields of science, medicine, communication, social sciences, etc. and impinge on various aspects of our economic growth and development. No doubt we have to keep pace with them and absorb them in a manner that they are beneficial to us and help us in the regeneration of our economy and bring about qualitative betterment in the living standards of the ordinary masses. These changes should, therefore, help us address the problems of malnutrition, ill-health, illiteracy, etc. more effectively. We have also to appreciate that if the dynamics of change are indifferent to this vital issue the change may not be able to sustain itself and may be overwhelmed by poverty and want. It is in this context that we speak of growth and development with human face.

We have to continue our struggle against poverty and disease, illiteracy and unemployment. Let us work with faith and weld together our people into a single harmonious community and make them the defenders of peace, without which the important

agenda of nation building cannot be properly and adequately addressed.

North Bengal University is situated in a remote corner of our state. This has been done to enable the university to cater to the needs of higher education in the districts of North Bengal. It has got a special responsibility to develop fully under-developed region of the state. For this there has to be a greater involvement of the university in the developmental process and the acquisition by the students of work experience in development process in the rural areas. This is particularly true in this region the economy of which still remains largely rural and the dissemination of agricultural know-how can transform the countryside given necessary infrastructure and well informed and trained agencies. I hope the students going out of this university will meet with vision, courage and a sense of national purpose the challenges which life holds for them. I wish them success in all their endeavour.

JAI HIND.