



VISVA-BHARATI

Press Release of 12 October, 2023

Visva-Bharati is being brought back to its earlier glory as an institution of higher learning guided by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's transcendental socio-cultural and politico-ideological priorities. The detractors who survive on incomes from Visva-Bharati have suddenly become active because they apprehend that their days of exploitation of this serene academic centre are numbered. Hence, they are spreading shamelessly fabricated inputs to further expose that they are cornered. As the very negligible numbers of detractors, seek to score brownie points by being involved in *harakiri*, it is incumbent on those who are committed to sustain and also expand Visva-Bharati's glory as a centre for generation and dissemination of knowledge to put on record the following undiluted facts:-

- 1) Visva-Bharati has not stopped *Poush Mela* as it is being claimed. It was discontinued with the intervention of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta. In 2022, the Bench of the Hon'ble High Court, presided over by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court pronounced the verdict saying that it was not possible for an academic institution to hold such a gigantic fair given the lack of university's infrastructure. So, the claim that Visva-Bharati had a role in this is to deliberately spread a lie to fulfil partisan aims of the detractors.
- 2) Similarly, *Vasanta Utsab* was not stopped at all; what was stopped was *Vasanta Tandav* (which mildly means IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIVITIES). In its place, Visva-Bharati has gone back to how it was celebrated in the past under the tutelage of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Now, known as Vasanta Vandana, the event is peaceful and those who watch the programme on this occasion are free from being humiliated and especially women who are now immune from being molested by the miscreants.
- 3) Visva-Bharati has not discontinued any of the events which are part and parcel of its philosophy. Barring a few deviants, Visva-Bharati's staff, students and well-wishers work day and night to govern the institution as per Gurudev Tagore's ideas and also the guidance from the Ministry and other Government agencies responsible for running Central Universities in the country.
- 4) Santiniketan is now a World Heritage Site; it was declared by the UNESCO on 17 September, 2023. It was made possible with support of our Hon'ble Chancellor, our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji along with continuous monitoring by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture and Archeological Survey of India. The role of Visva-Bharati's present administration, headed by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Bidyut Chakrabarty was equally significant. Visva-Bharati also recognizes the meaningful contribution of many who also worked for this in the past.
- 5) Of all the Central Universities in the country, Visva-Bharati is the only university which succeeded in appointing 405 employees and it has completed the first phase of appointing another 315 employees and once the last phase is completed, they will also be absorbed as permanent employees of the University. So, there will altogether 720 new employees in the campus. For the first time, a Central Government agency, the National Testing Agency was involved in the recruitment processes to avoid corruption in appointment. This is a rare feat especially in West Bengal where many of the top functionaries of the state government are behind bars for their involved in job scam.

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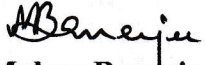
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प्रभारी / In-charge

जनसम्पर्क / Public Relations

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- 6) Visva-Bharati is endeavoring hard to improve the ranking in NAAC and NIRF. The decline in NAAC ranking was largely due to the failure of submission of Academic Quality Assessment Report (AQAR) by the past administration before the new incumbent, Prof. Bidyut Chakrabarty assumed charges in late 2018. Regarding NIRF ranking, it is primarily due to the lack of adequate academic work of the those earning livelihood out of monthly salary from Visva-Bharati. None of the faculty members has PATENT which is largely responsible for this decline because on that count, out of 25 points, Visva-Bharat got a ZERO. Furthermore, a scan of Visva-Bharati's Annual Report which is placed before India's Parliament reveals the quality of the academic work of the teachers engaged in this University.
- 7) Visva-Bharati is a target of the state government and those who flourish under its protection. It is revealed by the lodging of FIRs on flimsy grounds by the state police although Visva-Bharati's complaints against those violating human rights of those involved in administration remain General Diaries and are never transformed into FIRs despite the fact that the said complaints have elements of criminality.
- 8) As the detractors keep on putting their grievances in the public domain, it is pertinent to also mention that there are five or six of these disgruntled souls who enjoyed in the pre-2019 years all the facilities without giving what they were required to give in exchange of fat salaries. Here, there are examples to prove that teachers tell lies in bold faces to squeeze money from the University. Recently, a teacher, for this kind of activities was unceremoniously removed from a very prestigious Government of India project. There are examples (which cannot be proved conclusively) to show that teachers at Visva-Bharati also acted as agents to collect money in exchange of government jobs for those in Kolkata; many of those big fishes are now incarcerated.
- 9) Visva-Bharati was a nursery of corruption because of the miscreants with support from their political bosses were engaged in illegal financial appropriation and other wrongful gains. Moreover, the stern actions against the land sharks also disturbed the well-entrenched forces who gained, so far, since they were not so strongly challenged by Visva-Bharati's administration. Evidences abound. As soon as cleansing operation was undertaken, many of them went to the court and to establish Visva-Bharati's point of view, isn't it obvious that the claim needs to be contested by the University. One should not rejoice if Visva-Bharati's decision is reversed by being respectful to the Court verdict. Isn't it a common practice that judgement by one set of judges is not always sacrosanct since it is being reversed by another bench. So, many cases in which Visva-Bharati was forcibly entangled was largely due to establish rule of law and rule by law.
- 10) Visva-Bharati is duty-bound to make this institution as one of the best institutions in the world. The goal may be distant but not difficult to achieve since we are also guided by those who are selflessly Visva-Bharati's well-wishers. We are fortunate that our Hon'ble Chancellor, Shri Narendra Modiji continuously guides us by giving directions and adequate advice which help us cross many hurdles, some of them are deliberately created by those governed by self-driven gains and are assisted by their political bosses.


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