

**Address of**  
**The Hon'ble Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi,**  
**Governor of West Bengal and Chancellor, University of Calcutta**  
**9 December, 2015**

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sugata Marjit, Prof. Sanjay Subrahmaniam, Lord Dr. Khalid Hameed, Pandit Birju Maharaj, Shri Joy Goswami, Prof. Swagata Sen, Prof Sonali Chakraborty Banerjee, Prof. Soma Bandopadhyay, Members of Faculties, students, ladies and gentlemen.

I have great pleasure in extending warm welcome to Prof. Vijay Raghavan, one of the most distinguished Bio-Scientists of our country. Prof. Vijay Raghavan is currently the Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and hardly needs any introduction. We are sorry that he could not be personally present today. We eagerly look forward to his Convocation Address today.

I welcome Prof. T.V. Ramakrishnan, distinguished Physicist from Benaras Hindu University, who also could not come for personal reasons. Prof. Sanjay Subrahmaniam, a renowned Scholar and Historian who has made major contributions in the field of Indian History and Culture and Lord Khalid Hameed, the eminent medical practitioner having already been honoured

with Padma Sree and Padma Bhushan award for his meritorious contribution. I thank Prof. Subrahmaniam and Lord Hameed for travelling all the way from the USA and UK to attend the Convocation. We are thankful to Pandit Birju Maharaj and Shri Joy Goswami for agreeing to accept the Honorary Degrees, for, by doing so, they have greatly enhanced the stature of the University.

I shall begin today by affirming that each time I visit the University, I am struck by the aura of scholarship and excellence that pervades the Institution, of which I am truly proud – proud of its students, proud of the faculty and, of course, proud of its heritage as great Institution of learning. Be it science and technology or in humanities, social sciences or in other faculties, the University continues to sustain quest for excellence. I would like to affirm that we expect nothing but the best from Calcutta University, and the authorities have been active in trying to utilize every opportunity available to enhance the stature of the University. Calcutta University has forged links with many countries including USA, and in Europe and Asia and continues to expand its global ties. The University is ranked as the best among all State Universities and second among all Universities in India.

I would add that while all of us bemoan the fact that Indian Universities do not figure in the first 200 Universities across the world, we must introspect as to whether too much emphasis on

inclusive education might have something to do with this. Our educational policies must ensure that inclusiveness does not mean downgrading excellence, which is often the case. A fine balance has to be kept between the two poles.

I am happy to state that in this University a large number of students come from very humble background but many of them, after finishing their degrees, are placed in the brightest institutions in the world. This year they are laying claims on cherished Newton-Bhaba fellowships, many post-doctoral awards in reputed foreign institutions, publishing in top tier journals and are starting to work in reputed organisations. Here is an institution where quality and social inclusion go hand in hand. Within greatly transformed and expanded contemporary higher education scenario in the State, the University continues to receive ever encouraging support from the State Government.

I would like to end by congratulating the students who are passing out today. I am optimistic that a great future awaits them. They are standing on the threshold of new opportunities, which, if suitably exploited, can take a resurgent new India to greater heights. As the largest, youngest and the most educated generation ever, you are in a position to shape the environment in which you are living. You are better situated than any of the previous generations to ignite your minds so as to convert aspirations into achievements.

I am happy that the present Vice-Chancellor has been able to bring peace and tranquility to the campus which is essential for sustaining academic excellence. It is also a rare opportunity to honour two Fellows of the Royal Society in the same convocation.

In 1923 in the Calcutta University Convocation speech Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, the legendary Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University spoke these words (I quote):

*“Councils will come and go; Ministries will blossom and perish; parties will develop and disappear or change their nature and survive. But your University, my University, will live on forever if her children by thousands and tens of thousands stand by her with steadfast loyalty and devotion, alike in her days of triumph and affliction.”*

I urge all of you young graduates, to follow this message. I am more than confident that Calcutta University has an even brighter future ahead. I wish today’s graduating students and the University community every success in this endeavour.

Thank you,

Jai Bharat.