

Centre for Women's Studies

The Centre has started running an interdisciplinary M. Phil. Course in Women's Studies with 11 participants. Various faculty members of the university and other universities namely IIT, Kharagpur, ISI, Calcutta University and Kalyani University have substantially contributed to the success of the course. The Centre celebrated International Women's Day with active participation of students and faculty members. Prof. Sumit Mukherjee of Kalyani University and Prof. Anuradha Chowdhury of IIT, Kharagpur, addressed the students. The Centre had also organized three special lecture programmes by eminent scholars engaged in different fields of studies in India and abroad such as Prof. Paula Banerjee of Calcutta University, Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta from Italy and Prof. Md. Parvej of Aligarh Muslim University. The Centre conducted an outreach programme involving villagers of Delua; 40 village women received hands on training in handicrafts making as an important step towards achieving self-proficiency and economic rehabilitation.

Student's Welfare

Under the guidance of the Dean of Students' Welfare, the placement cell consisting of placement coordinators of respective departments invite various organizations to conduct campus recruitment for the interested students of VU. Organizations who have come forward to recruit our students are Axis Bank; L & T Gujarat; Dream Bake Pvt. Ltd; YES Bank Kolkata; Virtue Design, Ranchi, Kinova, Bagicha Tea Company, HDFC Bank, MAK GEO Pvt. Ltd. Enlink Solution Pvt. Ltd., Ashadip Medical S. Association, Elagoon, C. P. Aquaculture (India Pvt. Ltd) etc around 70 students (approx) have been selected in different organizations through on or off campus placement activities in this year. A Consultancy agency named Carrier.Com has been appointed through tender for grooming & placement of Vidyasagar University students.

The DSW took initiative to organize in the campus the 18th Inter College Cultural competition during 21-22 September 2016 . A total number of 550 Students from 31 UG Colleges and 15 P.G Departments of this university participated in the mega event. The most important carnival that Vidyasagar University took pride in hosting on 27-31 December 2016 is the 32nd East Zone Inter University Youth Festival. Appropriately christened as the “Vidyasagar Yuva Mahotsava”, the gala festival attracted 478 participants from 13 Universities from across the country. Vidyasagar University students participated in 20 events and bagged 15 prizes in the week-long programme, eventually clinching the Champion's trophy of the year 2016-2017. The cultural team of this university also participated in the 32nd All India Inter-University Youth Festival that took place in Sibaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra during 10-14 February, 2017. The team bagged 5 prizes in the competition.

National Service Scheme

A faculty member of the Department of Philosophy is the Programme Coordinator of NSS. The university now boasts of a contingent of 15600 volunteers in this scheme, of which 5835 are female. One of the most important services that they render is fighting environmental hazards and keeping the campus green. Six volunteers participated in the State Government's Republic Day Parade at the Red Road while two joined the procession in the national capital. The NSS cell of this university raised a fund of Rs 70265 and contributed it to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Relief programme for the victims of the devastating Nepal earthquake. Professor Narayan Kuila of Hijli College received the award of the best Programme Officer of this year. The NSS unit of this varsity organized and hosted the MHRD sponsored Training for Trainers



(TOT) programme for the benefit of the volunteers of the East Zone. Another such training programme was held in the campus as a week-long workshop with the assistance of ETI-TORC of Narendrapur Ramakrishna Mission. The NSS unit organized an exhaustive Yoga Training workshop while volunteers of the unit participated in National Integration camps in Bankura Christian College and Durg Viswavidyalaya in Chattisgarh. NSS volunteers regularly organize Blood Donation and Thallasaemia Detection camps in the varsity and its adjoining areas. This apart the NSS team organizes Health Awareness programmes, Legal Awareness camp, Women's Self-Defence Training programme and seminars on societal and environmental development at regular intervals.

Sports and Physical Activities

In sports and physical activities, our students continue to claim success in several Inter-Varsity tournaments. The university football team clinched the 4th position in the All India Inter-Varsity football tournament that took place from 13th to 17th February. In the inter-Varsity Kho-Kho championship, the women's team of the varsity qualified for the All India Championship, securing the 4th position. Two players, Susovan Roy and Rahul Thakur have been selected for the Vizzy Trophy tournament, organized by



BCCI. Abha Khatua of Belda College (under Vidyasagar University) has secured the 3rd position in javeline throwing in the All India Athletic meet (10th -16th February) organized by Anna University, Tamilnadu.

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VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY



NEWSLETTER

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**Dr. Partha Chatterjee the
Hon'ble Minister- In - Charge
of the Department of Higher
Education Govt. of West
Bengal.**

From the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor's Desk

At the outset I thank our Hon'ble Chancellor and the Government of West Bengal for giving me the opportunity to work with you for another term. This university has achieved significant progress in the last year. The varsity has grown into a family and a committed team whose integrity and effort has not only pulled us through difficult times but has also catapulted us to a position among the first hundred institutions of higher learning in India. According to the enumeration of NRFD, an MHRD task force, our varsity is ranked 87th in India and 4th in the state. Having carved a rare distinction for itself, being the first smart campus among the universities in West Bengal, we can now claim to assert a lead role among the institutions of higher education in West Bengal. We owe our achievement in many ways to the inspiration and stimulus that we continue to receive from the dynamic leadership of the government. It is a positive sign that we in Vidyasagar University never feel complacent about our achievements but continue to strive for progress and enlightenment following the footprints of Iswar Chandra, the messiah, in whose name we are betokened.

Our teachers and researchers have travelled to other institutions in India and abroad on academic assignments. They have fetched substantial funds and grants from several agencies to support their research and pedagogic activities. New digital and electronic communication facilities for accession of knowledge resources have been added to the existing infrastructure. The entire campus has now been enabled with wi-fi facility. A new publication division has begun its maiden journey by bringing out a new look authentic first volume of *Vidyasagar Rachanavali*.

Extension of new academic blocks has injected fresh air and verve to the spirit of several departments. Creation of new working space has increased the pace and quality of work that the

university delivers. Biometric system for registering staff whereabouts has been introduced. The students can now download an electronic application called *Chatrabandhu* for instantaneous access to varsity circulars, resources and forms.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to each and every member of the University community for their active contribution to the advancement that we have been able to accomplish till now. Let us swear that we will sustain the pace of progress that we have already achieved and continue to strive for greater quality, finesse and excellence in the year to come.

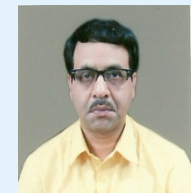
I wish all members of my university family well being and success in their efforts.


Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti

From the Convenor, Newsletter Committee

The fourth issue of the varsity newsletter is now ready to hit the stands. Last year saw Vidyasagar University achieve the rare distinction of being the only university in West Bengal to have a smart campus. Thirteen new classrooms equipped with smart boards and other electronic devices demonstrate that teaching and learning even in a remote place located at a distance from the happening city can attain a touch of enviable novelty. In order to promote multi-tasking and shrink physical distance between scholars and researchers working in this university and in different parts of the country and abroad, a high fidelity audio-visual conferencing facility is now in order. A fully automated central library using ultramodern RFID method for quick accession and requisition has perked up the academic spirit. The varsity community admits without mincing words that a wise mix of vision and drive on the part of their Vice Chancellor, Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti, has made all this possible.

The entire 132 acre campus is brought under wi-fi network and security is boosted by close circuit electronic surveillance. Students can download a mobile app, aptly named *Chatrabandhu*, because it enables them to access important varsity notifications anywhere and at anytime. Introduction of biometric system to register everyday attendance of staff has made indispensable protocols easier to adhere and less cumbersome to manage. The university now boasts of a sophisticated electrical sub-station for 24-hour power back-up for the whole community.





Among the developments made in the last year the most significant is the upgrading of a centrally air-conditioned and wainscotted Vivekananda Sabhagriha, a state of the art auditorium having a thousand strong seating capacity. Erection of new buildings has considerably increased spatial infrastructure: rehab of the Administrative building annex; new PG Boys' hostel; the Silver Jubilee building; vertical extension of the Humanities Building; extension of a new wi-fi enabled International guest house and extension of girls' hostel, all these have come up on a steady pace without, however, compromising with the verdant ecosystem for which the sprawling campus of the university has always been known. A wooded part of the campus has been plotted and levelled into a playground. Uniformly laid with soft turf and a 400 metre sprint lane, it is a one-off facility available in the entire district.



Located in the heartland of tribal habitation, a part of the varsity's research activities are devoted to the study and conservation of the culture and life worlds of the indigenous and endangered people of the country. A Centre for Adivasi studies, a museum and a digital archive constitute the biggest repository for tribal studies in eastern India. The varsity has made an exemplary venture in using modern technology for the conservation of a pristine heritage.

The university is also one of the first among those in the country who have revised their regular curriculum in the form of introducing choice-based- credit- system at the postgraduate level. Apart from having a well-designed academic calendar and a fully automated online admission system the varsity has liberally supported the endeavour of the affiliated colleges in achieving academic independence by extending full autonomy to their PG courses. It has also pioneered the introduction of a five-year integrated M Phil-Ph D programme in Biological Sciences in its own campus. The newly established publication division of the varsity has begun its maiden journey by symbolically bringing out an aesthetically designed authoritative volume of *Vidyasagar Rachanavali*, the first in a series of three. The Meteorological park situated in the campus and maintained by the Department of

Mathematics is the source for reliable weather data for the whole district.

Among the other noted facilities that have made life in the campus congenial in the last five years, mention can be made of a 24x7 Ambulance service donated by Smt. Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal; a subsidized meal plan introduced for all non-resident students in the varsity cafeteria; university bus service for the benefit of both students and staff; and medical insurance scheme and employees provident fund for health and financial security of those in the varsity payroll.

In fact, Vidyasagar University has evolved remarkably in the last five years in terms of all round development, so much so



that it has made its niche among the first hundred universities of the country, being ranked 87th in India and 4th in the state in the list prepared by the MHRD recently. Its pace of growth is now considered highest in the country.

Projects undertaken by department/ individual faculty member

Department of English, having successfully completed its DRS Phase II Programme, has now been promoted to DRS Phase II with a grant of Rs 1.10 Crores while the Departments of Anthropology and Economics have received DRS Phase I grant of Rs 1.06 Crores and Rs 98 lakhs respectively under the same scheme. On 31st March, 2017 Dr Indranil Acharya has completed the UGC Innovative Research Project for which he received a grant of Rs 2.60 lakhs. Dr. Jatisankar Bandyopadhyay of the Department of Remote Sensing and GIS has completed a UGC Innovative project (Rs. 4 lac) on 'Natural and Bio-resources Management'. Dr. Abhisek Chakrabarty has initiated a project (jointly with IIT Kharagpur) entitled “Development of Tool for Health Monitoring of Forest Vegetation using Hyperion Data for Geo-Environmental Planning of Iron Ore Mining Belts of Saranda Forest, Jharkhand” funded (Rs. 23 lac) by ISRO, Govt. of India;



while Dr Dipanwita Dutta has completed a UGC Innovative project (Rs. 40,000) on 'Analysing the Environmental Impact of Urban Growth in Delhi and its Peri-Urban Areas using Multi Temporal Satellite Datasets'. The Department of Chemistry has received a grant of Rs 1.20 crores for running the UGC SAP DRS II program. The Department of Physics and Technophysics was promoted to DST FIST Level I Phase II with a sanctioned amount of 1.35 Crore for the duration 2016-2020. Dr. Kuntal Chatterjee and Dr. Surajit Ghosh of this

department have also received grants for two CSIR major projects respectively in the last academic year. Department of Anthropology has received grants from UGC for the SAP, DRS Phase I Programme. Prof. Dipak K Midya of the department of Applied Mathematics received a Responsive Research Project from the ICSSR and completed one Innovative project and one Extension project under UGC XII Plan. Professor Braja Gopal Bag of the Department of Chemistry has been granted the Indo-Sri Lanka joint research project.

Books authored by the faculty members:

Professor Debashis Bandyopadhyay of the Department of English edited a book titled *Imperial Maladies: Literatures on Healthcare and Psychoanalysis in India* (co-editor: Pritha Kundu) which was brought out from New York by Nova Science Publishers, in March 2017. In 2016, Dr Indranil Acharya of the same department co-edited a book titled *Listen to the Flames: Texts and Readings from the Margins* (co-editors: Tapan Basu, A. Mangai), which was published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi in 2016. Dr Sebak K. Jana of the Department of Economics and Rural Development has authored the book *Rabindranath Tagore on Economy, Politics and Society Contemporary Discourses* (2017), which has been brought out by Dey Book Concern, Kolkata

Foreign Visits by the Faculty Members

Many of our faculty members represented our institution in various International Conferences and Seminars abroad. Prof. Kaushik Bose of the Department of Anthropology visited the Institute of Anthropology, WRCLAW, Poland as an INSA-PAS Fellow in June, 2016 and visited Bangladesh as an invited speaker in the Department of Statistics, Rajshahi University in January, 2017. Dr. Sumahan Bandyopadhyay also visited Bangladesh as an invited speaker at the Department of Folklore, Rajshahi University in April, 2016. Professor Braja Gopal Bag (Dept. of Chemistry) presented his research findings in the International Conference SICC 9 held at Singapore, during December 11-14, 2016. He has also participated in the International Conference PACCON 2017 held at Bangkok, during February 2-3, 2017. Dr. Asmita Bhattacharyya of the department of Sociology has presented a paper on “Marginality Perception of Women Techies in Kolkata: A Bottom up Approach” at the 3rd ISA Forum of Sociology held in Vienna, Austria, during July 10-14, 2016. She received a travel grant support from both UGC and ICSSR-2016 for the same. She has also received a travel grant for participating in the 90th JSS Annual Meeting of Japan Sociological Society to be held at the University of Tokyo, Hongo campus this year. Dr Debjani Das of the Department of History has been awarded the prestigious



Fulbright Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship for research in the USA for nine months. Dr Joyjit Ghosh of the Department of English presented a paper in the International D.H. Lawrence Conference in London during 3-8 July 2017.

National/ International Seminars/ Conferences/ Workshops

Department of Economics with Rural Development has organized the UGC sponsored Two-Day International Seminar on “Development of Backward Regions of West Bengal with Special Reference to Growth and Productivity of Different Sectors” on 23- 24 March, 2017. This year the department of English has organized two national level seminars on the following topics: “Environmentalism and Literature” (21st march, 2017) and “Dalit and Tribal Identities, Nation and Globalisation” (29-30 March, 2017). Last year the department of Chemistry organized a lecture cum Workshop on Chemistry and Biology Interface (21-22 April, 2016) and a National Symposium on “Frontiers in Chemical Sciences FCS 17 & Food Processing, Preservation and Packaging (FPPP1423). A two-day UGC Sponsored National Seminar on “Indian Political Thought: The Derivative and its Critique” was organised by the department of Political Science in March 2017. The department also took initiative to organize another two-day National Conference on “Human Rights: Discourses and Practices” on 28 & 29 March, 2017. Department of Remote sensing and GIS has organized a national seminar on “Geoinformatics for Environmental Issues and Management” in collaboration with Indian Society of Remote Sensing (ISRS), Kolkata Chapter during March 16-17, 2017. This seminar was jointly sponsored by UGC, ISRS, NATMO and Elron Instruments (New Delhi). The Department of Anthropology has organized Indian Anthropology Congress: 2017 during 21-23 February, 2017 in collaboration with Anthropological Survey of India, Govt. of India and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal and with financial assistance from ICSSR, ICMR, ICHR and UGC unassigned grant. The Department also has organized two-day national seminar on “Perspectives in Bio-cultural Anthropology: Issues and Challenges” during 28-29 March, 2017 under its SAP programme.

