

Prof. Swapan Kr. Datta as Officiating VC



Anirudha, Baisakhi : Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta has been appointed as the Officiating Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati from 16 February, 2016. He told that his immediate priority is to try and establish friendly relationship between faculty members, staff and students of the varsity. He further mentioned, “Visva-Bharati needs to maintain its best possible academic atmosphere to continue its glory in the best possible way. This should not be compromised at any cost. Everyone should feel proud working here in Visva-Bharati, an institution of national importance and built up with Tagore’s concept.”

Dismissal of Vice-Chancellor

Baisakhi, Madhumanti : The Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati, Professor Sushanta Dattagupta was dismissed from his responsibilities on 16 February, 2016 before seven months of the completion of his tenure.

He joined as the Vice-Chancellor of this varsity on 29 September, 2011 after serving in many reputed educational institutions in India and abroad.

Earlier, he had submitted his resignation to the Hon’ble President of India and Visitor of Visva-Bharati, Pranab Mukherjee on 30 September, 2015. Smriti Irani, Minister of Human Resource Development, took the final call regarding his dismissal. According to VB Acts and Statutes, the Pro-VC Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta has taken up the responsibilities of Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati presently.

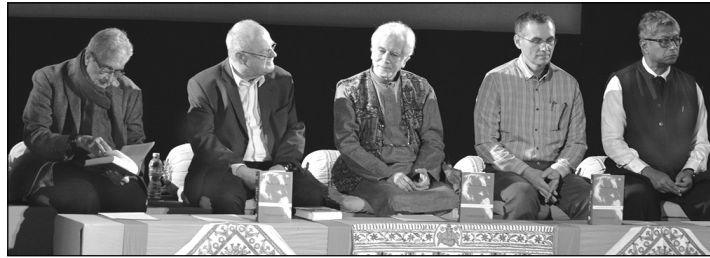
ভাষাদিবস

অর্পিতা, অনসূয়া, সৌরজিৎ : বিশ্বভারতীর বিদেশী ছাত্রছাত্রীদের উদ্যোগে আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে এবছর আয়োজিত হয় এক বিশেষ শিল্পকলা প্রদর্শনী যার মূল বিষয়বস্তু ছিল “রঙে রাজানো একুশে ফেরয়ারি”। কলাভবনের নন্দন আর্ট গ্যালারির প্রেক্ষাগৃহে এই প্রদর্শনীর উদ্বোধন করেন উপাচার্য অধ্যাপক স্বপনকুমার দত্ত। এছাড়াও উপস্থিত ছিলেন বিদেশী ছাত্রছাত্রী সহায়তা কেন্দ্রের সঞ্চালক অরুণা মুখোপাধ্যায় এবং অধ্যাপিকা সবুজকলি সেন। ভাষাদিবসকে স্মরণ করে বিশ্বভারতী প্রাঙ্গণে উদ্‌যাপিত হয় আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস। ব্ল্যাকহাউস থেকে নাট্যঘর পর্যন্ত ...এর পর ২-এর পাতায়

Book on Tagore’s Visits launched by Amartya Sen

Anasuya, Arpita, Souryajit : Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen launched a book titled ‘Rabindranath Tagore : One Hundred Years of Global Reception’ jointly edited by Imre Bangha, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi, Oxford University and Martin Kampchen, on 5 February at Lipika Auditorium, Santiniketan.

The programme was also graced by the German



Prof. Amartya Sen, Mr. Olaf Iversen (Hon’ble German Consulate General, Kolkata), Martin Kampchen, Imre Bangha, Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta (from L to R)
Photo : Souryajit

Consulate General, Kolkata, Olaf Iversen, the then Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati

Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta. The book tells us about the hospitality received by

Rabindranath Tagore during his visits to various countries. Many writers from different countries have written on Tagore’s visits in their places. It is a mere coincidence that Hungary and Germany felt that there are lot of commonalities in Tagore’s poems and their own folk songs. At the launch, certain portions from the book were read out by Martin Kampchen.

News Literacy and Journalism

Debasrita : Mr. Devadeep Purohit, Chief of Bureau, Politics and Policy, The Telegraph, Calcutta conducted a two-day workshop, titled ‘News Literacy and Indian Journalism : Information to News’, at the Centre for Journalism and Mass Communication, Visva-Bharati on 19-20 February.

During the session, he gave many practical examples and talked about the present scenario in the field of journalism and society in India. He emphasized on the importance of authenticity, observation, context, identity and balance at every step. Through the discussion on

incidents like the arrest of Kanhaiya Kumar, President of Jawaharlal Nehru University

University of Hyderabad who committed suicide in the campus due to caste



Photo : Pousita

Students’ Union on sedition charges, Rohit Vemula, the research scholar of the

protest over attack at Patiala
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‘Mani da’ at 93

Dipanjan, Neha : Seagull Foundation for the Arts, Kolkata in collaboration with Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati organized an exhibition of old paintings by former Prof. K. G. Subramanyan on the occasion of his 93rd birthday at Nandan Art Gallery, Santiniketan from 5-14 February. One of the pioneers of Indian Modern Art, Prof. Subramanyan popularly known as ‘Mani da’, is a Padma Vibhushan awardee. A musical programme by notable Sarod player Partha Sarathi along with renowned Tabla player Ashok Mukherjee was organized in the evening to commemorate this great painter’s birthday at the Kala Bhavana premises.

Literature, Border and Identity

Arnab, Bedashruti : A two-day International Seminar on ‘Literature, Border and Identity’ was organized by the Department of English and Other Modern European Languages (DEOMEL) from 29 February – 1 March at Bhasa Bhavana premises. The seminar emphasized on today’s socio-political significance of borders and boundaries, the refugee crisis in Europe along with cross-section of people in the new lands, new culture and their multiple identities.

The seminar was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta. Other dignitaries present were Prof. Tapati Mukherjee, Director, Rabindra Bhavana, Prof. Kailash

Pattanaik, Principal, Bhasa Bhavana and Prof. Bashabi Frazer, Principal Investigator at Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland. The inaugural address was delivered by Prof. Datta followed by the keynote address by Prof. Bashabi Frazer on “Ruptures and Departures: evolving identities around the narratives of borders”. She spoke about the irony of demands that world-wide trade makes on the flow of goods and people in a powerfully controlled corporate world.

The seminar highlighted the experiential reality of people affected by socio-political borders, legally constructed to produce the dialectics of multiple identities.

Education for Resurgent India

Anirudha, Jagdish, Kajal : “Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda played a vital role in educating the country where they talked about social transformations in which it is important to have individual transformation first”, said Prof. Swami Atmapriyananda Maharaj, Vice-Chancellor, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Belur Math in a national convention titled ‘Education for Resurgent India : Empowering teachers for social transformation’ in Santiniketan. The convention was jointly organized by Department of Education, Vinaya Bhavana and Ramakrishna Mission Sikshanamandira, Belur Math

on 14–15 March at Assembly Hall, Vinaya Bhavana. The convention aimed to provide a platform to revisit and redefine education and teacher training as the critical components of social transformation and nation building. Prof. Sabujkoli Sen, Director, Vinaya-Bhavana welcomed the dignitaries in the inaugural session. In his presidential address Prof. Dilip Kumar Sinha, former Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati said that Gurudev and Swamaji focused on the empowerment of grassroot level of the society. Prof. Mita Banerjee, Vice-Chancellor, WBUTTEPA (West Bengal University of Teachers’ Training, Education Planning
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বসন্তোৎসব ২০১৬ : নিষেধাজ্ঞা উঠল লাল পলাশের উপর

অনিরুদ্ধ, বৈশাখী : এবছর বসন্ত উৎসবে লাল পলাশ ব্যবহারের উপর থেকে তুলে নেওয়া হল বিগত কিছু বছর ধরে জারি থাকা নিষেধাজ্ঞা। যদিও হলুদ পলাশ ব্যবহারের উপর এখনও আগের মত নিষেধাজ্ঞা জারি থাকছে। বিশ্বভারতী ক্রনিকল-কে উপাচার্য অধ্যাপক স্বপন কুমার দত্ত জানান, “ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ও পর্যটকদের আশা ও উৎসবের মূর্ত্তকে মর্যাদা জানিয়ে পলাশ ব্যবহারের উপর কোন বাধা এবার থাকছে না। কিন্তু কোন গাছের যাতে ক্ষতি না হয় সেদিকে নজরদারি রাখা হবে”।

পলাশ গাছের সংখ্যাবৃদ্ধি করার কোন উপায় এতদিন সেভাবে জানা ছিল না। অথচ বসন্তোৎসবে আগত মানুষদের চাহিদা মেটাতে গিয়ে শান্তিনিকেতন থেকে দ্রুত হারিয়ে যাচ্ছিল পলাশ। তাই পলাশের অস্তিত্ব রক্ষার স্বার্থে উৎসব কর্তৃপক্ষ এই নিষেধাজ্ঞা জারি করে



ছবি : দীপাঞ্জন

রেখেছিল। কিন্তু একজন উপাচার্য হিসেবে নয়, স্বানামধ্যনা কৃষিবিজ্ঞানী হিসেবে অধ্যাপক দত্ত গবেষণা করে দেখেছেন যে লাল পলাশের বীজ থেকে গাছের সংখ্যাবৃদ্ধি সম্ভব এবং এই এলাকায় তা যথেষ্ট বেড়েছে। তবে, হলুদ পলাশ ব্যবহারের ক্ষেত্রে তিনি সতর্ক করেছেন। তার বক্তব্য, “এই প্রক্রিয়ায় কয়েক বছর পর্যন্ত সময় লাগে হলুদ পলাশের সংখ্যাবৃদ্ধির ক্ষেত্রে এবং এক্ষেত্রে এখনও কিছু সমস্যা রয়েছে”।

তিনি আরও জানান যে বসন্ত উৎসবের প্রস্তুতির দিক থেকে সুরক্ষা ব্যবস্থার উপর বিশেষ গুরুত্ব আরোপ করা হয়েছে যাতে উৎসবে কোনো বিশৃঙ্খলা সৃষ্টি না হয়। সবাইকে স্বাগত জানিয়ে আশ্রমের এবং বসন্ত উৎসবের ঐতিহ্যকে ধরে রাখতে উপাচার্য সকলের কাছে সহযোগিতা চেয়েছেন।

Editorial

Education, Commercialisation and Politics

Constant slow institutional withering in India is the persistent revolution along with increasing brain drain since 90's. Thinking, writing and reading has always been a much stronger influence on mind than violence and enforcing. Balancing academic freedom, campus security and answering to the expanding commercialization of knowledge should be the prime focus of the system and the setups like UGC, MHRD and the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) etc.

India's neglect of an advance fringeless knowledge environment, is a deep concern for the future of our country. The phrase 'pen is mightier than the sword' defines our education system. Laid back updates and the prolonged delay faced in the process of admissions, appointments followed by interviews and selections of students, teachers and other officials are capable of destroying young, creative and active minds. Delay in examinations at every level crushes enthusiastic capabilities too.

There is a trend of aspiring students moving overseas for education and not all of them are driven by better income, 'status', or foreign degree. Satisfying experience of learning, research and exposure along with relatively flawless flexible facilities, campus independence, clean surroundings, timely exercise of official labor, less of undesired involvement leaving aside the prejudice and discrimination on the basis of castes with an open-mindedness of acceptance as well as easiness encircling a working or studying environment, secular administration, establishing policies beneficial for the people involved in the institutions are few major attractions for students. It's easy to work in a peaceful atmosphere and friendly zone because; there is always an obvious tendency to revolt against unnecessary restriction when levied upon.

The system has created a maze at every step of development and hurdle in the path of research and study, by delaying grants and permissions to proposals. Despite rigorous attempts of slashing down young spirits, students have the power to put an end to unconstitutional campus speech codes, as it's their voices that are being silenced forcefully. When money is a pass for vacancies, weakening for strong hold on quality is definite. Intolerance of views, expression, opinions by academics or teachers leads silent formation of self-censorship that undermines independent thinking. The ability of educational institutions should be to challenge views and establish opinions showing the right path and a free place for creating knowledge and develop new ideas, theories.

—Debasrita Chakraborty

AIHCA Seminars

Diganta, Manish, Unnita: A seminar sponsored by Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) was organized from 20-21 February by the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology (AIHCA) on 'Order of Hierarchy, Temple and State in Early Medieval India'. It was inaugurated by VC Prof. Swapan Kr. Datta and the Chief Guest was Prof. B. D. Chattopadhyay, former Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Dr. Sarita Khetry, Head, Department of AIHCA, explored the ideology of Bhakti and the relationship between the deity and devotee in her address.

Different aspects of order of hierarchy in the realm of religion and society in the early medieval India and the changes and transition in agamas, festivals, temple centric economic activities, practice of untouchability and graded inequality were also analyzed in this seminar.

On 30 January, AIHCA, also organized a seminar on Pottery of West Bengal in the departmental seminar hall. The speaker for the seminar, Prof. Surajit Raut, Burdwan University, spoke about the potteries in Hooghly, Bankura, Birbhum and Burdwan districts. His speech also reflected the influence of technology on pottery and the basic differences between ancient and modern pottery.



August মাস - বৃষ্টি ভেজা কিছু পা-এর হেঁয়া পড়ল CJMC-এর দালানে। New experience-এর রহস্যে মোড়া নতুন এক

পরিবারের সঙ্গে পথ চলার শুরু। সেই পরিবারের স্বপ্ন মাথা নতুন চোখগুলোর নতুন আবিষ্কার CJMC Media Lab!! দেখে সত্যিই মনে হয় Nothing is impossible!! Law থেকে Print হয়ে Brain in Communication এর four lane দিয়ে শুরু হল এক অন্যরকম journey। 'আনন্দবাজার' আর Chronicle-এর উত্তেজনায় মেতে উঠে শুরু হল Senior-দের কাঁধে কাঁধ মেলানোর পালা। কিন্তু First Semester Exam! সুখ সত্যিই অলীক— প্রমাণ nervousness-এর ছায়া। যা ছিল সবার চোখে মুখে। তাই বলে দুঃখও তো eternal হতে পারে না। সবার মনে এক আনন্দের আমেজ এনে দিল কুয়াশার চাদর মুড়ি দিয়ে আসা পৌষমেলা। জিলিপির গন্ধ আর পিঠে পুলির গরম ভাপে at last শীতের সাথে যুদ্ধে victory হল আমাদেরই। New Year-এর হাত ধরে এল new semester। Communication Research, Radio, TV নিয়ে আবার জেডুপার লড়াই-এর শুরু। Beat cover করা আর report লেখার মধ্যে দিয়ে চলে এল বসন্ত আর তার জন্য ক্রনিকল-এর প্রস্তুতি। দাদা-দিদিদের মস্তানিকে don't care দেখিয়ে এবার "আমরা সবাই রাজা আমাদের এই Chronicle-এর রাজত্বে" Editorial, Post-editorial পেরিয়ে লিখতে বসা হল মজাদার কিছু। কিন্তু উঁচু মহলের চাপে মজা ছেড়ে আমরা তো সবাই 'রামগড়ুরের ছানা'!! 'হাসতে আমাদের মানা' হলেও অবাধ্যতার জেড়ে হাসির কথা শুনলে এখনো আমরা হেসেই ফেলি। তাই seriousness কে সম্মান জানিয়ে তার সঙ্গে হাসিও রইল আমাদের এবারের 'Cocktail'-এ।

—দীপাঞ্জন মণ্ডল

'Water and Jobs'

Water scarcity is being reported for years, specially, on how global water shortages is posing a threat of terror and war globally in coming days, but, all in pen and paper, with barely any solid actions taken so far. We are advancing to a world in which the most hotly-contested resource for development and survival will not be oil, but water. Nearly 4 crore people, approximately two-thirds of the world's population, face severe water scarcity for at least one month in a year. Never the less, it also implies that 80% of India's 125.2 crore (2013) populations face severe water scarcity at least for a month every year. Apart from India, other places that face severe water crisis are Bangladesh, US (western states such as California and southern states such as Texas and Florida), Pakistan (mostly the Indus basin), Nigeria and Mexico. The situation is so severe that today there is a need for fixing a special theme—"Water and Jobs" while observing the 'World Water Day' on 22 March, 2016. Still freshwater poverty is not on the priority list of the government policies.

'Freshwater makes up a very small fraction of entire water percentage on the planet. While nearly 70 percent of the world is covered by water, only 2.5 percent of it is fresh. The rest is saline and ocean-based. Just 1 percent of our freshwater is easily accessible, with much of it trapped in glaciers and snowfields. In essence, only 0.007 percent of the planet's water is available to fuel and feed its 680 crore'. Even though these are the very first lines of any chapter related to water or environment, it remains as the compulsory part of the syllabus and hardly one cares to explain the importance of these scary lines.

In India situations are so worse that many families in Danganmal a village in western India nearly 140 km from Mumbai, the solution to fetch drinking water is a "water wife".

"My first wife was busy with the kids. When my second wife fell sick and was unable to fetch

water, I married a third" said Sakharam Bhagat, 66, (during an interview with Reuters) who now has three wives, two of whom he married only to make sure his household has water to drink and cook.

Still if there are any doubts about water crisis and a thought to flip over pages considering such articles as boring then probably knowing the following scenario of the globe will force you to think twice. Every 15 seconds a small child is dying of water borne disease; people all across the world have started using bottled water worth \$60-\$80 billion per year; people in the rural areas of India, Africa and Asia have to walk miles to get drinking water and developed countries who apparently have solution to every problem through technology are highly suffering from diseases caused by the dirty water and lack of clean water.

Pouring huge money into water rights, desalinization, and purification projects all over the world and organizing debates here and there is definitely not an answer; energetic involvement of every human being can be a solution.

Small steps like collecting rain water, not leaving the tap open and fix a dripping tap as a dripping tap can waste 15 litres of water a day, or 5,500 litres of water a year, encouraging and adapting homemade along with traditional methods of water preservation, using full loaded washing machines and dishwashers, washing vegetables in a bowl rather than under a running tap, avoiding the usage of sprinklers as they use as much water in one hour as a family of four uses in one day.

What's the point in criticising people engaged in cleaning water bodies on one side and simultaneously throwing a plastic bottle into the drain? Instead, putting a little effort in conserving water in your own small way might just help you along with millions out there facing hurdles.

Debasrita Chakraborty, Student, PG Sem-II, CJMC has written this Post-Editorial.



The Department of Japanese Studies celebrated 100 years of Tagore's visit to Japan in 1916. On this occasion, the Japanese Ambassador H. E. Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu paid his maiden visit to Santiniketan on 9 January. Photo: Mridhumoy

PACS Programme at VB

Baisakhi: The Department of Social Work organized a seminar in collaboration with the PACS (Poorest Areas Civil Society) programme supported by the Government of UK-DFID (United Kingdom-Department for International Development) on 29 January entitled "Poverty and Social Exclusion". The seminar highlighted upon the empowerment of Dalits and other groups of lower strata.

PACS programme is presently running across 7 states, 95 districts, 517 blocks and 20,784 villages in India. It was launched in India by Mr. Rajkumar Bidla, National Programme Manager of PACS.

He mentioned about the past and present scenario of Dalits in India. Its main goal is to work on the reduction of welfare gap between socially excluded groups and the rest of the population.

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News Literacy

House Court, Bengal Global Business Summit 2016 and the coverage of the General Election 2014, he explained the students various turns of media in terms of news literacy. Mr. Purohit also threw light on the framing of policies and the hierarchy of a newspaper.

Devadeep Purohit gave few suggestions too, on how to shape an article which will grab reader's attention easily, emphasizing on being balanced, accurate, authentic, by cross checking fact and figures, which benefited all the student participants.

International Film Fest

Dipanjan, Neha: Kala Bhavana in collaboration with the Federation of Film Society of India organized a film festival from 17-19 January at the Centre for Inter-disciplinary Arts Building, Kala Bhavana. Dignitaries present were Premendra Majumdar, General Secretary of the Federation of Film Society of India and Prof. Dilip Mitra, Principal, Kala Bhavana. Films from different countries and different genres such as *Badhshala* (2013) by Manoj Pandit from Nepal, *Ant Story* (2014) by Mostafa Sarwar Farooki from Bangladesh, *Warriors of Steppe* (2012) by Akan Satayev from Kazakhstan, *The Best Collector* (2006) by Jeffrey Jeturian from Philippines, *Hush! Girls Don't Scream* (2014) by Pouran Derakhshandeh from Iran and *The Silent Water* (2004) by Sabiha Sumar from Pakistan were screened. The last two films were screened at Media Lab, Centre for Journalism and Mass Communication.

...১-এর পাতা থেকে

ভাষাদিবস

প্রভাতফেরীর আয়োজন করা হয় এবং নাট্যঘরের মুক্ত মঞ্চের শহীদ বেদিতে শ্রদ্ধার্থ অর্পন করেন উপাচার্য এবং অধ্যাপিকা অরুণা মুখোপাধ্যায়। ভাষাদিবসের ঐতিহাসিক প্রেক্ষাপট সম্পর্কে উপাচার্য নিজের বক্তব্যে বলেন, "ফেব্রুয়ারির-একুশে দিনটি আমাদের বাঙালির বড় পুণ্যের দিন।" অনুষ্ঠানে সঙ্গীত ভবন ও পাঠভবনের ষষ্ঠ শ্রেণীর ছাত্রছাত্রীরা বিভিন্ন গান পরিবেশন করে।

Bengal Premiere of 'Reflecting Her' in Santiniketan

Debasrita : CJMC, Visva-Bharati, organized the Bengal premiere of 'Reflecting Her', a documentary on reproductive health and rights of women which was released in September 2015. This was followed by a panel discussion on 'Communicating Reproductive Rights: Challenges and Opportunities' in association with International Association of Women in Radio & Television (IAWRT) on 21 November, 2015 at Lipika auditorium, Santiniketan. Eminent and distinguished panelists Vice President of IAWRT International Board, Prof. Ananya Chakraborti, Human Rights activist Sushmita Basu, Bengali Film Producer Satrajit Sen enlightened the audience with a fruitful discussion.

'REFLECTING HER - A Long Documentary' deals with four stories from four different countries— India, Kenya, Poland and South Africa. Bina Paul from India, was the Executive Producer and lead the team of four directors being Anna Pawlowska from Poland, Atieno Otieno from Kenya, Priya Goswami from India, and Sara Chitambo from South Africa. This documentary briefly

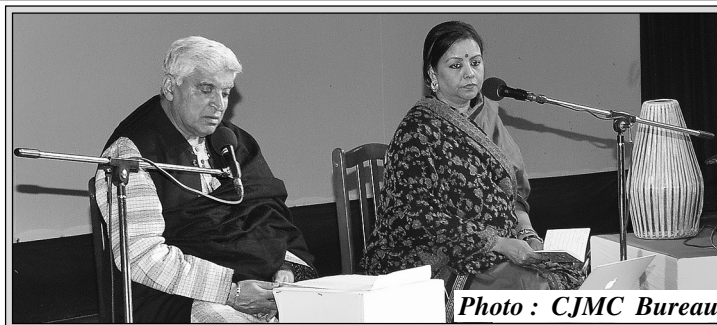


gave us the scenario of the existing harsh orthodox beliefs, lack of awareness, blind religious faith, resulting into both physical and mental discomfort rather harassment of numerous human beings in many countries. The panel discussion followed by the screening was a small attempt to generate awareness in honouring the basic Human Rights in relation to 'Women and Reproductive Rights'. Each panelist took up one angle of the topic and spoke on it with relevant facts and analysis. Prof. Ananya Chakraborti, gave an overall perspective with recent examples of women going through severe harassment. Human Rights activist Sushmita Basu, shared her field experiences and mentioned about the general orthodox view of people regarding reproductive rights. Lastly, Bengali Film Producer Satrajit Sen elaborated the advantages and disadvantages of the marketing aspects of such documentaries or films and how through technology it has become easier to publicize documentaries and films related on social issues.

Rabindra Prabaho

Debannita, Nidhi : On 31 January the first lecture of this year's 'Rabindra Prabaho' was held on 'Tagore and Gandhi: the idea of Nation, Narration and Nationalism' at Udayana Griha. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Tapati Mukherjee, Director, Rabindra Bhavana. The speaker for this lecture was Prof. Bashabi Fraser, Edinburgh Napier University. She highlighted on the relationship between Gandhi and Tagore and their approaches towards nation and nationalism. After this Prof. Dattagupta, the then Vice-Chancellor addressed the gathering.

On 28 February, another 'Rabindra Prabaho' lecture was held on 'Rabindra Bhavana Archive: A Living Chronicle'. The speakers of the session were Prof. Tapati Mukherjee, Director, Rabindra Bhavana and Utpal Mitra, Chief of Rabindra Bhavana Archive. Prof. Mukherjee focused on the theory, application and the colourful history, manuscripts and documentation of Rabindra Bhavana archives. Utpal Mitra concentrated more on the preservation, restoration and limitations of the archives. The session was presided over by Prof. Sanjoy Mallik, Kala Bhavana.



Poet-writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar visited Visva- Bharati to promote his newly released album 'Anant' on 27 January at Lipika auditorium. The album 'Anant' comprises of eight translated songs and poems in Hindi and Urdu from Rabindranath Tagore's 'Gitanjali'. Album singer Sangeeta Dutta presented a few poems and songs to the audience.

International Women's Day

Arnab, Anusua, Bedashruti, Christina : On the eve of International Women's Day, 7 March, Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) organized a panel discussion, titled 'Women's Work Inside-Outside Dichotomy - how relevant is the debate today?' at the Central Library Conference Hall.

Prof. Ratnabali Chatterjee, Department of Islamic History and Culture, Calcutta University, Prof. Saraswati Raju, Department of Social Geography, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Prof. Achin Chakraborty, Director of Institute of Development Studies were the eminent speakers. VC Prof. Swapan Kr. Datta presided over the lecture session with his insightful inputs regarding the topic.

Prof. Chatterjee discussed about pre-modern societies where participation of women in workplaces was very less. Prof. Raju mentioned about women's contribution in economy. Prof. Chakraborty lucidly described the importance of women's

economic role in determining their position from household activities to representation in politics and governance.

On 8 March CWS organized a debate competition among the university students on 'Violence against Women is actually a patriarchal backlash' The Department of English and Other Modern European Languages celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March too. The theme was based on women's writing, tracing a consciousness to many voices of women all over India.

The programme began with an introduction of Rabindranath Tagore's idea on internationalism and women's writing by Swati Ganguly, Associate Professor, DEOMEL. Discussion on the importance of women's day stirred up an important question, "why women's day and not men's day?" Early writing of women during the 19th century was discussed which included the autobiographies of eminent writers Rassundari Devi and Binodini Devi.

Library Initiatives

Harmeet : QR (Quick Response) Code based services at Visva-Bharati Library Network has been launched recently, giving access to 1645 theses (in 101 pages) produced under VB. They will now be available via phone and free for anyone to use. The library has placed QR codes at different strategic points – the journal section, the reference section, reading room, Braille library, stack room, floor map etc. The QR code can be availed with the help of 'QR Code Reader' at Google play, informed Dr. V. K. Thomas, University Librarian.

Dr. Nimai Saha, Deputy Librarian informed that several exhibitions have been organized recently on the respective birth anniversaries of eminent Indian personalities.

CJMC Students' Achievements

CJMC Bureau : Four PG Sem-IV students of CJMC, Debarati Chakraborty, Ankan Roy, Pousita Dutta and Indrani Biswas have been selected for the Gandhi Fellowship this year. Debayan Bhadury of Sem-IV has been nominated as the Student Representative from Vidya Bhavana in the Academic Council of Visva-Bharati. Further, Kajal Chatterjee, Sem-II, won gold (1st prize) in the National Photography Salon organized by the Dooars Photographers Association. Richa Rai, Sem-II and Pritha Mukherjee, Sem-IV acquired 1st positions in a debate competition organized by the Centre for Women's Studies on 8 march at Lipika auditorium, Santiniketan. Sem-II student Harmeet Kaur Sahdev's short film 'My First Nurturer' was screened at the 5th Kolkata International Children Film Festival on 22 – 29 December, 2015.

REC Conference

Rinzee, Sabinay : A two day national conference by the Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension on "Education & Development" was held on 4 – 5 March, at the Seminar Hall of Rural Extension Centre (REC), Sriniketan. Dr. Sujit Kumar Paul, Organizing Secretary of the conference informed that the conference was divided into nine sessions, where delegates, who came from all over the country presented research papers. The research papers mainly focused on sustainable development and education, women empowerment, education in the rural areas, land ownership and various other issues. Swami Shastrajnananda, Principal of Belur Vidya Mandir, Belur Math was the chief guest of the event. Other dignitaries present were, VC Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta, Prof. Sabujkoli Sen, Director of SEIRR and Prof. Amit Kumar Hazra, REC.

Prof. V. C. Jha, Principal of Vidya Bhavana delivered the valedictory address.

Baraldi at VB

Arnab, Bedashruti : The Department of English and Other Modern European Languages (DEOMEL) and Cultural Studies, Bhasa Bhavana organized a special lecture on 'Modern European Identity'. Noted Italian author Michele Baraldi was the speaker for the session, held on 4 February at the Bhasa Bhavana conference room.

Prof. Michele Baraldi started his lecture giving a brief introduction of European history and focusing on the importance of different languages in Europe.

The lecture was followed by a lively interaction, where the university students and faculty members actively participated. Prof. Arun Mishra, Vice-Principal, Bhasa Bhavana, presided over the lecture with his insightful inputs on this topic.

Hungarian Translations

Poulami, Sanchari : Rabindra Bhavana organized a lecture titled "The Hungarian Translations of Tagore's Poetry" on 15 February at Udayan Griha. Prof. Imre Bangha, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi, Oxford University, was the speaker for the event. The VC Prof. Swapan Kr. Datta was the Chief Guest for the session. Prof. Tapati Mukherjee, Director, Rabindra Bhavana, welcomed the guests.

Prof. Imre Bangha mentioned about three different translations of 'Gitanjali' in Hungarian language and spoke about Tagore's anti-imperialistic work and read out the communist translation of "Ora Kaj Kore". He concluded the speech sharing his love for Hindi and Bengali. Prof. Datta moderated a vibrant interactive session after Prof. Bangha's speech.

Maths Seminar

Moumita, Mridhumoy : Dept of Mathematics organized a three-day national conference on 19–21 February on the computation of Mathematics and Non-linear Dynamics. Prof. Prasanta Chatterjee, HOD, Mathematics introduced the theme. Prof. J.C Mishra, IEST Shibpur and Prof. Aresh Roy Chowdhury, Emeritus Professor, Dept of Physics, Jadavpur University talked about the importance of computation. Prof. V.C. Joy, Principal, Siksha Bhavana also graced the conference.

Magh Mela 2016

Arindam, Maytree : Like every year, Visva-Bharati observed the 94th Sriniketan Annual Festival from 6–8 February 2016.

The three day long programme commenced with the opening of an exhibition of organic vegetables cultivated by the students of various departments of Palli Siksha Bhavana. Songs of various genres like Baul, Sufi, Bhadu, Tusu, Yatra songs, songs of

Satyapir and Kirton were among the prime attractions of this fair.

Distinguished guests at the inaugural programme were, the then VC Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta, present VC Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta, former VC Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya, Director of SEIRR Prof. Sabujkoli Sen, Prof. Sudhendu Mondal, Registrar Dr. (Col.) M. M. Mitra and other teachers.

Poush Utsav

Anindita : Poush Mela - the annual fair and festival of Santiniketan, marking the harvest season was observed this year from 23 December 2015 night, which has never happened in the recent past. The entire university along with Ashramites and other local people attended the festival and the fair. Tight security and traffic was properly maintained by the police officials throughout the Utsav.

Quiz at Cheena Bhavana

Shafinur, Susmita : Cheena Bhavana organized a 'Quiz Competition' in association with Chinese Consulate, Kolkata on 25 January at Cheena Bhavana seminar hall. Mr. Chen-en-Khai, Chinese Consulate Kolkata was the chief guest. Prof. Kailash Pattanaik, Principal of Bhasa Bhavana and Prof. Abhijeet Banerjee, Associate Professor and Head of Chinese Department were present in the event. Mr. Chen-en-Khai in his speech said, "Exchange of knowledge in this approach will make students more energetic." He has also encouraged students to visit China with an aspiring attitude.

CJMC Workshop with P. Sainath



Photo : Pousita

Christina, Richa : A two-day workshop was organized by the Centre for Journalism and Mass Communication in collaboration with the People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) on 22-23 February at CJMC Media Lab, New Bhasa-Vidya Bhavana.

Magsaysay award winning journalist P.Sainath introduced the idea of PARI to the new students of the CJMC. He spoke about the relevance of having a people's

archive on this day and age. He also watched the raw footages and documentary films prepared by the senior PG students of CJMC on different subjects, which have been temporarily shortlisted for PARI. He appreciated their hard work and gave his own inputs and suggestions on how to improve their documentaries and archival work. During this workshop he spoke about the art of documentary film-making, need for proper technical training and field work to create documentaries that would make a difference.

At the end of the session, the students clarified their doubts followed by a lively interactive session with him, which enriched the knowledge of the students.

Rathindra Mela

Debasrita, Kankanika : Like every year, the Palli Samgathana Vibhaga, Sriniketan, Visva-Bharati organized 'Rathindra Mela' on 27-28 November, 2015 commemorating the birth anniversary of Rathindranath Tagore, son of Rabindranath Tagore. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Padmini Balaran, Silpa Sadana and the chief guest for this occasion was Prof. Probrir Das Gupta, Ex-Professor of Silpa Sadana.

The students of Silpa Sadana had put up art and food stalls in the fair. Through these stalls, artworks like earrings, glass works, ceramic works, bags, necklaces made by the students were exhibited and sold to the visitors.

Language Workshop & Screening by Nippon Bhavana

Anita, Shafinur, Sushmita : Nippon Bhavana conducted a week long Japanese Language workshop in collaboration with Japan Foundation from 4-10 January, on the completion of 100 years of Tagore's maiden visit to Japan. Language advisors Mr. Yasujiro Takei, Ms. Chisato Murakami and Ms. Kyoko Ogawa took the workshop, which aimed at training the aspiring Japanese language teachers to speak fluently in Japanese. Japanese Ambassador H. E. Mr. Kenji

Hiramatsu joined the workshop on 9 January in Santiniketan.

Nippon Bhavana also organized a screening of "ALWAYS-Sunset on Third Street", directed by Takashi Yamazaki in collaboration with Consulate of Japan, Kolkata on 20 February. Vice Consul, Consulate General of Japan, Kolkata, Ms. Maiko Morito, VC Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta, and HOD, Japanese Studies, Ms. Geeta A. Keeni and other dignitaries were present at the event.

Gandhi Punyaha at Visva-Bharati

Dipanjan, Moumita, Subhasish, Unnita : On 10 March, 2016 Visva-Bharati celebrated its 101st "Gandhi Punyaha". Students along with the teachers of Patha Bhavana, Siksha Satra, NSS Unit and other Bhavanas celebrated the day by cleaning the university premises. The event took place simultaneously at Santiniketan and Sriniketan in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Swapan Kr. Datta at the Ashram Ground, where he mentioned the aim of "Gandhi Punyaha", as well as to engage oneself in the "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan", to make Santiniketan a "Non-Smoking" and "Plastic Free" zone. He also narrated the historical background of the day.

Teachers, staff and students of different



Photo : Dipanjan

departments and sections of Visva-Bharati also celebrated the day by cleaning offices, class rooms, wash rooms etc on their own.

Seminar on Thirukkural

Anirudha, Bedashruti : A one-day national seminar on 'Thirukkural', the book of the universal poet 'Thiruvallavar' was jointly organized by Tamil and Marathi language departments of Bhasa Bhavana on 22 February. The programme started with a short introduction of Thiruvallavar and Thirukkural followed by two Tamil songs and a Rabindra Sangit sung by the students of Santhali department. VC Prof. Swapan Kr. Datta inaugurated the programme along with Prof. Ganapathy Subbiah, former Principal of Vidya Bhavana, Prof. Kailash Pattanaik, Principal of Bhasa Bhavana. Mr. Sumedh Ranvir, Assistant Professor, Marathi department welcomed the audience in the beginning. Inaugural address was delivered by Prof. Pattanaik. In his presidential address VC Prof. Datta said, "the Tamil literature is very rich and there are different cultures and traditions people should know." Prof. Subbiah elaborately discussed 'Thirukkural' in his keynote speech. He stated, "Thirukkural is the greatest creation of literature where the texts of the book are still relevant after 2000 years." He also added in his speech about the special features of 'Thirukkural' which included the definition of Dharma (virtue), Artha (wealth) and Kama (love). The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Senthil Prakash. S of Tamil dept. and a short interactive session with students and teachers.

CCL International Conference

CJMC Bureau : The Centre for Comparative Literature, organized an international conference titled "Comparative Literature: At the Crossroads of Culture and Society" on 16-17 January in collaboration with ICSSR, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), UGC, Comparative Literature Association of India (CLAI) and Rabindra Bhavana. In her welcome address Prof. Tapati Mukherjee, Chairperson, CCL spoke about the universal phenomenon of intermingling

of culture and society with literature. Dheeman Bhattacharyya of CCL introduced the theme of the conference. The then VC Prof. Dattagupta delivered the inaugural address and shared interesting facts about the similarity of certain words in different cultures. Other distinguished guests were present VC Prof. Swapan K. Datta, Prof. Chandra Mohan, General Secretary, CLAI, Prof. Avadhesh Kumar Singh, IGNOU and Prof. Kailash Pattanaik.

Netaji's Birthday at VB

Anasuya, Arpita, Souryajit : Visva-Bharati, Karmi-parishad celebrated 119th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Singha Sadan, Patha Bhavana like every year. The welcome address was delivered by VC Prof. Datta. He elaborated Netaji's contribution in the freedom struggle movement in India. Following this, the chief speaker Soumen Sengupta, Assistant Lecturer, Siksha Satra spoke about Netaji's life and his immense effort in building 'Azad Hind Fauz' while fighting for the freedom of India.

'Information is capital and profit' : Prof. Nagaraj

Debasrita : Eminent scholar Prof. K V Nagaraj, presently a faculty of Mizoram Central University and former Pro Vice-Chancellor of Assam Central University delivered a special lecture titled 'Culture, Communication and Development' at CJMC on 26 November, 2015.

Prof. Nagaraj began his speech stating 'communication is power and information is capital and profit' which grabbed attention of the audience. He elaborated in simple terms how the process of communication is

taking a turn towards digitization and human dependence on electronics because of which, people are eventually getting carried away by a single character language and how machines are driving the entire human race making them laid back and dependent. Today, the cruelest change is development which can be understood by the consumption of bit and bytes. He further clarified the convergence of communication with culture and development and the inter-dependence of each. Drawing attention to

Research Methodology Workshop

Anirudha, Kajal : Department of Education organized a workshop on Research Methodology in Social Science from 8-17 February at Assembly Hall, Vinaya Bhavana, sponsored by ICSSR to provide an overview of research methods, specific techniques, training and skill development, including field survey and data analysis in the field of Social Science. Prof. K.C. Sahoo, Head of Education Department informed that eminent professors and personalities from Visva-Bharati

and other universities across India joined the programme as resource persons.

On the inaugural day Chief Guest Swami Atmapriyananda Maharaj, Vice-Chancellor of Ramkrishna Mission Vivekananda University, addressed the students on nature of scientific method and its application to social phenomenon.

The valedictory session was graced by Prof. Chandra Bhushan Sharma, Chairman of National Institution of Open Schooling, Noida, UP.

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Resurgent India

and Administration) discussed about the power of youth.

In the technical sessions research scholars of Visva-Bharati and other universities presented their research papers under the chairmanship of

eminent professors based on 'Education for sustainable development', 'Teacher Education: Capacity building and quality concern', 'Indigenous knowledge system vs. Imitative practices' etc.

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