

Snippet

To many, Visva-Bharati is no longer an abode of peace (Santiniketan) nor an abode of wealth (Sriniketan). Instead, it is a source of agony to the detractors who are unable to pursue their partisan goals as was the case in recent past. A perusal of how the consolidation of the evil forces is demolished in the last a little less than five years shows why it is so. Before dwelling on this contentious issue, two important assumptions need to be made as a preface to the main contention: first, Visva-Bharati was not a nursery, but was also a den of corruption: an assumption which is not, at all, unfounded as evidence abound. Secondly, as it became a den of corruption, for many, adoption of corrupt practices did hardly appear to be an aberration, but a practice which was internalized by many as nothing but a manifestation of an intelligently-designed capability of befooling Visva-Bharati for illegal benefits. They developed two weapons: (a) by proclaiming themselves as moral custodians of values associated with how they defined as being derivative of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's ideational priorities, and (b) by declaring themselves as the natural heir to what Gurudev Tagore exhorted while developing his unique conceptualization of Visva-Bharati as an alternative centre of pedagogy and learning.

In the present dispensation of authority at Visva-Bharati, the miscreants lost their ways and also realized that their mode of functioning for exclusive gains was no longer yielding results, but backfired on many occasions. Many of the miscreants are who's who of Bengali elites. Hence, the set of activities that Visva-Bharati undertook led to disturb the honey comb of corruption. The scene got complicated with the intervention of political bosses, of course, for their own benefit because opposition to Visva-Bharati was equal to the questioning of the coalition of political parties reigning supreme in the Union Government.

Visva-Bharati is perhaps the only university in the country, despite being located in one of the most violent provinces in federal India, which recovered nearly **Rupees five crores** from those who endeavoured to amass illegal wealth from the University. The pensioners, who enjoyed Rs. 1000/- medical allowances along with free medical treatment from PM Hospital was stopped because as Government Financial rules (GFR) one was not allowed to avail two benefits simultaneously, which, for obvious reasons, led them to seek to guillotine the University authority because they were then deprived of their age-old illegal benefits. Many of the employees took illegally Leave Travel Concession (LTC) allowances and never bothered to settle the account on their return to the HQ. Tragically, one of them was a former disbursing officer of LTC allowances who took LTC three times without bothering to settle the account even once. He is now being supported by those who flourished by resorting to illegal means of making money presumably because the authority was either complicit or too scared to face the opposition in view of the threat of political dadas. Extra increments were given illegally to many employees which the Audit Team, appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, asked the University to stop and recover the amount drawn illegally. It was done. Many accounts of corrupt practices shall follow in this series of snippets.

Visva-Bharati has zero tolerance for Gender-Related Offenses and stern actions shall be taken by following the due processes. Visva-Bharati shall not spare any of the students who are proved to have indulged in ragging in hostels or in the campus. Visva-Bharati is very careful to not reduce the procedures seeking to authenticate or otherwise the charges to those being followed in a Kangaroo Court. Hence, it may seem a little time-consuming. That does not, of course, mean absolving of the culprits if they are found to be perpetrators of brutalities by being sensitive to the well-laid-out rules and regulations. Visva-Bharati takes ample care to avoid an innocent being punished by ascertaining being independent of MEDIA TRIALS, which immediately takes-off to curry favour from the political bosses or other distributors of illegal benefits. In so doing, Visva-Bharati shoulders the responsibility of reawakening the Bengalees and the so-called Rabindriks all over the world of their responsibilities to this great institution, founded by one of the illustrious sons of Bharat Mata.