

Visva-Bharati



Department of Assamese Bhasha-Bhavana, Santiniketan

Uniqueness of the Department:

The Department of Assamese, Visva-Bharati, carries a distinctive identity that no other university department in India quite shares. Rooted in Rabindranath Tagore's vision, enriched by cultural legacy, and sustained by resilience, the department represents a unique academic and cultural presence within the national and international landscape.

1. Founded on Tagore's Vision of Unity in Diversity:

Rabindranath Tagore, founder of Visva-Bharati, valued Assamese language, literature, and culture as a vital part of India's shared heritage. The Department reflects his idea of bridging Assam with Santiniketan, weaving Assamese into the pan-Indian and international fabric of Visva-Bharati.

2. The Only Assamese Department Outside Assam in a Central University:

Among Indian central universities, Visva-Bharati is the only institution with a full-fledged Department of Assamese.

This makes it the sole bridge for Assamese studies in eastern India outside Assam, especially within Bengal.

3. Custodian of Srimanta Sankardeva's Legacy at Santiniketan

Through the Srimanta Sankardeva Chair, the department actively preserves and promotes Sankardeva's philosophy, Borgeet, Sattriya dance, and the Neo-Vaishnavite cultural tradition.

It connects Assamese heritage with Tagore's universal humanism and cultural internationalism.

4. Interdisciplinary and Comparative Outlook

Students across disciplines—Certificate, Diploma, Minor, Multidisciplinary, and MIL courses under FYUGP-NEP—engage with Assamese alongside Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit, Chinese, Geography, History, AIHCA, English, French, German, Russian, Italian, Yoga, Physical Education, Painting, Art History, Drama, Economics, Rural Studies, Social Work, Philosophy, Persian, and more.

This positions the Department as a meeting ground of languages, literatures, and cultural studies, enriching comparative and interdisciplinary scholarship.

5. Custodian of Classical Language Identity of Assamese

The Department has taken pioneering steps in advocating Assamese as a classical language, highlighting its ancient roots in Charyapada and Srikrishna Kirtan.

In June 2025, the first Ph.D. on “Classical Elements in Assamese Language: An Analytical Study” was awarded by this department, marking a milestone in classical Assamese research.

It serves as a platform for projecting Assamese language, literature, and identity at both national and international levels.

6. Cultural Diplomacy Role within Visva-Bharati's Global Campus

Situated in Santiniketan, where international students, scholars, and artists congregate, the department introduces Assamese culture to a world audience.

It plays a key role in aligning with Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and the objectives of NEP 2020, integrating cultural depth with academic advancement.

7. Heritage of Contribution Despite Being a Small Department

Despite being run by very few faculty (sometimes a single dedicated faculty), the department has sustained Assamese studies at Visva-Bharati for nearly two decades.

It has regularly organized national and international seminars, cultural events, and workshops since 2013.

It actively participates in all major university programs, representing Assam in International Mother Language Day, Culinary Food Festivals, World Poetry Day, World Environment Day, and other global observances.

This resilience and continuity underline its dedication, strength, and irreplaceable contribution.

In essence, the Department of Assamese, Visva-Bharati, stands as a living bridge between Assam and the wider world, carrying forward Tagore's vision, Sankardeva's legacy, and the timeless richness of Assamese language and culture.