

# VISION

# 2030



**VISVA BHARATI**

A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY AND AN INSTITUTION OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

## VISVA BHARATI

Rabindranath Tagore dreamt of a dream land in Santiniketan, a creative space where knowledge could be viewed in a different frame. The frames of poetry, language, art and music have been a key to Tagore's idea. The ideology of society and mankind existed and reflected in his ideas.

The philosophy behind Visva-Bharati is its idea of being a pilgrimage for education and culture. It mirrors the Tagorean philosophy of holistic human and social development. It is a sanctified place of learning embraced in a serene environment in the lap of Nature, where Rabindranath founded a school for children at Santiniketan in 1901. It was around this ideology that the edifice of an alternative ideological University developed through careful organization and conscientious accomplishment of Tagorean ideas and ideals. Under the alternate model of education, this seat of learning offers classes in open air in the shade of trees where children and nature entered into a mutually symbiotic relationship.

## AT A GLANCE

296 Courses  
56 Departments and 2 Schools  
Education from Kindergarten to M.Phil and PhD  
Centre for Fine Arts and Tagore Studies  
Museums and Manuscriptorium  
Ashrama System of Education in symbiosis with nature  
Inclusive Development of Communities in the vicinity  
Centre for Rural Tourism  
Language Studies including Endangered Languages  
Culture Studies  
Studies in Rabindrasangit, Dance and Drama  
Rural and Community Development through Sriniketan Programme

## OUR VISION

Santiniketan envisions a creative space where knowledge could be viewed in a different frame supportive of inclusive social development.

The frames of poetry, language, art and music along with harmonious growth of society and mankind as envisioned by Tagore.

## CORE VALUES OF THE UNIVERSITY

1. Excellence
2. Accountability and Transparency
3. Holistic Human Development
4. Mutual Cultural Interface
5. Eco-Centric Education
6. Social Responsibility/Reform



# EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEARNING RESOURCES

Total land area of the University campus is **1128.895 acres**

## Constructed area

Academic buildings	: 57,725 sq.m.
Residential buildings	: 22,422 sq.m.
Administrative buildings	: 5,275 sq.m.
Common facilities buildings	: 13,635 sq.m.
Hostel buildings	: 58,515 sq.m.
Health Centre	: 2,404sq.m.
Other facility	: 14,318 sq.m.

## Academic Status

- 828 permanent teaching staff (including schools) sanctioned positions available.
- 1800 (sanctioned) Non-teaching staff position available.
- 11428 students studying in different teaching departments of the university.
- 296 courses offered by the University at various levels.
- Central Library with a repository of 8, 54,000 printed books, 1, 00,000 plus e-books, more than 250 Newspapers, Magazines and Print Journals, 8500 online journals (Through e-Shodh Sindhu.)
- 11 Departmental libraries with Intranet and Remote access facilities for faculty and students.

## Additional Infrastructure

- One Computer Centre, and computer laboratories attached to various departments
- Optical fiber network and Wi-Fi enabled campus both at Santiniketan and Sriniketan
- Placement cell and Student Counseling Centre under Directorate of Students Welfare
- Lipika Manuscriptorium with huge repository of manuscripts
- Rabindra Bhavana Museum
- Community College and Community Library in nearby villages
- University promoted Self-Help Group in the villages nearby Sriniketan
- Laboratories in 7 Core Science Departments and 3 Applied Sciences Departments
- Fourteen hostels, including exclusive hostels for women and tribal students
- 5 Auditoriums and multiple conference, Seminar and community Halls
- 6 Sport Nodal Complex and Play grounds
- One International Standard Filmography Studio.
- 15 Heritage building (proposed as UNESCO world heritage site)
- One Multi-Gymnasium
- One Yoga and Meditations center

- University Health Centre with 50 bedded indoor facility
- One University Canteen both at Sriniketan and Santiniketan
- Transport facilities with two buses for movement across Santiniketan and Sriniketan campus



## VISVA-BHARATI EVOLVING FROM A LOCAL TO A GLOBAL MODEL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### STRENGTH OF THE UNIVERSITY

- The goal of rural reconstruction as envisioned by Tagore in different phases at Sriniketan is the major strength of the University. This is in sync with the ideology of sustainable development model focusing on inclusive social growth and development which is advocated today.
- Sriniketan was the focal point of implementation of ideas of social change and welfare which is also the vision that University wishes to imbibe in the near days to come.
- The key focus of the University lies in Tagore's belief that without development of rural India, India as a nation could not prosper. The advent of rural development began with Tagore engaging in the task of rural reconstruction; recuperating the situation of the peasants and rural artisans;

developing agriculture and cottage industries and; applying the co-operative principle to the task of general welfare, merging different villages as regional units that would include schools, workshops, granaries, co-operative stores and banks as also common meeting places for enjoyment and settling of disputes.

- Assistance were provided to them on issues of welfare, enlightened them with healthcare and sanitation issues, teaching them better methods of farming learn and practice arts and crafts.

**The programme covered broadly four general areas:**

*Agriculture*

*Crafts and industries*

*Village welfare*

*Education*

The agricultural activities were based on three phases- (i) experiment; (ii) training, and (iii) extension. Extension activities were given much priority



Strength of Visva-Bharati

**Belief in Scientific Methods for Agriculture** - Scientific methods of farming was introduced. Improved seeds were imported. Mechanization of farming and Crop rotation was initiated.

**Development of Handicrafts-** Vocational training to village apprentices and providing crafts training to the students of the academic departments of Santiniketan and Sriniketan. New designs in leather goods were created and various crafts such as lacquer and batik work, book binding and fabric painting were introduced. Part-time employments for rural women were generated.

**Village Welfare-** This includes [a] Sanitation and health [b] Economic improvement, promotion of education and [c] Social and moral progress. The Health Societies were organized by the local communities and lectures were provided on food, village sanitation and preventable diseases. Initiatives were taken through village societies for settling disputes by arbitration, and to bring about mutual trust which has practically died out in the villages, but which was at one time the backbone of village life.

**Education-** Educational initiatives were implemented at all levels. The curriculum was of the holistic type and included basic literacy, gardening, cooking, math, crafts, recreational activities etc. The major strength of the institute lies in open education system which would be environment friendly, devoid of all sorts of stringent rules and regulations. Simplicity, joyful and creative self-expression in terms of music, painting and dramatic performance etc were the ideals for imparting knowledge to the students.

**Sustainable Development through Co-operatives-** Development of village welfare was also initiated by building cooperatives. The Visva-Bharati Central Co-operative Bank was started in 1927 with the aim of combating rural indebtedness. Economic research and rural surveys were also carried out by the welfare section. Tagore's concept of sustainable development of India is rooted deep in rural regeneration, since the majority of the population of India resides in villages. It has two major aspects-[a] Cooperatives and [b] Panchayats. The University intends to revive of the spirit of the rural masses so that they could be self-sufficient and free from dependence on outside assistance for their economic and social well being



# VISION 2030: THE ROADMAP AHEAD

## Focus areas

- **Global Centre for Language, Performing and Liberal Arts**
- **Academic and Research**
- **Human Resource Development and Social Responsibility**
- **E-Governance and Quality Assurance**
- **Infrastructure Development and Resource Mobilization**

## **Global Centre for Language, Performing and Liberal**

### **Arts Promoting Liberal Education**

Visva-Bharati recognizes the holistic aspect of all human knowledge and enquiry. The University regards holistic knowledge as imparted through a broad and interwoven system of education as an important component of student teaching-learning pedagogy. This will help student prepare for their student, work and social life making them effective contributing members of society. Liberal Education through different disciplines that include Arts, Humanities, Mathematics and Sciences. The University intends to develop into a global centre for study of liberal and fine arts, music and language. The Fine Arts Unit of the University is one of the leading centres of education in India, steps to take it to the international map through academic and cultural exchange of art and painting would be promoted. The University intends to bring in best faculties and practitioners from across the world and create a space for global exchange where students and teachers can get hands on learning experience from them.

### **Effective teacher recruitment and deployment**

The University also plans for effective teacher recruitment and deployment. Visva-Bharati believes that recruitment would be rigorous, impartial, and transparent - the main aim of the University would be to find the best teachers, representing the high regard and respect in which they and their profession are held by society. The aim is to bring in global standard performing artists, musicians and known academics to one platform for projecting University in the international map of excellence.

### **Academic and Research**

**Development of language and literature lab:** Visva-Bharati has a rich source of foreign language courses- Chinese, Japanese and Modern European Languages- French, German, Italian and Russian. Along with this the University has rich language courses in English, Comparative Literature, Bengali, Indo-Tibetan, Arabic and Persian. The university foresees

providing advanced research, development and introduction of new language courses more courses and translations of rich texts of Tagore into various language.

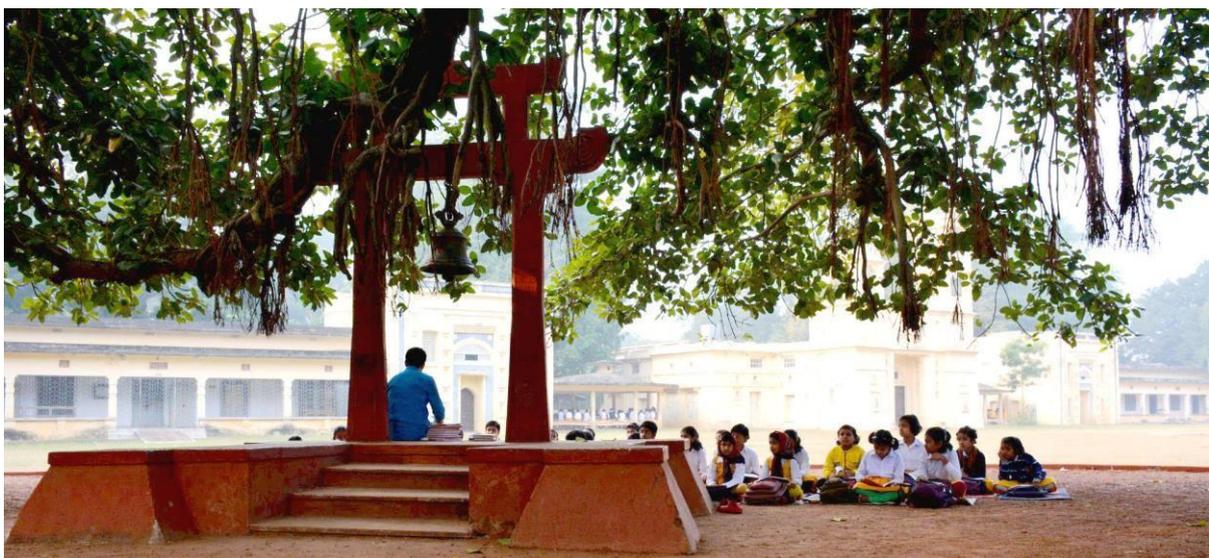
**Continuous upgradation of existing courses and introduction of new courses:** courses like law, nursing, commerce and management would be initiated. Along with these courses, disability studies, policy studies, international relations, courses in science and technology would be introduced. Courses in fine arts and music which could also be taught to people from rural communities especially in terms of innovation can be encouraged.

**Library Network:** The University also aims to develop a round the clock library access, digital library network. The libraries would not only cater to existing students and faculties but would also entail services of mobile library and library education in the nearby rural communities.

**Remedial Coaching:** Visva-Bharati plans to provide remedial coaching for the university as well as for students in the nearby vicinity of the University would be encouraged. The night classes as introduced by Tagore and skill-based learning for villagers would be encouraged.

**Barrier Friendly Environment:** The University proposes to establish barrier free academic environment across the University including infrastructure, mobility and access for differently abled students, staff, elderly and other stakeholders. It intends to also provide through extension activities -various information and services for differently abled in the nearby communities.

**Grievance Redressal Mechanism:** For all stakeholders across the University with democratic decision making process. Also establishment of grievance redressal for village level stakeholders would be encouraged to bring in more symbiotic relationship among villages and encourage comprehensive community development.



## Human Resource Development and Social Responsibility

**Encouraging Women and Tribal Development:** Encouraging of development of women and tribals across all stakeholders in the University as well as in the nearby community.

**Rural Integration:** Provide amenities and facilities for marginalized section of the society keeping in view their specific requirements. Organizing training and capacity building programme for rural and tribal youth, women and others, strengthening the rural co-operative system and awareness generation programmes in rural and tribal youth, women and others.

**Social Responsibility:** The University intends to adopt more villages and strengthen the SHGs of the adopted villages, promoting rural crafts and folk art, vocational studies, generate social awareness, educate the children of nearby rural areas, promote adult education, recognize the local talents, educate the farmers with new innovation in the field of agriculture and restore and conserve the tradition and culture of the indigenous population of the region

**Rural Sustainability:** The University intends in reviving the indigenous traditional art forms and artist, promoting the traditional and indigenous art, crafts, folk through the various festivals of Visva-Bharati like Poushmela Maghaotsav etc. and promoting ecofriendly approach to the society through various festivals of Visva Bharati. Apart from this developing rain water harvesting practice in and around the university, solar power and promoting traditional games and sports

**Agricultural Sustainability:** Encouraging dairy, poultry, pisciculture and bee-keeping as salient activities associated with the experiment in view of augmenting the rural resources and over all development of the villagers. This would also encourage sustainable earning for the University.

## E-Governance and Quality Assurance

**Governance:** The University encourages professionalization of administration. It intends to encourage transparency in appointments/engagement of staff and concentrate on preparing crystal-clear, fair admission and examination policy, encourage complete digitalization of appointment, examination and admission process. record keeping, audit and decentralize the powers pertaining to administrative, financial and academic setup.

**Quality Assurance:** The University intends to create awareness generation and constant action to improve the academic and administrative performance, take views and feedback from students, parents/guardians and stakeholders on quality-related issues of the University.

## **Infrastructure Development and Resource Mobilization**

**Infrastructure Development:** The University plans to develop several academic and administrative buildings to meet the shortfalls of infrastructural facilities, faced by different Bhavana and Departments at present. It intends to promote state of Art laboratories for science, social science, fine arts, music and language and literature faculties.

**Eco-friendly sustainable measures:** The University proposes to harp on eco-friendly model. The University intends to promote solar water heating, lighting system in hostel, staff quarters, use maximum of renewal energy, well-developed drainage system, rainwater harvesting system as well as more water bodies inside the university campus, environment friendly waste management system.

**Infrastructural Upgradation:** Visva-Bharati aims to increase hygiene and cleanliness of the toilets in all the hostels, academic and administrative departments. It plans to establish Amphitheatre and utility hub for students and local people. The campus would follow eco-friendly waste management system, Wi-Fi enabled hostel and establishment large scale water purification system.

### **Alumni Engagement**

The University has an Alumna Association to develop and strengthen the institution in its social development and academic activity. The Alumna association holds regular meetings and plans financial and other activities which are beneficial for the University. Meritorious and established alumnas are invited to participate and play as key stakeholders in development of the institute.

### **Green Campus**

Having an eco-friendly and sustainable environment in the era of global warming and carbon footprints is a real challenge. The University strives towards providing an eco-friendly campus by planting more trees in and around the campus, developing a plastic free campus environment. The University through its institute of agriculture encourages organic and herbal gardening, creating water bodies and aquatic life. The University tries to encourage lesser noise and air pollution by encouraging usage of cycles across both the campuses. Yoga and Meditation centre has been established for better holistic health development. There is increase in use of solar lights to avoid electric consumption and an efficient waste management programme is organized.

### **Way Forward**

Visva-Bharati is committed to bring out its best to the world. With this goal in mind, we have programmes and academic exchanges of culture, history, religion, languages between Asian and western minds through various Bhavanas. The key vision of the University lies in

its village and social responsibility towards the multiple stakeholders in and around the campus.

The University through its vision and strategies would escalate its learning and knowledge system and create a place which becomes a global centre of knowledge and culture in coming era. It will aim to achieve its goal of Yatra ***Visvam Bhavatyekanidam (where the world makes a home in a single nest)*** by patient study of the different cultures of the world.

Visva Bharati therefore believes in integration and dissemination of knowledge to its multiple stakeholders and community around which it dwells. To quote the Ashrama Sangeet

*“She is our own, the darling of our hearts, Santiniketan.*

*In the shadows of her trees we meet*

*in the freedom of her open sky.*

*Our dreams are rocked in her arms.*

*Her face is a fresh wonder of love every time we see her,*

*for she is our own, the darling of our hearts.” - Rabindranath Tagore*

As the Sangeet goes- Visva-Bharati resides in the mind of every stakeholder who wishes to associate with it.

The University therefore by the year 2030 aims to develop as melting point of art, learning and culture in the international trajectory.



