



गणित सदन / Computer Centre
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सारांश सं./Docket No. 1069
तिथि/Date 7-2-18

VISVA-BHARATI

(Founded by Rabindranath Tagore)

A Central University and Institution of National Importance

International Interdisciplinary Conference

On

**“Road Map for the Development of Eco-Tourism in and around
Santiniketan & Birbhum”**

MARCH 23-25, 2018

Organised By

*Public Relations Office
Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan*

*In Collaboration with
Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India*

Call for Papers

FOCAL THEME

Rabindranath Tagore once said “The traveller has to knock at every alien door to come to his own, and one has to wander through all the outer worlds to reach the innermost shrine at the end.”

West Bengal has vast physical as well as cultural diversities that can draw considerable number of tourists from home as well as abroad. But, unfortunately West Bengal could not develop itself up to its level and thus other states of India drawing greater number of tourists than West Bengal. West Bengal draws only about 3% of domestic tourists and 6% of foreign tourists of India.

Santiniketan is located in the Birbhum district of West Bengal. The district has a host of traditional temples which have heritage value and also unique architecture. The Santiniketan campus is adorned by splendid sculptures, frescoes, murals, and paintings of Rabindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose, Ramkinkar Baij, Binodbehari Mukhopadhyay, and others. It attracts about 10,000 tourists throughout the year but during some special occasion it reaches more than lakh tourists from across India and abroad.

Birbhum District, where Santiniketan is located, is also famous for its fairs and festivals like Joydev Mela (January) famous for the Baul Singers, Basanta Utsav (March), the festival of colours, PoushMela (December) was initially formulated to promote the local products of artisans in and around Santiniketan.

Birbhum district has all the potential to develop agro Tourism. This is one of the modern forms of tourism and offers an alternative to improve quality of life of rural society; generate revenues especially to the farmers and village people; contributes to the process preservation of biodiversity, culture and regional development.

A tourism circuit around Tarapith, Bakreswar, Kendua and Santiniketan needs to be developed and thrust should be on heritage protection. Overall tourism infrastructure in these places should be reinforced. It is high time to develop eco-tourism in PPP mode in different places and develop heritage tourism in this region.

Rabindra Nath Tagore, the founder of Visva-Bharati embodied the vision of a global village. The motto of the University – “YatraVisvamBhavatyekanidam” – where the World makes its home in a single nest. Thus, there is a need to give a new dimension to this place organising this International Conference, which will focus its perspective, Santiniketan and its neighbourhood requires to be developed not just into a tourist destination, but a vibrant space for interaction among people from all over the globe.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of Abstract	25 th Feb. 2018
Acceptance of Abstract	28 th Feb. 2018
Sending Registration fee with full paper	10 th Mar. 2018
Mail address for sending abstract	sircar.anirban@gmail.com

Note: Word limit for the abstract is preferably 250 words typed in Times New Roman and in 12 font size. No abstract will be published in abstract volume without the receipt of the registration fee before 25.02.2018.

CONTACT PERSON

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SUB THEMES

1. Tagore heritage in Bengal (their art, culture food etc).
2. The heritage of Santiniketan in the cultural ethos of India
3. History of Visva-Bharati as an Institution
4. Interface of Santiniketan and Sriniketan in contemporary society
5. Identifying the resources in Birbhum (example the handloom and cottage industry i.e. the local *Tantis*)
6. Tracing the historical monuments around Birbhum
7. The Rivers in Birbhum
8. The Soil of Birbhum
9. Showcasing the multifaceted heritage through a properly worked out strategies.
10. Familiarizing of Santiniketan heritage through multiple technical devices in collaboration with Indian Railways & National Highway Authority of India.
11. Reviewing & identifying the infrastructural requirements: **"Within Santiniketan & its neighborhood"**.
12. Revisiting Signage
 - Relooking the Landscape, water bodies at Santiniketan.
 - Identifying Santiniketan heritage.
 - Light & Sound show on Santiniketan.
 - Development of biodegradable toilet system in conformity with the Landscape.
 - Planning an authentic cuisine for Santiniketan which is integral with Tagore tradition.
 - Planning, designing souvenir for Santiniketan.
 - Vision for the Museums in Santiniketan: "Vision for showcasing the open air sculpture & murals in Santiniketan".

About Visva-Bharati

Founded by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore in 1921, Visva-Bharati was declared to be a Central University and an Institution of National Importance by an Act of Parliament in 1951. The President of India is the Paridarsaka (Visitor) of the University, the Governor of West Bengal is the Pradhana (Rector), and the Prime Minister of India acts as the Acharya (Chancellor). The University was granted the status of a unitary teaching and residential university by a special Act of Parliament.

Nearest Railway Station: Bolpur station (roughly 150 km from Howrah station and takes about 2 and half- hours)

Nearest airport: Kolkata airport (164 km and takes about three hours)

For any additional information contact:

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A. Banerjee 9/2/17

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