

22.12.2017 with the gracious presence of Prof. Nanda, IISER Kolkata and Prof. Shukla, IIT Kharagpur. The Department also organized a three-day UGC-sponsored workshop in March, 2018. A special lecture by Prof. P. Chaudhuri (Bhatnagar Awardee and Fellow of IASc, NASc and INSA) of ISI Calcutta was arranged on 23.02.2018. Dr. Priyanka Halder Mallick secured 3rd rank in best oral presentation for the paper entitled 'Assessment of Ecological health and resources from an eco-restored forest -Gurguripal, PaschimMedinipur' in National Seminar on Forest Resources: Conservation Issues and Management organized by SEBA, held at Jadavpur University. Prof. Narayan Chandra Ghoroi, Professor of Zoology, W B State University, Barasat served as a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Zoology.

Centre for Women's Studies

M.Phil. course at the centre is running successfully since 2016. During 5-25 January, 2018 the centre successfully conducted the second Winter School Programme, which is considered equivalent to UGC sponsored Refresher Course. The Centre also organized a special lecture delivered by Prof. M.H Quereshi on “Women nature relationship the changing interface” held on 19th February, 2018. Every year on 8 March, the Centre observes 'International Women's Day' by organizing seminar/workshop/poster exhibition. The Centre organized a Workshop on 'Self- Defence' for female students and lady faculty members on 13-19, March 2018.Students from across Departments of the University participated in this workshop. The Centre regularly organizes seminars, special lectures and workshops.

Students' Welfare

The students of Vidyasagar University participated in the 33rd East Zone Inter-University Youth Festival, 2017-18, organized by Gauhati University, Gauhati, Assam during Jan-Sept. 2018. They participated in 12 events and bagged 6 prizes in this Cultural Meet. In 16-20 Feb. 2018, our students took part in the 33rd All India (National) Youth Festival, 2017-18, organized by Ranchi University, Ranchi. There, our students were qualified for five events and they won two prizes in music events (1st position in Folk Orchestra and 2nd position in solo Light Vocal). Then in March 02-06, 2018, Vidyasagar University students represented the 11th South Asian Inter-University Youth Festival 2018 (SAUFEST), organized by Ganpat University, Gujarat, as Indian-Universities-



Participant Team in Folk Orchestra event. 400 students from 7 Asian Countries (Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and India) participated in this Festival.

National Service Scheme

Every year NSS organizes Thalassemia Detection Camp, Gandhi Jayanti, Dengue Prevention Camp, Health Awareness programs, Legal Awareness Camp, World Aids Day, International Literacy Week, Independence Day, and Republic Day, National Integration Camp, Campus Cleaning drive, and Vanmahotsava Week. Summer and Winter Camps are organized in the adopted villages of NSS.

Every week NSS volunteers teach children of adopted villages. NSS also looks after health & hygiene, sports, and provides veterinary assistance in cVoters' Pledge is held every year to promote awareness on voting rights among villagers. Ekta Divas is celebrated since 2016. NSS also celebrates International Yoga Day, along with Nirmal Bangla Aviyan, Swachh Bharat Aviyan, and Swachh Pakhwara. NSS actively participated in the Ghatal Flood Relief Mission in 2017. NSS donated Rs. 7, 0265 to the Prime Minister National Relief Fund in 2017. Workshop on Digital India funded by NEGD, New Delhi was held under NSS in 2016.

Sports and Physical Activities

Vidyasagar University secured 3rd position in the intervarsity Kho-Kho (Women, East Zone) Championship organized by VBS Purbanchal University (Jaunpur, UP) during 22-26 November, 2017. In the Men's category too, the University team secured 3rd position. In the All India intervarsity Kho-Kho Men's championship, organized by the University of Mysore in January2018, the



University team ranked 8th at the national level. In the All India Athletic Meet organized by Nagarjuna University in December 2017,



there was an all-time record in the history of Vidyasagar University. For the first time, AbhaKhatua of our University won a Gold Medal in Heptathlon. In the National Yoga Competition, held in KIIT University, Bhubaneswar in October, 2017, Vidyasagar University bagged 16th position in the Women's category and 23rd position in the Men's category. The University secured 11th position in the intervarsity competition held at KIIT University during November 2017.

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VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY



NEWSLETTER
NL No. 5, pp. 1-4 (2018)



*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

It has been some time since the last issue of this folio reached you. In the mean time our university has been able to champion the spirit of progress in the academic circle of West Bengal and spread the message to other parts of the country.



Prof. Ranjan Chakrabarti

Our teachers have travelled far and wide since we met on this news desk last. One of them has just returned from the USA after completing the prestigious Fulbright Fellowship. Another is awarded the status of Visiting Professor in a couple of varsities in Mexico. Others during their academic tours in India and abroad have lectured at length and effectively disseminated their research findings. Their research endeavours have attracted significant grants from funding agencies for the development of pedagogic and research infrastructure in the campus. By NIRF standards we have been successful in retaining the same overall score of annual academic performance, but have been unfortunate to suffer a minor slide in rank as several private institutions of higher learning shot into reckoning with financial resources much stronger than ours. In a remote poverty stricken region of Paschim Medinipur we cannot afford to become cut throat financial profiteers in the name of preparing academic and professional brilliance for the country. We have to look forward to collaborative fundings and academic philanthropists to supplement government aids for academic infrastructure.

It is time for us to showcase the talent and knowhow that we possess with a view to attracting greater number of collaborators in the fields of learning and research. That does not mean that we are about to begin from scratch. We are the first public varsity in this state to successfully begin RFID enabled library loan operations that have made library facilities fully automatic and lightening fast. Thirteen smart classrooms around the campus have made methods and materials for teaching varied, cyberactive and hardwired. Accessibility to resources, which had been one of the major

challenges in a remote place like Midnapore, has now become guaranteed on a laser speed. Big houses of resource generators like Cambridge University Press have come forward to collaborate with us in the creation of learning materials suited to the specific requirements of the learners of the region. State of the art leave management system and online accession for facilities ranging from archives to class schedules have made teaching and research fast and transparent. And now with the BSNL company opening up a telephone exchange in the campus communication in and outside the campus will be almost a child's play. I am happy to report further that Vidyasagar University is the first university in the state to receive the UGC funding for NSQF scheme. Under this scheme the varsity will be able to offer various UGC approved certificate courses including those on (i) Entrepreneurship development Certificate, (ii) Bee Keeping and Management and (iii) Certificate course for Dietetics.

In the course of these infrastructural developments, however, we have not allowed our ecological concerns to slacken for a moment. New green shuttles have started plying varsity stakeholders in and around the campus. Physical transportation has not only become fast but comfortable. We have started observing a monthly no-vehicles day on campus to cut down on the emission rate as an essential step to preserving fresh air levels in the environment. We are waiting for the meteorological station in the campus to report significant change in the quality of campus air. Our publication division has come off quite well: the second volume of *Vidyasagar Rachaanvali* is now ready to hit the stands; and a number of faculty publications are taking concrete shapes. Four academic study and research centres have started their maiden journey from this year. A French director from Sorbonne University, Paris has collaborated with us to adapt tribal themes of life into an experimental form. The cast have started generating cultural artefacts upon the spectacular open air theatre that has been built as a cultural extension of the tribal museum located in the campus.

I would like to thank the members of the varsity community for their active contribution to the little progress that we have become able to accomplish. There is no place for complacency, however. Let us vow to achieve excellence in our objectives of quality learning and research 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

We are glad to bring out the fifth issue of our Newsletter. In the last one year the country's atmospheric map has grown many an intolerant fault line. But the state of West Bengal under the alert supervision and deft guidance of the state government has become successful in giving wide berth to such evil influences. Our university has rightly followed this latter path of progress under the executive governance of our hon'ble vice-chancellor, Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti. Peace has reigned all through the year; new centres of studies and research have come up. Prof Ranjan Chakrabarti, the vice-chancellor, has assumed charge of the director of the newly established Centre for Environmental Studies. Substantial volume of financial support has poured in from different promotional agencies of research; and teaching and learning on campus have become increasingly state-of-the-art.

A revolutionary change has come to the varsity's communication and networking system. A comprehensive digital display and monitoring mechanism has ensured faultless wi-fi enabled online facilities on campus. The new wing of the varsity's central library has become operational. A fully automated RFID powered loan facility in the library is the first of its kind among all the state varsities of West Bengal. New buildings have come up to accommodate ever increasing number of students from outside the state and far-off places. Housing facilities have now been extended to the research scholars in the new hostel buildings in the campus. Provision for reservation of space for foreign students has been made.

The tribal museum located in the campus has now been renovated



into the Centre for Adivasi Studies. A collaborative platform has been set up among different disciplines under the aegis of this Centre. Jean Frederic Chevallier, a professor and director of theatre arts from Sorbonne University, Paris have come forward to help restore and revitalize tribal art forms in collaboration with the centre and the SAP project of the Department of English. As a first step in the right direction, a play with all Santali cast was put into an avant garde form by the newly conceived project called Night of the Theatre. A workshop on tribal performing arts and a play were put up in the Open Air Theatre in front of the museum building.

Since we last met on this parchment, there has been a lot of progress in the exchange of knowledge and knowhow between our faculties and the broader academia outside our campus. Our faculties have toured India and abroad on academic assignments and shared their research findings with academics outside the campus. One of our faculty members has been awarded the prestigious Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence fellowship and has pursued research in Johns Hopkins University, one of the most significant academic institutions located in the USA.

The university has taken care to balance its infrastructural developments by implementing measures to offset ecological damage that could have otherwise issued from developmental schemes. Several battery operated vehicles have been pressed into

service for the conveyance of faculty members inside the campus. A day in every month has been earmarked as no-vehicles day in campus, the aim is to cut down on the volume of carbon emission in the immediate ambience.

Vidyasagar University has been bestowed with the Education Excellence Award this year by the popular media house called ZEE 24 Ghanta. This is an index of the fact that positive perception of the varsity is growing in the minds of the people. Prof. Sibaji Pratim Basu of the Department of Political Science is felicitated with the award of Shikshya Ratna by the state government. The university has become successful in retaining the overall score in the NIRF evaluation this year, but has slided in rank because of steep competition from private varsities who have got into reckoning due to financially robust infrastructure. We have to pledge that in the days to come we have to increase our research and infrastructural facilities by attracting more funds from academic agencies.

Projects undertaken by the Department/ Faculty

The Department of English has entered into a collaborative translation project with Jamia Millia of New Delhi under the aegis

কেমন আছেন দলিতরা, আলোচনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে



সমস্যা খান

ভারতের বিভিন্ন প্রান্তে দলিতরা আগে কেমন ছিলেন? আজকেই বা তাঁরা কেমন আছেন? মহাভারতের সময় থেকে শুরু করে বর্তমান সমাজে তাঁদের নিয়ে রাজনীতি হলেও অস্পৃশ্যতা তাঁদের জীবনকে কী ভাবে কুরে কুরে যাচ্ছে। বর্তমান সমাজ জীবনে আদিবাসীদের পরিচিতি নিয়েই সম্পর্কে দু'দিনের জাতীয় সেমিনার অনুষ্ঠিত হল বিশ্বাসাথের বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে। বিষয় ছিল দলিত এন্ড ট্রাইব্যাল আইডেনটিটি ২ দা নেশন আন্ড গ্লোবালিজেসন। প্রধান বক্তা ছিলেন মারাগি দলিত

সাহিত্যিক পরবঙ্গমার বিশ্বালে। বিনি নিজেই অভিজ্ঞতা দিয়ে দলিত নির্ধাতাদের উপর আলোকপাত করেন। সম্মেলনের উদ্বোধন করেন কলা ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগের ডিন দামোদর মিল্ল। দু'দিনের আলোচনা সভায় যে দিকটি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ছাত্রছাত্রীদের নজর কেড়েছে, তা হল, তথাকথিত সভ্য সমাজ কী ভাবে প্রভাবিত দলিতদের ব্যবহার করে এসেছে, একদা করে চলেছে। শুধু সামাজিক জীবনে নয়, সাহিত্য, সংস্কৃতি, বৈশাখলো থেকে শুরু করে সমাজের প্রতিটি কোণেই তাঁদের পিঠে চড়ে এক শ্রেণির মানুষ কী ভাবে সাহসের চুড়ায়

উঠতে চান তা বক্তাদের নানা উদাহরণে উঠে আসে। শুধু তাই নয়, দলিতদের সামাজিক জীবন, তাঁদের সংস্কৃতি, তাঁদের ভাষা চিন্তাকেও পরার তেস্তা করা হয়েছে এই সেমিনারে। আধামিদিনে দলিত সাহিত্যের উপর গুয়েব আর্কাইভ করার পরিকল্পনা রয়েছে বলে জানিয়েছেন ডিআরএস ফেলো নিয় আহম্মে। সেমিনারে অংশ নেয়া ছাত্রছাত্রীদের সাহিত্যিকমাত্রা পণ্ডিত নারকর, হিম্ম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধ্যাপক ইন্দু চৌধুরি, জিরণ কেশবমুর্তি, রায়গঞ্জ কলেজের অধ্যাপক দীপক রায় প্রমুখ।

of the UGC funded (one crore) SAP, DRS II project running in the department. Professor Samir Ghosh of the Department of Commerce received a Major Research Project on “Measurement of

Scholar team attempts to save fading tribal scripts, folk culture

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Kolkata: A team of scholars from the English department of the Vidyasagar University has travelled through one tribal village to another in an effort to save dying tribal dialects, scripts and folk performances.

The entire body of nearly lost dialects and scripts that was conserved from there will now be a part of a massive digital archive. Folk performances will also be showcased in a two-day open-air public presentation on the university campus, starting Tuesday.

The team visited habitats of communities like Kurmis, Mundaris, Shabars, Santhals in Midnapore, Purulia, Bankura and Birbhum.

The team visited the villages to conserve their dialects and scripts, which are nearing extinction.

During field work, they witnessed performances like Jugi Jatra, Sitachuri, Lalita Shabar, Churia Churiani and that were popular in the folk life of the Jangalmahal tribes even two decades ago, but are now no longer practised because they are not con-

SCRIPTS & DIALECTS

In South Bengal

- > Kurmis, Mundaris, Shabars, Santhals in Midnapore, Purulia, Bankura and Birbhum

In North Bengal

- > Totos, Bodos, Dhimals, Garos, Ravas and Rajbanshis

Revived performing arts

- > Jugi Jatra
- > Sitachuri
- > Lalita Shabar
- > Churia Churiani

forms and then translated into English for a wider audience,” said Debashish Bandyopadhyay, head of the department of English and also co-ordinator of the project.

The project, because of its uniqueness, has been supported under the departmental research support (DRS) scheme of UGC's special assistance programme. Vice chancellor and historian Ranjan Chakrabarty has also helped out in the research.

The project and the two day programme, that has been christened, “Performance and the Prospects of Tribal Folkloric Culture of Eastern India”, has generated a lot of attention among international publishers and scholars of indigenous cultures, who work towards conserving endangered cultures.

the Impact of Different Programs of Both Government and Non-Government Organization on the Socio-Economic Study of the Schedule Tribe People in Jungle Mahal Areas of West Bengal” by ICSSR, New Delhi (Project amount: Rs. 5,91,250). Prof. Arindam Gupta of the same department is presently pursuing Post-Doctoral research at the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. The **Department of Geography & Environment Management** received DST-FIST (Level 1) grant of Rs. 64L in January, 2018 for the second time since the completion of the first phase the grant of which was



received in 2003. Dr. Prasenjit Acharya received a consultancy project from the International Council for Agricultural Research in Dryland Areas (ICARDA, Lebanon, Beirut). Prof. Ashis Kr. Paul, Professor and Head of the Department of Geography, received Honorary Fellow of Coastal Education and Research Foundation, Inc. (CERF), USA. Dr. Abhishek Ghosh from Visva-Bharati joined the Department as Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral fellow (U.G.C) in June 2018 under the mentorship of Prof. Ramkrishna Maiti. Dr. Nilanjana Das Chatterjee too received a research project from ICSSR in 2017. Prof. Shyamal Mondal of the Department of Applied Mathematics received project grant from CSIR. **Prof. Sankar Roy has been selected as the collaborator of Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology through the CIDMA, University of Aveiro, Portugal for five years.** In the Department of Zoology, Professor Subrata Kr. De initiated a research project during the year on 'A cytological study on the Neurogenesis and neural degeneration of olfactory sensory receptor neurons in fish' funded by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of West Bengal, amounting to Rs.28,09,200/-. Another project was completed recently by Professor Bidhan Chandra Patra on “WBAQUAGIS”. It was sponsored by NRDMs, DST with a sanctioned amount of Rs. 28 lakhs. **Prof. Bidhan Chandra Patra also received the Research Recognition Award on the occasion of the 29th All India Congress of Zoology at ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpur, Kolkata.**

Books authored by Faculty Members

The 23rd volume of the UGC Approved, peer reviewed, indexed departmental journal, Vidyasagar University Journal of Commerce (ISSN 0973-5917) was released in 2018. Prof. Ramkrishna Maiti, Department of Geography, co-authored two books from Springer International Publishing AG, Switzerland on *Sedimentation in the Rupnarayan River* in 2018 along with his student, an alumnus of the Department. Cambridge University Press has brought out a book on Communicative English jointly authored by Prof. Debashish Bandyopadhyay of the Department of English and Prof Malathy Krishnan of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Prof Ranjan Chakrabarti, the hon'ble vice-chancellor of the university in his Foreword to the book underlined the relevance of the project meant especially for learners of English in the remote areas of the country who are deprived of the conveniences of the city life. This attempt is looked upon as a pioneering venture in the field of academic outreach in the catchment area of any university of the

state. Prof Sankar Prasad Singha (retd) and Prof Indranil Acharya of the Department of English have jointly edited a book on the languages of West Bengal. Brought out by Orient Blackswan, the book is based on research done in the first phase of the SAP, DRS project of the Department of English.

Foreign Visits

Prof Ranjan Chakrabarti, the vice-chancellor, visited the Rachel Carson Centre in Munich, Germany, and also attended the Environmental Humanities Summit, June-July 2018. Dr. Debjani Das of the Department of History, has been awarded the prestigious Fulbright Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award. She was affiliated to the Institute of History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University, USA for a period of nine months. Prof Debashish Bandyopadhyay of the Department of English has been awarded the status of Visiting Professor at the University of Merida and the University of Guanajuato, Mexico. Prof. Madhumangal Pal and Prof. Sankar Roy delivered invited talks at Tamkang University, **Taiwan** and University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, respectively.

National/ International Seminars/ Conferences/ Workshops

The Department of English in collaboration with Jean Frederic Chevallier of Sorbonne University, Paris organized a three day theatre workshop cum production of an adivasi play in multilingual avant garde form in the Open Air Theatre in the campus. ICRIF - 2018, the fifth International Conference of the Department of Commerce was



held on February 15 and 16, 2018. The theme was “Research and Innovation in Finance”. A special lecture on “Corporate Social Responsibility” was delivered by Professor (Retd.) Chittaranjan Sarkar, Department of Commerce, University of Burdwan on March 13, 2018. The Department of Geography organized a lecture series on Regional Geomorphology of West Bengal in January, 2018. Department of Applied Mathematics with Oceanology and



Computer Programming celebrated *National Mathematics Day* on