

VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY



*News
Letter*
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Steps taken by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor since his joining the University on 01.11.2011

The last two years, since the joining of Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti, the present Vice-Chancellor, have seen the University making steady progress. Several new measures have been adopted to upgrade the infrastructure. This has, without a doubt, given the University a new and refreshing look. Necessary measures have been taken to utilize the unspent building grants under the 11th Plan of the UGC. All the teaching posts approved under that Plan were re-advertised and 23 new faculty members have been recruited. The Vice-Chancellor took steps to submit to the UGC the 12th Plan proposal for the University. A proposal has also been submitted for the setting up of two new Postgraduate Departments: Education and Comparative Literature. All the vacant posts of officers and non-teaching employees have been advertised and the recruitment process has started. The existing Guest House has been renovated and the construction of a new Guest House is in progress. The University canteen has been restored, renovated and made functional. The Language Laboratory of the University has been restored in order that students may sharpen their communication skills in English.

The 16th Convocation was organized on 20 November 2012 after a gap of two years. A large number of visiting professors and scholars from India and abroad visited the campus and delivered lectures as part of the UGC Merged Schemes Programme. Proposals for construction of new hostels for SC/ST students have already been submitted to the Government for necessary approval and work will commence immediately on receiving clearance from the Government. Innovative Programme of UGC in favour of Microbiology and Clinical Nutrition, and UGC Major Research Project in favour of Zoology, Physiology, Botany and English, amounting to Rs. 4.10 crores, have been sanctioned. The Vice-Chancellor has raised the slogan of 'one teacher one project' and teachers have been motivated to apply for research projects from the UGC, the DST, ICHR, ICSSR, DBT and other funding agencies. Several projects have already been offered to the University.

The Central Library has been Wi-Fi enabled in order to provide free and easy Internet access to all students for higher education and research. In addition to this, computers with Internet

connectivity have been provided in all hostels. Cell phone and laptop charging points have been provided in all hostels. To provide hot water in hostels, solar heater is being installed. This will reduce the recurring expenditure. 24×7 ambulance facility is being extended by the University to its students and other stakeholders. The University, through Government Insurance Agencies, is extending "General Insurance" policy to the students to compensate for accidents and damages that may occur from unforeseen events during their period of study. The University is extending the multigym facilities separately to boys and girls. For developing the overall personality of the students through recreation and entertainment, three clubs have been formed: a debate club, a film club and a music club.

Campus interviews are being conducted for placement of the final year students. TCS, WIPRO and LIMTEX Technologies conducted their recruitment drives on 24.08.2012, 10.09.2012 and 07.12.2012 respectively. Other organizations are likely to visit the University shortly. To make the campus more eco-friendly, the University is concentrating on renewable energy. As a pilot testing, some solar lights have already been installed, and orders have been placed for more such lights. Work is in progress for the preparation of a good playground for football and cricket, a 400 meter track, a basketball court and a badminton court. The project will soon be completed. To provide better medical facilities to the students and other stakeholders, the medical unit of the University has been renovated with some new equipment items. It is also to be mentioned that monetary and non-monetary benefits of the contractual faculty members have been enhanced considerably.

Matters relating to the environment and the ecosystem are also being taken care of. The University has initiated a drive for the treatment of stray dogs on the campus. Necessary support required to conduct such programs is being extended to colleges affiliated to the University and they are displaying interest in launching similar drives. Efforts are being put in to make the University campus, a plastic-free zone. The campus is now being illuminated by two high mast lights. A good number of water coolers have been installed for use by the students and the staff.

In the 28th Intersarsity East Zone Youth Festival held during 7 to 11 December 2012, a team of 40 members from our University, including the Team Manager and escorts, visited

Ranchi University and participated in 23 events. Vidyasagar University, for the first time in its history, bagged prizes in nine events and emerged Runners up among 17 participating Universities. This remarkable achievement reflects the immense talent in the students of the University, and also an improvement in the quality of the facilities and guidance provided to the participants.

Other developments also invite attention. To avoid frequent power cuts and voltage fluctuation, two 750 KVA each transformers were installed in April 2013. Moreover, two DG sets of 250 KVA each were commissioned in August 2013. "The rooftop rain water harvesting project" was inaugurated by Shri Bratya Basu, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal also with other dignitaries in January, 2013.



It may also be recorded here that since the time of his joining the University, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor undertook foreign visits on four occasions. He delivered a talk on *The Sunderban Tiger, Reserve The Myth and Reality at the Seminar on Global Environmental History, Literature and Conservation* held at Princeton University, USA during May 20-24, 2012. His next trip abroad was towards the end of 2012 when he delivered a talk at the 2nd World Humanities Forum 2012, organized jointly by the UNESCO, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Korea and Busan Metropolitan City in co-operation with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and the Rational Research Foundation of Korea, held at Busan, Republic of South Korea during November 1-3, 2012. The Honourable Vice-Chancellor delivered a talk on *Writing Environmental History of Asia: Climate, Water and the Issue of Sustainability* at the 2012 India China Institute Annual Conference on The Environment in China and India: Histories and Innovations held at the India China Institute, New York, USA during January 13-17, 2013 as a member of the delegation from Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata to *enhance the social scientific communication and to facilitate the implementation of the co-operation between India and China.*

The Honorable Vice-Chancellor, since his joining the University, has had significant publications against his name. He jointly edited *Natural Resources, Sustainability and Humanity*, published by Springer in London and New York in 2012. *A History of the Modern World*, authored by him, was published by Primus, Delhi in 2012. He edited *Dictionary of Historical Places*, also published by Primus, Delhi in 2013.

From the Convener, News Letter Committee

We are bringing out the inaugural issue of the *News Letter* which is the happy consequence of months of planning and hard work. It is desirable that the achievements of students, research scholars, faculty members, the various departments, and of the University in general, be recorded periodically. Our *News Letter* proposes to do just that.

We are grateful to all who, with their suggestions and contributions, have made this publication possible. We extend our very special thanks to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for his constant encouragement and advice.

Visit of Hon'ble President of India, His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee



Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India, visited the University on 15th September, 2013 to deliver the "7th Vidyasagar Memorial Lecture". It was the first of its kind in the history of the University. The President was impressed with the University. In his lecture, he spoke at length on the present backwardness of the Indian Universities in comparison with other Universities of the World as revealed by various international surveys. Shri Bratya Basu, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal, congratulated Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti, Vice-Chancellor of the University, for the ongoing developmental works in the University, Shri M. K. Narayanan, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal was also present on this occasion.

Finance

A Purchase Committee has been formed by the Executive Council in accordance with the Finance Rule under clause 15.2. The Chairman of the Committee is Professor Bidhan Chandra Patra, Dean of Faculty of Science and the Committee is convened by Mr. Ananda Moy Sarkar, Finance Officer.

Between December 2012 and September 2013, the University received several maintenance grants, additional maintenance grants and other State Government grants. For the period between December 2012 and February 2013, the University received Rs. 5,08,73,414 as maintenance grant. While the maintenance grant received by the University for the period between March and July 2013 was Rs. 7,25,00,000. An additional

maintenance grant of Rs. 30,59,688 was given to the University for the period between January and March 2013. Moreover, Rs. 50,00,000 was given to the University as additional maintenance grant for non-plan expenditure to be incurred from April 2013. As part of the construction grant, the University received Rs. 5,00,000 for the installation of solar light system on the campus. Another Rs. 1,20,04,000 was received by the University as construction grant for the repairing and maintenance of different buildings on the campus. The University received an equipment grant of Rs. 2,50,12,756 for purchase of equipment for its different departments. Further, the University received a book grant and furniture grant of Rs. 7,50,000 and Rs. 66,70,750 respectively.

As part of its XIIth Plan, the UGC has allocated Rs. 13,53,00,000 and released Rs. 5,41,20,000 in respect of General Development Assistance Scheme.

The registration certificate issued by the Department of Science and Industrial Research (DSIR) for the purposes of availing Custom/Central Excise Duty exemption has been renewed and the same is valid till 31.08.2018.

Picture of the new Electrical Sub Station



The Central Control Antivirus Server has been installed at the Computer Centre. For better utilization of the link, it is being monitored constantly. The Centre is developing redundant LAN infrastructure and Wi-Fi LAN on the campus. CCTV camera surveillance system has been installed in the campus. The total number of computers having internet and LAN connectivity has been increased to 850 at present. The total number of users now is approximately 3000. All internet users are able to access full texts of all the subscribed e-journals under e-journal consortia of Infflibnet.

A National Workshop on “NME-ICT Services and its Implementation” was held in March 2013. A Workshop-cum-Training Programme on “Data Uploading AISHE” for the nodal officers of all the affiliated colleges was held in August 2013. A two-day Workshop was organized on “New Syllabus for B.Ed. Course” in September 2013.

Latest news from the Campus



Abulance Donated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister

The Examination Section

The examination for the LL.B. degree was held in August 2013 at three centres: Hazra Law College, Kolkata; Midnapore College; and Mahishadal Raj College, Mahishadal. The BCA examinations were conducted in September 2013 at four centres: Egra College, Egra; Midnapore Law College, Midnapore; Sukumar Sengupta Mahavidyalaya, Keshpur and Debra College, Debra.

Foreign visits by Faculty Members

Dr. Sovanjan Sarkar of the Department of Anthropology went to Vienna, Austria to present a paper in April, 2013. Dr. Sebak Kumar Jana of the Department of Economics visited Thailand to read a paper in May, 2013. The same month saw Dr. Joydeb Sasmal of the Department of Economics going to the Netherlands to present a paper. Dr. Sasmal also travelled to Paris in June 2013 to present yet another paper. Another visitor to Paris from the University was Dr. Chandradipa Ghosh of the Department of Human Physiology who read a paper there in August 2013. Dr. Biswajit Sarkar of the Department of Mathematics went to the USA to present a paper August 2013, while, in the same month, Professor Subrata Kr. De of the Department of Zoology went to Hungary to present a paper. Dr. Debjani Das of the Department of History went to UCL, London to read her paper in October, 2013.

Books authored by Faculty Members

Professor S. A. H. Moinuddin of Department of Sociology wrote *The Grovelling Muslim: Problems and Prospects* which was published by Kunal Books, New Delhi. *Bhugol Chinta O Darshan Patobhumi, Bikash O Bibartan*, by Dr. R. K. Maiti of the Department of Geography, was published by Nabodaya Prakashoni, Kolkata. Dr. Maiti also authored *Management Technique of Rull Gully Erosion in Badland Topography Experimental Research in Laboratory, Plot and Catchment Scale* which was published by LAP Lambert, Germany. Two books by Professor M. M. Pal of Department of Mathematics were published recently. *Advanced Algebra* was published by PHI Learning, New Delhi, while *C Programming including Numerical*

and *Statistical Methods* was published by Alpha Science, Oxford and Narosa, New Delhi. Dr. R. K. Kothari of the Department of Political Science wrote *Indo-Russian Relations in the Post-Soviet Years: Emerging Challenges and New Prospects* which was published by Saarbrücken, Lambert, Germany. Eyasin Khan, also of the Department of Political Science wrote *Maoist Movement in Nepal: Contextualising Indo-Nepal Relations*. His book was published by LAP Lambert, Germany. *Border Studies: Cultural Identity in Contemporary US Literatures*, written by Professor Anindya Basu Roy of the Department of English, was also published by LAP Lambert, Germany. Dr. Indranil Acharya and Professor S. P. Singha co-edited *Survival and Other Stories* (2012) and *Towards Social Change: Essays on Dalit Literature* (2013). Both volumes were published by Orient Blackswan.

Ph.D. Degrees awarded to Faculty Members under Vidyasagar University

Dr. Utpal Roy of Department of Geography was awarded a Ph.D. in 2013. The title of his thesis was "Health, Health Care and their Relationship with Physical and Socioeconomic Environment: A Case Study of Midnapore Municipal Area."

National/International Seminars/Workshops/Conferences organized by various Departments

A National Seminar was organized by the Department of English in February 2013. The Women's Study Centre and the Departments of Philosophy and History organized National Seminars in March 2013. The Department of English organized another National Seminar under the UGC-DRS (SAP) Programme in March 2013.

Projects undertaken by Department/Individual Faculty Member

UGC Start-up grant projects were undertaken by Dr. Sovanjan Sarkar of the Department of Anthropology, Dr. Sagar Acharya of the Department of Zoology, and Dr. Sumana Sarkhel of the Department of Human Physiology. Professor B. C. Patra of the Department of Zoology undertook a DST sponsored project while Dr. Chandradipa Ghosh of the Department of Human Physiology began work on a project sponsored by the ICMR task force. Dr. Kaushik S. Bose of the Department of Anthropology is collaborating on a project with the Polish Academy of Science. Dr. Indranil Acharya of the Department of English started work on a UGC Major Research Project in 2013-2014.

Students' Achievements

Academic

Ramesh Chandra Mondal of the Department of Sociology was awarded a UGC JRF while Dr. Santanu Panda of the Department of Anthropology was awarded the prestigious ICSSR Post Doctoral Fellowship.

Extra-curricular Activities

Ms. Anindita Chanda participated in the Light Vocal (Solo) event on behalf of Indian Universities in the 6th South Asian Intersarsity Youth Festival in February 2013. The University bagged the 14th position in the Inter University Yoga Competition, 2013. In the Inter College Chess Tournament 2013, Anindita Giri, a PG student of the University, was the runner-up in the girls' category. During January and February, 2013, sports events such as Kabaddi and Athletics took place for the students of colleges affiliated to Vidyasagar University. The University also organized Football, Kho-Kho and Volleyball Tournaments for UG students in September 2013.

The New Letter Committee

Convenor : Professor Ujjayan Bhattacharya

Members : Professor Subrata Kumar De,
Dr. Jayanta Kishore Nandi,
Dr. Indranil Acharya, Mrs. Asmita Bhattacharya, Dr. Debjani Das, Dr. Sovanjan Sarkar, Dr. Subhajit Sengupta

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