



Visva-Bharati Press Release
28 July, 2023

The conundrum over whether Prof Amartya Sen possesses Visva-Bharati's leased land more than what was legally given to the lease is now being adjudicated by the court of law. At this point of time, the media reports highlighting that a regular student was suspended as he circulated a post on this issue in the public domain are prejudicial to the due processes of law. In the process, the suspended student is projected as a victim for doing what is his democratic rights. With a simplistic understanding of the constitutionally guaranteed Right to Freedom of Speech as one of the rights enshrined in Part III of the 1950 Constitution of India, the journalists associated with the print and electronic media are involved in spreading stories which are totally unfounded. As the dispute over whether Visva-Bharati's land was illegally occupied is pending before the court, Visva-Bharati authority will make no comments. Let's also reiterate here that we have no desire to humiliate anyone; but, it is also emphasized that by being famous, no one will be spared if Visva-Bharati's interests are harmed. We will submit all relevant papers to the court as and when they are needed; we will supply no documents if any Ram, Shyam or Jadu ask for them.

Now, about the suspension: let it be known that the decision was taken by a Committee and Mr. Somnath Saw was given chances to explain his point of view. So, the principle of Natural Justice was complied with. Visva-Bharati was forced to take such a decision since the act of Mr. Somnath Saw was violative of undertaking, he gave before being admitted to one of the Visva-Bharati's post-graduate courses in response to the verdict of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta. Let's also mention here that the recommendations of the Committee are even harsher than just suspension of one semester. The competent authority reduced the quantum of punishment just to remind that *Chatranam Adhayanam Topo* (for the students, engagement in pursuing knowledge is the only duty) and not to damage his academic career. This does not, of course mean, that students shall remain mute observers at the sight of dehumanizing humanity; but, in so doing, if they trespass the Laxman Rekha, the university is morally committed to carve out a course of correction for the deviant students and learners.

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