



विश्वभारती  
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Visva-Bharati



संस्थापक: रवीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर  
Founder: Rabindranath Tagore

आचार्य: श्री नरेंद्र मोदी  
ACHARYA (CHANCELLOR)  
SHRI NARENDRA MODI

उपाचार्य: प्रोफेसर विद्युत चक्रवर्ती  
UPACHARYA (VICE-CHANCELLOR)  
PROF. BIDYUT CHAKRABARTY

10.08.2022

### Visva-Bharati's response to the false allegations against Visva-Bharati and its administration

In its edition of 9 August, The Kolkata-Based Daily, The Telegraph brought out a story based on fabricated inputs provided by a voluntary association, named VBUFA, on the basis of its members' prejudicial inputs. *The Telegraph* journalist attacked Visva-Bharati because the university held a discussion on the book *Modi@20* which is being done across the country. There should not be anything wrong if a review-discussion of a book on a leader takes place. One may undertake a counter review. This is a text that also contains essays by renowned economist, Arvind Panagariya, the famous cardiologist, Dr. Devi Shetty, the famous writer, Amish Tripathy, among others. The reporters missed these authors deliberately to establish his point that it was not worthwhile. Just like the other day, many Dailies also objected to the holding of a discussion on the phenomenon of Kali presumably to curry favour with the present political dispensation, *The Telegraph* undertook this to score brownie points.

Visva-Bharati was famous for wrong reasons: prominent among them was the reluctance of teachers and non-teaching staff to avoid their assigned duties. A careful check of the time table of the pre-2018 years will exemplify the statement. Those who work in the office did not seem to have accepted that there was a time-frame for them. They were accustomed to come according to their sweet will which is now stopped but to the chagrin of those who are forced to come and remain in office till 6 pm. Interestingly, those who avoided office during the day time were very keen for overtime in the evening. It was also stopped as well which was also a cause of being angry with the university authority. The drive to recover illegal payment on the advice of the CAG audit also annoyed many of those working in the university.

Specific charges: -

- 1) Those who were suspended and were also reinstated after the completion of the enquiry by the duly-constituted Enquiry Committee have mostly accepted that they were wrong. Hence, they joined back once the Executive Council decided accordingly. It is to be noted here that it is the Executive Council which is authorized to execute the punishment or its redemption.
- 2) Three employees were removed because they were charged with the forgery of Executive Council Minutes which led one to assume the position of interim Vice Chancellor of the University. The enquiry was conducted by retired Chief Justice of Calcutta High court and the charge was established beyond doubt.
- 3) No faculty member was removed from the position; they resigned for personal reasons. How did the reporter come to this conclusion is beyond our comprehension when the resignation letters are in the possession of the university.
- 4) Show cause notice was issued to those employees of the university who violated the CCS (1964) rules. Is it not an offense when the non-teaching employees put the Vice Chancellor

and other officer inside his secretariat by putting a lock in the entry gate? As a result, show-cause notice (or a call for explanation) were issued to those recalcitrant employees. The university did not proceed against those who tendered an apology for their misdeeds. Only two of them declined to apologise and disciplinary proceedings are going on against them and it is being prolonged because they have gone to the court which means that being a sub judice matter, the university cannot do anything even if it sincerely wants.

- 5) There are 180 cases of show cause/disciplinary proceedings in JNU although the reporter reduced the numbers for defending the concocted story.
- 6) The letter of Jawahar Sircar has already been responded with facts which VBUFA distorted deliberately to attain its partisan goal.
- 7) The money being spent in the last three years is due to the fact that those seemingly violated the university rules and regulations did not have faith in the university system; hence, they went to the court on their own; the university just became respondents inadvertently as the charges made by them did not appear to be correct. Once you are in the court, you have every right to exhaust all possibilities of getting justice; hence the settlement of the cases is getting delayed. Such a spending could have been avoided if the university was allowed to adjudicate the case by being truthful to the CCS rules and other concomitant rules and regulations in this regard. Nonetheless, the amount spent in the last three years as university was dragged to the court was significantly less than what was spent in the earlier dispensations.
- 8) Charges about the illegal appointment in the university show that the VBUFA missed the woods for the tree. There were 57 illegal appoints, both in the teaching and non-teaching segments; the list was sent to the Ministry of Education for a decision and university will follow the decision of the ministry as soon as it is intimated. Instead of raising this issue, the VBUFA has raised only one case which is enough to prove that it is highly selective for a reason which is best known to them.
- 9) There are other organizations, Adhyapak Sabha, Saikshik Sangha, Officers' Association, but the fact that VBUFA is raising hue and cry is not difficult to understand because they tended to bypass rules and regulation on many occasions.
- 10) Now, only 4teaching and 3 non-teaching staff are suspended and the rest have re-joined. The Executive Council has saved Visva-Bharati from suffering from the ailments which crippled the university and stopped its academic prosperity.
- 11) The NAAC and NIRF rankings have gone down because of the lack of adequate academic works by the university academic employees and researchers. It is evident in their reports.

Specific cases:

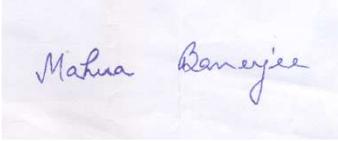
- a) *Dr. Rajesh Venugopal*: he was suspended because he hardly stayed in the department although, as per the Seventh CPC an academic faculty is expected to stay at least five hours in the department. He regularly came to the office of the Joint Registrar (Academic) who has an office next to the library and spent hours together. It was observed and Vice Chancellor caught him red-handed in the said office after giving him warning that he needed to stay in the office for at least five hours. Yes, the court gave a verdict in his favour which, the university lawyer thinks, did not take into account all the probable factors while deciding his plight in this regard. It is a matter of record that he tried to influence the disciplinary proceedings by getting a letter from an MP (Lok Sabha) which is repugnant to the CCS (1964) rules which the university formally adopted in 2017 just like other central universities in the country.
- b) *Prof. Sruti Bandyopadhyay*: her four increments were stopped after audit objection and the court did not overrule the decision since addition of four increments was done four months after her joining the university which was illegal as per the CAG team. She was debarred from joining the university as both the Principal and Head reported to the university that neither of them was aware about her whereabouts although they gave her letters saying that

she was taking classes. Neither the Principal nor the head provided a plausible explanation as to why they did so to misguide the university. It is not true that Venugopal did not sign the minutes; he did so as the department register proves. He lied to the reporter who, instead of checking the authenticity of his statement, accepted his claim at its face values.

- c) *Prof. Sudipta Bhattacharya*: (i) there are many show-cause notices against him because he always acted in violation of the CCS (1964) rules and other pertinent regulations. The idea of 'Khos Goppo' became an issue because one of the teaching staffs lodged a complaint to the ICC which was enquired and the university is pursuing the matter in the court. (ii) Is Prof. Bhattacharya above the law; has he exclusive right to abuse anybody, including the Vice Chancellor to defame the individual and the institutions. So, the whatsapp message that he circulated consciously was absolutely an infringement in others' fundamental rights; so, the others' who were affected had every reason to lodge a complaint as per rules and regulations. (iii) his selective complaint for an illegal appointment was enlarged by the university and the entire list of illegal appointments made by the earlier Vice chancellor, Prof. S Dutta Gupta was sent to the Ministry of Education for a decision. As soon as the decision arrives, the university will initiate steps as per the direction of the Ministry; iv) disciplinary proceedings are going on against Prof. Bhattacharya by a duly constituted Enquiry Committee comprising a retired Judge of a High Court and a senior lawyer.
- d) *Rustication of three students*: belonging to a specific political outfit and perhaps supporters of Prof. Sudipta Bhattacharya, three students were reported to have led a mob to break the lock in his departmental room. A committee with a senior IPS officer was constituted since there was *prima facie* a case of vandalism in which three specific students took the lead. On the basis of strong evidences, the charges against them were proved and the Executive Council took the decision for rustivating them for three years. They gheraoed the Vice Chancellor and his family in his private bungalow for eleven days blocking even the supply of food and other daily necessities. The Calcutta High Court was approached by the university; they put an embargo on the student agitation in the campus which was conveniently violated by the agitators. The court intervened and rustication order was withdrawn since one year had already passed although it was mentioned that the rusticated students, in order to continue their courses, were also ordered to follow the university rules and regulation in regard to admission to new courses. One of them completed graduation in five years; the other students were allowed to pursue their courses until they finished their courses for eligibility to be promoted.
- e) *Prof. Manas Maity*: (i) he did not inform the university that the CMS project of CERN discontinued in December, 2020. The university, after having known this, sought an input from the DST, the funding agency, whether a suspended faculty was allowed to continue in such a prestigious international project. The letter caught the DST by surprise. Interestingly, two confidential letters between two highest authorities of the University and DST were leaked and placed before the court by him. The university has reasons to challenge the verdict in the division bench with intimation to the DST and DAE, another funding agency to this international project. (ii) the Vice chancellor's letter to the DST was a just query whether a suspended faculty could continue as a participant since the project was sanctioned to Visva-Bharati. Interestingly, in a letter of February, 2022, the university had approved all the erstwhile members of the project for continuing with the project. On 4 May, 2022, Prof. Manas Maity was suspended and the said letter became infructuous.
- f) *Temporary employees*: Sri Chandranath Banerjee and Ms. Shrabanti Ganguly: as per the university rules and other relevant rules, the temporary employees of the university are governed differently. Although the Hon'ble court gave judgment which, according to the university's legal department, did not take into account all the probably factors in this regard.

The university is likely to approach the Division Bench to put those points before the hon'ble judges.

- g) The university steps are guided by one mission: purge the university of indiscipline, illegality, misappropriation of funds and for fair recruitment of teachers and other employees.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink on a white piece of paper. The signature reads "Mahua Banerjee".