

BISWA BANGLA BISWABIDYALAY

Bolpur, Birbhum, West Bengal

DETAILED REPORT

Observance of 14th August as a Day of Remembrance of the Partition of Bengal and Its Tragic Consequences

Date: 14th August 2026

Time: 11:30 AM onwards

Venue: University Auditorium, Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay, Bolpur, Birbhum, West Bengal

In pursuance of the communication received from Lok Bhavan, West Bengal, regarding the observance of 14th August as a Day of Remembrance of the Partition of Bengal and its tragic consequences, Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay organised a special lecture programme on 14th August 2026 at the University Auditorium.

The observance was organised to remember the sufferings, displacement, loss and hardships endured by the people of Bengal during the period of Partition and Independence. The programme also sought to create awareness among students and members of the University community about the historical, social, cultural and economic consequences of the Partition, while highlighting the courage, resilience, sacrifices and contributions of the people who experienced its consequences.

As the University was simultaneously observing the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, the programme was incorporated as a part of the University's broader programme of commemorating the nation, its history and the sacrifices made by its people.

The event provided an academic and reflective platform for discussing the Partition of Bengal, its impact on society, the experiences of migration and displacement, and the processes of reconstruction and nation-building that followed.

The principal objectives of the programme were:

1. To commemorate 14th August as a Day of Remembrance of the Partition of Bengal and its tragic consequences.
2. To sensitise students and members of the University community about the human cost of Partition.
3. To discuss the experiences of displacement, migration, loss and rehabilitation associated with the Partition of Bengal.
4. To examine the social, cultural and economic consequences of Partition on the people of Bengal.
5. To recognise the courage, resilience and sacrifices of those who experienced displacement and rebuilt their lives.



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6. To encourage the preservation of memories, oral histories, literature and other forms of historical testimony relating to Partition.
7. To promote a historically informed understanding of the processes of social reconstruction and nation-building after Partition.
8. To connect the remembrance of Partition with the broader spirit of national unity and patriotism reflected in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

The programme was graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay, Prof. Abu Taleb Khan, who chaired the programme.

The Registrar of the University, CMA Ashutosh Das, was also present and participated actively in the proceedings.

The programme was attended by members of the University administration, faculty members, staff and students.

Commencement of the Programme

The programme formally commenced at approximately 11:30 AM in the Auditorium of Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay.

The proceedings began with the ceremonial welcoming of the distinguished guests and dignitaries to the stage. This was followed by the singing of "Vande Mataram", which set the tone for the programme and reflected its connection with the broader observance of national unity, patriotism and remembrance.

The formal commencement of the programme established an atmosphere of respect and reflection appropriate to the occasion.

Welcome Address

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abu Taleb Khan, delivered the welcome address.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor welcomed the speakers, University officials, teachers, staff and students and highlighted the significance of observing 14th August as a day of remembrance.

He emphasised the importance of understanding the Partition not merely as a political or geographical event but as a deeply human experience that affected families, communities, livelihoods and social relationships.

The welcome address also placed the programme within the broader context of the University's observance of Har Ghar Tiranga, thereby connecting historical remembrance with the values of national unity, collective responsibility and respect for the sacrifices associated with India's journey towards independence and nation-building.



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The lecture highlighted how the political decision to divide Bengal transformed the lives of ordinary people, many of whom were compelled to leave their ancestral homes and begin their lives again in unfamiliar surroundings.

The Prolonged Refugee Experience

A significant portion of the lecture was devoted to the refugee experience in Bengal.

Dr. Patar emphasised that the movement of people did not come to an end in 1947. Subsequent developments and communal disturbances resulted in further waves of migration, particularly during 1950, 1964 and 1971.

Thus, the refugee experience in Bengal was a prolonged historical process rather than a single episode associated exclusively with the year 1947.

The lecture drew attention to the difficulties faced by displaced people in securing shelter, employment, education and social security while attempting to rebuild their lives.

Refugees as Agents of Reconstruction

One of the important arguments of the lecture was that refugees should not be viewed solely as victims of Partition.

Despite enormous hardship, displaced communities actively participated in rebuilding their lives and contributing to the development of West Bengal.

Through the establishment of refugee colonies, schools, businesses, social organisations and other institutions, refugees became important agents of reconstruction.

Their efforts contributed significantly to the transformation of the social and economic landscape of post-Partition West Bengal.

The speaker therefore encouraged a broader understanding of the refugee experience—one that recognises both suffering and agency, both displacement and reconstruction.

Memory, Literature and Oral History

The lecture further emphasised the significance of memory and cultural representation in understanding Partition.

Dr. Patar pointed out that official documents and statistical records alone cannot adequately capture the human experience of Partition.

In this context, literature, cinema, autobiographies, personal narratives and oral histories assume considerable importance. These sources preserve individual and collective memories and provide insight into experiences that may otherwise remain absent from conventional historical records.

The speaker stressed that preserving such memories is essential for enabling future generations to understand the emotional, social and cultural dimensions of Partition.

Partition Remembrance and Historical Responsibility

Dr. Patar concluded by emphasising that remembering Partition should not be understood as an attempt to revive division or grievance.



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Rather, remembrance constitutes an important aspect of historical responsibility.

The experiences, sacrifices and contributions of refugees form an integral part of the history of independent India. Their resilience, according to the speaker, demonstrates the enduring strength of cultural continuity, social cohesion and national reconstruction.

Need for a Partition Museum in Bengal

An important recommendation emerging from the lecture was the need for a dedicated Partition Museum in Bengal.

The speaker suggested that such an institution could be developed along the lines of the Partition Museum in Amritsar, with the objective of preserving memories, personal testimonies, photographs, documents and material heritage associated with Bengal's Partition and refugee experience.

Such a museum, it was suggested, could serve as an important educational and research resource for students, scholars and future generations.

Interaction and Academic Reflection

The lectures provided an opportunity for members of the University community to reflect upon the multiple dimensions of the Partition of Bengal.

The programme particularly brought together historical and contemporary perspectives on:

- Displacement and forced migration;
- Refugee rehabilitation and reconstruction;
- Memory and historical consciousness;
- Social and cultural transformation;
- The economic consequences of Partition;
- Literature, cinema and oral history as sources of historical memory;
- Resilience and community reconstruction;
- National integration and social harmony; and
- The preservation of Partition-related heritage for future generations.

The discussions reinforced the importance of approaching Partition through both historical evidence and lived experiences.

Vote of Thanks

The Registrar of Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay, CMA Ashutosh Das, delivered the vote of thanks.

He expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for chairing the programme and thanked both the distinguished speakers for their valuable and thought-provoking contributions.



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He also conveyed appreciation to the faculty members, officers, staff and students whose cooperation contributed to the successful organisation of the programme.

The Registrar further acknowledged the importance of continuing academic and institutional initiatives that encourage students and the wider University community to engage critically with significant historical events and their contemporary relevance.

The whole programme was conducted by Dr. Suman Saha, Guest Faculty of the department of History.

Conclusion of the Programme

The programme concluded with the singing of the National Anthem, marking the formal conclusion of the observance.

The closing ceremony provided an appropriate conclusion to a programme centred on remembrance, historical reflection, national reconstruction and the enduring values of unity and social cohesion.

Documentation

In accordance with the directions received from Lok Bhavan, West Bengal, the programme was photo and video-recorded with Geo tag and documented for institutional record and further submission.

The relevant photographic and video documentation, along with this brief report, may be preserved by the University and uploaded on the official website of Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay.

A copy of the video recording and the report/documentation may also be forwarded to the Joint Secretary, Lok Bhavan, West Bengal, through the prescribed e-mail channel for record and documentation.

Prepared for official record and submission

Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay
Bolpur, Birbhum, West Bengal
14th August 2026

Report Prepared By

Dr. Prabhakar Thapa

Prabhakar Thapa
14.8.26

Report Approved By

Adis
Registrar
14/08/2026

Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay

Bolpur

Registrar
Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay
Bolpur, Birbhum, West Bengal



The Pictures from the event



Plate: Honourable Vice-Chancellor addressing the Gathering



Plate: Honourable Vice-Chancellor welcoming the guests



Plate: The invited guests delivering the lecture



Plate: Some of the moment from the event



Plate: Singing the National Song



Plate: Honourable Vice-Chancellor with the guest

End of the Report