

CHAPTER I : MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

1. Visva Bharati University

Security and Maintenance of Assets of the Visva Bharati University

Highlights

- There are several encroachments of the University land. The University failed to take any effective action against encroachers.
- The University has not made adequate effort to account for and secure the artifacts and other museum objects by applying modern technology like digitization, photo documentation and computerised documentation of the artifacts.
- No physical verification of movable assets was conducted in the university during last five years except for the museum holdings belonging to Rabindra Bhavana.
- It was ascertained from the Kala Bhavana that 30 paintings by artists like Rabindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose and 886 other art objects were missing. No investigation into the matter was conducted.
- The museums of the University viz. Rabindra Bhavana and Kala Bhavana are not equipped with modern electronic security gadgets like intruder alarm/CCTV/metal detector etc.
- The fire fighting measures in the campus are inadequate. The buildings of the University being old are vulnerable to fire.
- The expenditure on conservation/ restoration showed a decreasing trend during the period under review.
- In Rabindra Bhavana, 175 artifacts were in damaged condition due to improper preservation. The heritage buildings of Udayana, Punascha, Udichi, Shyamali and Rabindra Bhavana were in dilapidated conditions and needed immediate attention for their restoration and renovation.
- There was no system in Kala Bhavana to periodically assess the physical condition of artifacts and identify the nature of damages to their art objects.
- The large number of outdoor sculptures and murals created by famed artists did not find place in any departmental accession register. No Bhavana took any responsibility for the maintenance

of some of these priceless outdoor treasures. Many of these objects have already developed signs of degradation due to lack of proper maintenance.

Recommendations

- **Concerted action needs to be taken for identification and prevention of encroachments and use of University property for unauthorised purposes. Effective action should be taken to recover University land from the encroachers.**
- **System of issuing Identity cards/passes to the contractors (their men and vehicle) should be introduced for restricting unauthorized access to the important establishments in the University campus.**
- **The feasibility of relaying PWD/public roads out of the University campus may be explored seriously to reduce ingress of general public in the campus.**
- **Adequacy of fire protection measures should be assessed and necessary remedial steps should be taken.**
- **The University should identify the security needs of different establishments and provide need based security arrangements including installation of modern electronic security gadgets.**
- **All the artifacts should be accessioned expeditiously.**
- **Perspective planning for digitization, computerized documentation, photo documentation etc. should be drawn up keeping in view the need and relevance of different methods of documentation.**
- **Appropriate gate checking system electronics and/or manual should be installed at Central Library.**
- **The University should put in place a system of periodical physical verification of artifacts and important possessions.**
- **The University should also put in place a system of periodical assessment of physical condition of artifacts and important possessions for identifying objects requiring restoration.**
- **Responsibility for accessioning and maintenance of outdoor art objects need to be suitably allocated among different departments. Alternatively the University could consider forming a Central Preservation Unit consisting of expert and trained staff to look after all the heritage and artistic objects of the University which do not fall within jurisdiction of any department.**

- **The University should take expeditious steps for restoration of its damaged art objects, indoor as well outdoor.**

1.1 Introduction

The University founded by Rabindranath Tagore in December 1921 was declared as an Institution of National Importance and constituted as a Central University under the provisions of Visva-Bharati Act, 1951. The objectives of the University are to disseminate and advance knowledge and understanding by providing instructional, extension and research facilities as well as propagation of Tagore's ideas and philosophy in the context of Indian Culture and Heritage.

The University has 12 Departments/Academic Institutes and a Central Library. The University offers teaching and research programmes in diverse areas like Humanities, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Social Sciences, Fine Arts, Music and Dance, Agriculture, Education and Rural Studies at different Institutions at Santiniketan and Sriniketan. The University also runs a school system, residential as well as non-residential.

The Karma Samiti (Executive Council) is the principal executive body of the University. The Upacharya (Vice-Chancellor) is the ex-officio chairman of the Executive Council. He is the principal executive and academic officer of the University and supervises all the activities undertaken by various authorities under the University.

1.2 Scope of audit

The accounts of University are audited under Section 19 (2) of the Comptroller and Auditor General's (DPC) Act 1971 read with Section 36 of Visva Bharati Act 1951.

Audit conducted performance audit of the University covering the period from 2002-03 to 2005-06 focusing on security and maintenance of its precious possessions.

1.3 Objectives of audit

Performance audit was conducted with following objectives:

- To examine the adequacy and effectiveness of general security measures including fire fighting arrangements in the University.
- To examine adequacy and effectiveness of security arrangements at the important establishment viz. Rabindra Bhavana, Kala Bhavana and Central Library.
- To examine adequacy and effectiveness of the measures for conservation and preservation of invaluable treasures in the possession of the University.

1.4 Audit criteria

Audit criteria were derived from the following:

- Adequacy and effectiveness of security arrangement was assessed with reference to requirement of man-power, equipments and security processes.
- Adequacy and effectiveness of fire fighting arrangements was assessed with reference to the preparedness of the University to deal with fire hazards and required preventive measures.
- Measures of conservation and preservation of artifacts and other important possessions of the University were assessed with reference to perceived needs of the University.
- Relevant guidelines, recommendations of UGC and other Committees.

1.5 Audit methodology

Audit examined the related files and documents and held meetings with officials of the University. Besides, an end-user survey was also conducted among the resident students (post-school level) by interviewing them with the help of a structured questionnaire with the consent and co-operation of the University; 257 students, constituting 18 *per cent* of the total 1409 students gave their feedback.

Audit findings

1.6 General Security environment in the University

The second schedule of University Act 1951 defines the territorial limits of the University as being spread over 18 moujas having a total land area of 1127.29 acres valued at Rs 647.62 crore as of July 2006. The University has two campuses situated at Santiniketan and Sriniketan and comprises of a number of Bhavanas, Sadanas, Vibhagas, hostels, pathways, open land (including playground, garden etc.) etc. As per available records there are 54 administrative buildings (including hospital building) , 39 academic buildings, 8 heritage buildings, 41 hostel buildings 612 quarters and 1 auditorium (Nattyaghar). The University is open from all the sides. PWD roads serving as public thoroughfare run through the campuses. There are pockets of private land estimated as 195 acres within the campus and the owners of these pockets are using their lands for residential as well as commercial purposes. Theft of 53 items from the Rabindra Bhavana Visitors' Gallery, which included personalia of the poet and his family apart from the Nobel medallion of the first Nobel Laureate of the country was detected in June 2004.

1.6.1 Expenditure on security

Security expenditure which mainly consisted of expenditure on Watch and Ward Department during the period under review was as under:

(Rupees in lakh)

Year	Budget	Expenditure
2002-03	45.68	45.18
2003-04	46.87	48.34
2004-05	53.64	49.80
2005-06	53.27	50.62

Above figures do not include the expenditure on partial outsourcing of security requirement from May 2005 onwards. The expenditure for security was incurred mainly on salary of the Watch and Ward staff except during 2005-06 when University revamped its security by outsourcing some of its security requirements. As brought out in the paragraph 1.6.2.2, no training (including physical fitness) or orientation programme was undertaken for the watch and ward staff during last five years.

1.6.2 General security arrangement

The overall security of the University is entrusted to Watch and Ward Department. Registrar, University is the departmental head. The staff strength of the department during 2005-06 was as follows.

Cadres	Sanctioned Strength	Men-on-roll
		2005-06
Security Officer	1	1
Security Inspector	1	1
Supervisor	4	6
Security Guard	138	70

The system of security has been partly outsourced since May 2005. As of July 2006, the following were outsourced from a private security agency.

Particulars	Number deployed
Security Inspector	6
Security Supervisor	18
Security Guards with arms	21
Security Guards without arms	106
Lady Guard	3
Transport for patrolling round the clock (minimum Nine rounds of the campus)	1
Radio transmission sets (Walkie talkies)	10

1.6.2.1 Absence of updated map

A map is the basic prerequisite for strategic planning for security. Demarcation map of the University was prepared by the Deputy Director of Survey, Government of West Bengal in December 1968. Thereafter there has been no up-dating of the map.

1.6.2.2 Lack of training for departmental security staff

At present both the private security agency personnel and Watch and Ward staff are deployed for the security of University under the control of Security Officer.

Audit scrutiny brought out the following:

- Watch and Ward Department was manned by staff of general cadre earmarked for the department. They were transferable to other departments (except the security officer and one security inspector). The departmental staff members, deployed for the purpose of security, were recruited without any police verification.
- None of the security staff of the Department except the security officer, an ex-serviceman and one security inspector, an ex-policeman was technically qualified.
- No training (including physical fitness) and orientation programme was undertaken for the watch and ward staff during last five years. The University stated (July 2006) that a proposal for training to the watch and ward personnel by the police had been taken up with the Superintendent of police.

1.6.2.3 Night vigil-insufficient illumination

Special Security drive at night covers high security zone through routine patrolling by one supervisor and one security guard. University stated (July 2006) that the frequency of patrolling around the University campus has been increased after outsourcing of security services. It was noticed that there are insufficient illumination at some important points e.g. Natyaghar front, rear of Computer Centre, Binoy Bhavana Complex etc, which could dilute the efficacy of night vigil.

1.6.2.4 Temporary passes to contractors and their workers

The University engages different contractors for various repair and construction works within the campus. But there is no system for issuing temporary passes to the contractors and their employees and vehicles. Their entry into the campus is unrestricted without any verification of their credentials which further endanger the security of the campus.

1.6.3 Implementation of UGC recommendations

UGC Committee on “Augmentation of security arrangements at Visva Bharati” had made certain recommendations in its report of October 2004. The report, *interalia*, contained following recommendation for immediate implementation.

- a) Preparation of a security manual incorporating security policy, organizational setup, responsibility and accountability for security of

- resident/beneficiaries, strengthening of security arrangement in the Uttarayan Complex etc.
- b) Creation of the post of the Chief Security Officer in the rank of additional S.P.
 - c) Survey of all land and their present position
 - d) Constitution of a Security Committee consisting of the University authorities, District Administration and Local Police Officer for reviewing and monitoring the security arrangement
 - e) Regulations of transport by setting up check gates
 - f) Physical verification of all holdings in the museum and archives of Kala-Bhavana.
 - g) Organization of orientation/awareness programme on museum security, documentation and conservation for the staff of Rabindra Bhavana, Nandan Museum and archaeological museum in collaboration with the Indian National Committee of International Council of Museums.
 - h) Development of standard regarding display and illumination inside the Museum Galleries.

The University stated in July 2005 and again in July 2006 that the recommendations of U.G.C. Committee were under process of implementation.

1.6.3.1 The University Grants Commission had sanctioned grants totaling Rs. six crore in three installments between March 2004 and March 2006 for repair and development of roads (24 places), construction of boundary wall/fencing (at 11 places) and augmentation of security arrangement by taking measures like illumination, procurement of modern electronic security gadgets etc. Construction of boundary wall and repair and development of roads has been completed except roads at five places as of July 2006. The work relating to illumination is in progress and Finance Committee of the University in their meeting on 27 June 2006 had approved procurement of modern electronic security gadgets.

1.6.4 Security from fire

Fire fighting arrangements are of utmost importance to secure the properties and documents possessed by the University from fire hazards. The buildings of the University being old are vulnerable to fire. Audit scrutiny brought out the following.

- The University never assessed its requirement of fire fighting arrangements. It did not get the adequacy of existing fire fighting arrangements assessed by any expert agency like Fire Department of Government of West Bengal during last five years.

- The University did also not take preventive measures required for fire prevention during last five years.
- University did not impart any training to its employees or those associated with the security work in the area of fire fighting.
- In the survey, as many as 82 *percent* of the resident students voiced concern about inadequacy of the existing fire protection measures.
- On 27 June 2005, a fire had broken out in the Department of Zoology that resulted in loss of property of Rs. 25.18 lakh, besides irreparable loss of academic and research documents. The cause of the fire was still under investigation, but it was clear from the report of Officer-in-charge, Bolpur Fire and Emergency Station, that there was no fire protection installation or extinguisher even in the laboratory.

Thus, the existing fire fighting arrangements in the University campus which included a limited number of fire extinguishers in some of the establishments were inadequate. The Vice Chancellor in the exit conference agreed that fire alarms and extinguishers are to be installed in all important locations.

1.6.5 Other general security issues

1.6.5.1 Encroachments of University land

There have been encroachments of the University land from 1951 onwards. A High Level Expert Committee had identified (April to June 2004) encroachments of 25.34 acre of the University land which took place over a period of time from 1951 to 2004. The University stated (July 2006) that only partial removal could be achieved in certain cases. During exit conference the VB management agreed to take immediate action in the matter.

1.6.5.2 Unauthorised use of University lands

144 plots of land were leased out to individuals and five plots to public institutions. During March 2001, notices were issued to all 144 individual lessees for identification and prevention of illegal alienation and transfer without the leave and permission of the University in violation of terms of the lease. But only 57 lessees responded. No action was taken against the individual lessees who did not respond. Nor was any effort made to verify the veracity of responses. No further action was taken in this regard and the efforts for identification and prevention of illegal alienation/transfer ended with no concrete result. One hotel named 'Khelaghar' and one school named "Radhacharan Memorial Institute" have been running within the campus of the University since November 1994 and May 1995 respectively in contravention of the terms and conditions of the lease agreement. Thus use of University lands for unauthorised purposes poses security risk to the University.

1.6.5.3 Vacant and dilapidated quarters

There are 35 quarters lying vacant in dilapidated condition within the campus. Further due to the absence of any repair in 53 more quarters, no allottee was interested to occupy these. There have been instances of miscreants utilising such quarters for anti-social activities. Need for their repair and allotment or demolition is a necessity.

1.6.5.4 No enclosures for certain establishments

The University is open from all the sides. Individual establishments are covered by boundary walls. But some of the localized establishments including the following are not covered by separate enclosures.

- Palli Siksha Bhavana
- Siksha Satra
- Patha Bhavana
- Vinaya Bhavana
- Pally Samgathan Vibhaga

Recommendations:

- *Concerted action needs to be taken for identification and prevention of illegal alienation, transfer of University property, encroachments and use of University property for unauthorized purposes. Effective action should be taken to recover University land from the encroachers.*
- *The feasibility of relaying PWD/public roads out of the University campus may be explored seriously to reduce ingress of general public in the campus.*
- *The condition of unallotted quarters needs to be assessed. Steps need to be taken to repair or to demolish the vacant quarters which were 'Beyond Economic Repair'. The unoccupied quarters need to be kept locked and under periodic vigilance.*
- *System of issuing Identity cards/passes to the contractors (their men and vehicle) needs to be introduced in order to restrict unauthorized access to the establishments in University campus.*
- *Adequate fire protection measures should be installed and training in their use imparted.*

1.7 Security of artifacts and other important possessions

The University is a unique repository of invaluable treasures like artifacts, paintings, objects of antiquity, original manuscripts, xylographs, rare photographs (and negatives), holdings of archeological and historical importance etc. Its coffer is rich with original manuscripts, gifts, honors and other personalia of Tagore, works of eminent painters and sculptors like

Abanindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose, Benode Behari Mukherjee and Ramkinkar Baij *et al* that are kept in different Bhavanas/Vibhagas/Sadanas etc.

1.7.1 Accessioning of art objects

Proper and regular accessioning of art objects is essential for the safety and security and accounting of the possessions of the University. Audit scrutiny revealed the following position of accessioning of artifacts etc. in respect of four important establishments of the University.

Particulars	Rabindra Bhavana	Kala Bhavana	Central Library	Vidya Bhavana		
				Historical Records & Bengali Manuscripts	Sculpture & photograph	Indo-Tibetan Manuscript Xylographs & rare books
Nature of objects	Archival holdings(A.H), Museum holdings (M.H), Photographs (P),Audio-Visual(A.V).	Artifacts	Manuscripts	Historical Records & Bengali Manuscripts	Sculpture & photograph	Indo-Tibetan Manuscript Xylographs & rare books
Number of Holdings	A.H-3803,M.H-4002, P-13431, A.V-86462	19239	158	4000 (apprx) & 7742	1 & 12	No record
Number accessioned	All	9265	All	All manuscripts Accessioned. Register in respect of Historical Records not available	Nothing accessioned	Nothing accessioned

- Table above shows that only 9265 paintings out of 19239 artifacts in Nandan Museum at Kala Bhavana were accessioned. It was further ascertained that 30 paintings by artists like Rabindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose and 886 other art objects were missing. No evidence of any investigation into the missing objects was found on record.
- Except for the museum holdings of Rabindra Bhavana, no physical verification Report could be found on record.
- The University is also a noted repository of open-air art objects like murals, sculptures etc. created by the famous artists. These are scattered all over the university campus and have not been accessioned in any departmental accession register or otherwise.

1.7.2 Documentation of art objects etc.

In order to ensure security of artifacts etc., it is essential to have a database with detailed particulars of these articles. The database of artifacts would also help in making perspective plan for periodical physical verification, periodical

checking of physical condition of these artifacts and to draw up schedule for restoration. Methods like digitisation, computerised inventory, photo documentation etc. can be used for documentation depending on the nature and importance of different artifacts. The position regarding digitisation, maintenance of computerised database, photo documentation etc. of Art objects/holdings possessed by Rabindra Bhavana, Kala Bhavana, Vidya Bhavana and Central Library as on March 2006 is depicted in the table below:

Particulars	Rabindra Bhavana	Kala Bhavana	Central Library	Vidya Bhavana		
				Historical Records & Manuscripts in Bengali	Sculpture & photograph	Artifacts and ancient coins
Nature of object	Archival holdings (A.H), Museum holdings (M.H), Photographs (P), Audio-Visual (A.V).	Artifacts	Manuscripts	Historical Records & Manuscripts in Bengali	Sculpture & photograph	Artifacts and ancient coins
Number of Holding	A.H-3803, M.H-4002, P-13431, A.V-86462	19239	158	4000 (apprx) & 7742	1 & 12	210 & 138
Digitisation	M.H-30.40%	1630 (8.47 percent)	None	26 manuscripts	None	None
Computerised documentation	1993	279	None	No system exists and nothing documented	None	None
Photo documentation	All photographs	1630	None	No system exists and nothing documented.	None	Photos of 46 sculptures are available in published Catalogue

As may be seen from above table Rabindra Bhavana has digitised 30.40 *per cent* of their museum holdings; Kala Bhavana could achieve only 8.47 *per cent*. The University did not chalk out any action plan for digitisation, photo-documentation or computerised documentation.

The University stated (July 2006) that the work of digitisation has already started.

1.7.3 Security arrangements at Rabindra Bhavana, Kala Bhavana and central library

Rabindra Bhavana is an important component of Visva Bharati. It is a unique institution being a Memorial Museum and Research Centre for Tagore studies. It is the largest repository of Rabindranath Tagore's works, his manuscripts, paintings, photographs, tapes of his voice, discs of his songs etc. The Bhavana accommodates both casual visitors and serious scholars. The Kala Bhavana is a distinguished center for training and research in the visual arts. It is an educational centre offering both undergraduate and Post Graduate courses in Fine Arts. Founded by Rabindranath Tagore and nurtured through the years by

masters like Nandalal Bose, Binode Behari Mukherjee and Ramkinkar Baij. Nandan Art Gallery at Kala Bhavana houses large number of artifacts. Audit noticed the following:

- Rabindra Bhavana and Nandan Art Gallery museums of the University are not equipped with modern electronic security gadgets like intruder alarm/CCTV/metal detector etc.
- There is no system of deploying plain clothed security staff during demonstration hours of Museum objects/ artifacts.
- There is no system of gate checking in central library.

The University stated (July2006) that it was on its way to procure and install modern security gadgets.

1.7.4 Physical verification of movable assets

The University had in its possession movable assets like plant and machinery, scientific equipments, computers and accessories etc. worth Rs. 2461.34 lakh as on March 2006. A Year-wise Asset Register is maintained by the Estate Department, which lists out, department-wise movable assets purchased by the departments in the respective years. No physical verification covering all the holdings was conducted during the period of Report. The University in July 2006 stated that physical verification of the assets was in progress.

Recommendations

- *All the artifacts should be accessioned expeditiously.*
- *Perspective planning for digitisation, computerised documentation, photo documentation etc. should be drawn up keeping in view the need and relevance of different methods of documentation.*
- *The University should put in place a system of periodical physical verification of artifacts and important possessions.*
- *The University should identify the security needs of different establishments and provide need based security arrangements including installation of modern electronic security gadgets.*
- *The University may consider deploying plain clothed security personnel during exhibition hours inside the museums.*
- *Appropriate gate electronics checking system should be installed at Central Library.*

1.8 Conservation of art objects

Rabindra Bhavana is the largest repository of Rabindranath Tagore's works, his manuscripts, paintings, photographs, tapes of his voice, discs of his songs etc. Its foremost concern should be the preservation and maintenance of the great legacy entrusted to its care. Nandan Art Gallery is a museum within the

fold of Kala Bhavana. Besides, there are lots of indoor holdings held by various departments of the University.

1.8.1 Conservation of indoor holdings at Kala Bhavana

One of the main tasks of a museum is preservation and conservation of cultural property.

- Proper storage facilities with effective air-conditioning and adequate space are essential to avoid deterioration of artifacts and rare valuable books. The art objects, which could not be displayed at the gallery of Kala Bhavan, were dumped in two strong rooms for want of proper space. Most of the articles gathered significant amounts of dust. These dumped items include 110 precious paintings by Tagore, paintings like “Death of Jogen”, “Alamgir” and “Umar Tapashya” by Nandalal Bose, invaluable crafts (Katum- Kutum by Abanindranath Tagore) and several articles like tankhas, important tracings by other eminent artists. They were lying in damaged and neglected conditions.
- Documentation of art objects is a first step towards systematic conservation and restoration. As already stated earlier, accessioning of art objects as well as documentation through digitisation, photo documentation, computerised documentation etc. at Kala Bhavana has been done only partially.
- There was no system at Kala Bhavana to periodically inspect the artifacts and identify the nature of damages to the art objects.
- No action towards pest control was undertaken by the authorities in Kala Bhavana.
- Kala Bhavana does not have any conservation laboratory. An amount of Rs. 1.50 lakh from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India was received by the University during May 2005 for setting up a conservation laboratory. Conservation laboratory was not set up as of July 2006.

1.8.2 Conservation of indoor holdings at Rabindra Bhavana

Rabindra Bhavana has a system of periodical checking of holdings. Rabindra Bhavana also has a Preservation and Restoration unit which looks after the preservation requirements of its archives, library and museum. The unit carries out fumigation, de-acidification, lamination and binding of archival and Library materials.

Audit observed that the unit consisted of seven permanent staffs of which only two were trained. There was no in-service training system for the conservation staff. It was also noticed that in Rabindra Bhavana 175 artifacts were in damaged condition due to improper preservation.

1.8.3 Conservation of indoor holdings at Vidya Bhavana and Central Library

Apart from the indoor holdings in Kala Bhavana and Rabindra Bhavana, there are number of indoor holdings with various departments of the University. The concerned departments are the custodians of these holdings. Audit scrutiny of conservation of indoor holdings at Vidya Bhavana and Central Library brought out the following:

- Some xylographs (most of them made on hand made paper and palm leafs dating back to several centuries) possessed by the Bengali Department are lying in unbounded condition.
- There is no system of any assessment of physical conditions of the manuscripts in Central Library.

1.8.4 Conservation of outdoor holdings

Masters like Nandalal Bose, Binode Bihari Mukherjee and Ramkinkar Baij *et al* experimented with different forms and techniques and created along with their students a large number of murals and outdoor sculptures that decorate the indoor classrooms, hostels and the campus. Audit noticed the following:

- The University has not prepared any database of its possessions of sculptures and murals. These sculptures and murals created by the famed artists did not find place in any departmental accession register.
- The University made no perspective plan for conservation restoration of these sculptures and murals. No attempt was made to identify the ones requiring restoration. No plan of action for carrying out restoration work was ever drawn up. No Bhavana took any responsibility for the maintenance of these outdoor treasures.
- As a result many of these have become damaged beyond repair. For example, fingers of a Buddha Statue near Kala Bhavana have been broken and moss formations is visible (Picture 1) and in case of a huge sculpture of Waterman (Bhishti) in front of AERC, the head has disintegrated and weeds are growing on it (Picture 2).
- A number of murals in the first floor of the Patha Bhavana, all created by Nandalal Bose, were in precarious conditions needing immediate restoration. The Art and Craft Teachers of the Bhavana had urged the Upacharya in April 2001 to take up the matter urgently to prevent these from being irreversibly damaged. There is no evidence of any action having been taken as of July 2006.
- In the absence of any Centralised Accession Register, the total numbers of outdoor sculptures and murals could not be ascertained in audit. On enquiry it was ascertained that there were nine sculptures created by maestros in and around the Kala Bhavana Campus. Besides these, Audit also noticed many other sculptures were created by

eminent personalities and scattered over the entire campus. As per a Catalogue of “Santiniketan Murals”[#], the University possessed total 91 murals created by the maestros inside and outside of various buildings/hostels. According to the said catalogue, Visva Bharati had already lost thirteen murals due to inadequate conservation and restoration efforts as listed in **Annex**.

- Several sculptures/murals were damaged, as they were lying unattended. Audit noticed that several murals by Binode Bihari on Kala Bhavana hostel walls were damaged beyond repair.



Picture 1: Moss formation on Buddha Statue ,Kala Bhavana

[#] “The Santiniketan Murals” (written by Jayanta Chakraborty, R. Sivakumar and Arun Nag) published by Segull books in association with University in 1995.



Picture 2: Headless Statue of Waterman at AERC

1.8.5 Conservation of heritage buildings

Udayana, Punascha, Udichi, Shyamali, the heritage buildings of Rabindra Bhavana were in dilapidated conditions and need immediate attention for their restoration and renovation. In the exit conference the University authorities informed that the renovation work has already been taken up in these heritage buildings.

1.8.6 Budgeted and Actual expenditure on conservation

Budget and Expenditure on maintenance and conservation of art objects in respect of Rabindra Bhavana and Kala Bhavana during the last four years are shown in the following table.

(Rupees in lakh)

Year	Budget for conservation/restoration	Actual Expenditure
2002-03	5.34	6.74
2003-04	5.87	5.59
2004-05	6.40	5.11
2005-06	8.92	3.36

- As can be seen from the table, the expenditure on conservation/restoration shows a decreasing trend during the period under review. This implies that the University has not paid adequate

attention to the need of conservation and preservation of its possessions.

- The University did not provide any Special or Plan budget for conservation/ restoration. As such, there was no major expenditure during the last four years on this account.

Recommendations

- *The University should draw a perspective plan for the restoration / conservation of its treasures.*
- *Responsibility for accessioning and maintenance of outdoor art objects need to be suitably allocated among different departments. Alternatively the University could consider forming a Central Preservation Unit consisting of expert and trained staff to look after all the heritage and artistic treasures of the University which do not fall within jurisdiction of any department.*
- *The University should also put in place a system of periodical assessment of physical condition of artifacts and important possessions for identifying objects requiring restoration and take steps.*
- *Pest control service need to be extended to all sectional libraries and Kala Bhavan.*
- *An action plan needs to be evolved and implemented for restoration of damaged items.*

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the co-operation extended by Vishva Bharati authorities to audit team during the course of audit as well as entry and exit conferences.

The draft performance audit report was issued to the Ministry of Human Resource Development in February 2006; their reply was awaited as of January 2007.

Annex

(Referred to in paragraph 1.8.4)

Statement showing the lost murals:

Sl. No.	Title	Artist	Location
1.	Mother and child before Budha	Surendranath Kar	Adikutir
2.	Copies of Assyrian Lion, Egyptian musicians and Mother and child	Surendranath Kar	Satish Kutir
3.	Three panels representing a cow, a female figure and deer	Benode Behari Mukherjee & others	Santoshalaya
4.	Decorative work after Ajanta	Nandalal Bose & others	Dwarik
5.	Goat	Nandalal Bose	Malancha
6.	Number of independent subjects e.g. Banyan tree, Herd of cattle, Pond of fish, Lotus etc.	Benod Behari Mukherjee	Panthashala
7.	Panels representing geese	Sutan Harahap	Panthashala
8.	Bamboo grove and portrait of Benode Bihari	Nandalal	Santoshalaya
9.	Land scapes, figurative motifs and one mud relief	Ramkinkr Baij & others	Gairik
10.	Scenes from local life and land scape	Jamuna Sen & others	Pearson Memorial Hospital
11.	Land scapes	Nandalal and Benod Behari	Kala Bhavana
12.	Motifs from traditional arts done in the Kalighat Style	Kala Bhavana student working under Benode Behari	Kala Bhavana
13	Sun flower	Benode Behari	Prof. Wu's quarter behind Cheena Bhavana