



A Three-Day International Seminar
on
Rabindranath Tagore
across Disciplines:
Texts, Performances, Experiments
and Receptions

Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan

02 - 04 February, 2027

SECOND CIRCULAR

Rabindranath Tagore across Disciplines: *Texts, Performances, Experiments and Receptions*

Concept Note and Objectives

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) occupies a unique and unparalleled position in global intellectual, literary, and cultural history. Poet, novelist, playwright, composer, painter, educationist, philosopher, social reformer, and a public intellectual, Tagore defies disciplinary boundaries and conventional categorization. His creative genius was not confined to any single form or medium; rather, it traversed literature, music, theatre, visual art, pedagogy, politics, and philosophy, constantly experimenting with form, language, and ideas. Tagore's works continue to resonate across time and cultures, inviting fresh interpretations and interdisciplinary engagements.

The proposed theme of the seminar *Rabindranath Tagore across Disciplines: Texts, Performances, Experiments and Receptions* seeks to explore the multifaceted dimensions of Tagore's legacy. It aims to foreground the interconnectedness of his literary texts, performative practices, artistic experiments, and the varied ways in which his works have been received, adapted, contested, and re-imagined across historical periods and cultural contexts. Rather than treating Tagore as a static literary icon, this seminar emphasizes him as a dynamic, evolving figure whose ideas and creations continue to generate dialogue across disciplines such as literature, music, theatre, fine arts, education, philosophy, gender studies, postcolonial studies, translation studies and media studies.

Tagore's writings—poetry, fiction, drama, essays, and letters—embody a profound engagement with questions of selfhood, freedom, love, nature, spirituality, nationalism, cosmopolitanism, and humanism. His experiments in performance through dance-drama, song, and theatre challenged colonial aesthetics and indigenous traditions alike. His pedagogical vision at Santiniketan and Sriniketan sought to integrate art, nature, and education, anticipating contemporary interdisciplinary and experiential learning models. Furthermore, the reception of Tagore's works—both in India and abroad—reveals complex processes of canonization, translation, misreading, appropriation, and revival.

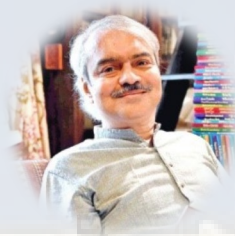
This seminar invites scholars, researchers, performers, educators, and artists to engage critically with Tagore's legacy across disciplines, highlighting both continuities and ruptures in the interpretation and performance of his works. The following core academic themes are indicative and aim to foster rich interdisciplinary conversations.

OUR EMINENT SPEAKERS



Professor Amareswar Galla

Executive Director, International Institute for the
Inclusive Museum &
UNESCO Chair on Inclusive Museums



Professor Ananda Lal

Eminent Indian Academic, Translator and
Theatre Critic



Dr. B.M. Prasanna

Managing Director, BISA & CIMMYT Distinguished
Scientist and Regional Director for Asia



Professor B.V. Sharma

Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Ministry of
Culture, Government of India



Professor Bashabi Fraser CBE

Director, Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies, Edinburgh



Professor Chinmoy Guha

Professor Emeritus
Department of English, University of Calcutta



Professor Deen K. Chatterjee

A Faculty Affiliate at Oxford Consortium for Human
Rights at the Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed
Conflict, Oxford University



Dr. Devendra Kumar Sharma

Assistant Director
National Archives of India



Dr. Dhriti Banerjee

Director
Zoological Survey of India



Professor Fabien Chartier

Professor, English and Intercultural Management,
University of Rennes, France &
Vice-President of SARI



Professor Gangeya Mukherjee

Eminent Author & Chair Adjunct Professor
Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and
Communication



Smt. Gouri Basu

Distinguished Scholar, Arts Administrator &
Former Director of the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre
(EZCC), Ministry of Culture, GOI

OUR EMINENT SPEAKERS



Professor Halina Marlewicz
Professor, Institute of Oriental Studies, Jagiellonian
University, Poland



Professor Indrapramit Roy
Eminent Painter & Professor
Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda



Dr. Jahnwij Sharma
Additional Director General
Archaeological Survey of India



Professor Kishor K. Basa
Distinguished Indian Anthropologist, Archaeologist &
Former Chairman of the National Monuments Authority
(NMA)



Padma Shri Smt Kamalini Asthana
Eminent Kathak Dancer (Benaras Gharana)



Dr. Kanchan Mukhopadhyay
Tagore National Fellow
Anthropological Survey of India



Professor Komatsu Yasuhiko
Director of AGU International Centre &
Professor of the College of Literature, Aoyama Gakuin
University, Tokyo



Padma Shri Dr. Kumaraswamy Thangaraj
Senior Scientist, Centre for Cellular and Molecular
Biology, Hyderabad



Padma Shri Professor Lars-Christian Koch
Professor for Ethnomusicology
University of Cologne, Germany



Professor Madhumita Lahiri
Professor, Department of English, University of Michigan
Professor Maria Wronska-Friend
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, College of Arts, Society
and Education, Division of Tropical Environments and
Societies, James Cook University, Australia



Professor Mohammad A. Quayum
College of Human Sciences and Culture, Flinders
University, Adelaide, Australia

OUR EMINENT SPEAKERS



Padma Shri Smt Nalini Asthana
Eminent Kathak Dancer (Benaras Gharana)



Dr. Niraj Rai
Senior Scientist, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences
(BSIP) in Lucknow, India



Professor Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty
Distinguished Indian Academician and Philosopher &
Vice-Chancellor, Presidency University, Kolkata



Smt Pramita Mallick
Eminent Rabindra-Sangeet Artist and Educator



Padma Shri Smt Prathibha Prahlad
Eminent Bharata Natyam Dancer, Educator,
Choreographer, Arts Administrator, and Author



Professor Raman Siva Kumar
Eminent Art Historian, Art Critic and Curator



Professor Radha Chakravarty
Professor of Comparative Literature & Translation
Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi



Professor Rajeev Choudhary
Professor of Physical Education, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla
University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India



Professor Samrat Mukhopadhyay
Professor
IIT, Delhi



Professor Sandagomi Coperahewa
Professor (Chair) of Sinhala Department of Sinhala,
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka



Dr. Snehasis Sur
Eminent Journalist & President of Press Club, Kolkata



Shri Soumyojit Das
Eminent Musician and Composer

OUR EMINENT SPEAKERS



Shri Sourendra Mullick
Eminent Musician and Composer



Professor Sreemati Mukherjee
Professor (Retd.) Department of Performing Arts at
Presidency University, Kolkata



Smt Sucharita Bardhan
Communication Specialist at UNICEF, India



Professor Sukanta Chaudhuri
Eminent Literary Scholar &
Professor Emeritus, Department of English, Jadavpur
University, Kolkata



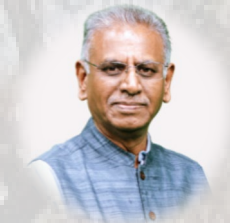
Professor Swapan Dutta
Distinguished Biotechnology Research Professor
University of Calcutta, Kolkata



Professor Togawa Masahiko
Professor, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures
of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), Tokyo University of Foreign
Studies



Professor Urmimala Sarkar
Renowned Dance Scholar, Choreographer, Anthropologist &
Professor (Retd.), School of Arts and Aesthetics,
JNU, Delhi



Professor Vinod Pavarala
Senior Professor and Advisor, School of Digital Media
and Communication, Mahindra University





Core Academic Themes

➤ **Rabindranath Tagore's Literary Corpus and the Idea of 'World Literature'**

This sub-theme explores Tagore's vast literary output across genres, examining the thematic, stylistic, and philosophical continuities that link his poetry, short stories, novels, and plays. It encourages comparative readings that situate his literary texts within Indian, Bengali, and world literary traditions, while also addressing narrative experimentation, symbolism, and modernist tendencies.

➤ **Tagore as Composer: Music, Emotion and Cultural Synthesis**

Tagore's musical compositions synthesize classical, folk, devotional, and Western musical forms. This theme invites studies on the emotional, philosophical, and cultural dimensions of Rabindra Sangeet, as well as its role in shaping Bengali identity and modern Indian music.

➤ **The Performance Traditions: Rabindra Sangeet, Dance, Dance-Dramas and Theatre**

Tagore's contributions to music and performance are central to his interdisciplinary legacy. This sub-theme focuses on Rabindra Sangeet, Tagore's dance-dramas, and theatrical experiments, analyzing their aesthetic principles, choreographic innovations, and socio-cultural significance.

➤ **Tagore's Late Experiments in Painting and Architecture: Coming Together of the Natural and Built Environment in Visual Art, Architecture and Gardening**

Tagore's late engagement with painting challenges conventional narratives of artistic development. This sub-theme explores his visual art as an extension of his poetic imagination, focusing on form, abstraction, symbolism, and the relationship between word and image.

➤ **Education as an Interdisciplinary Experiment: Santiniketan and Sriniketan**

Tagore's educational philosophy represents a radical experiment in holistic and interdisciplinary learning. This theme examines the ideals and practices of Santiniketan and Sriniketan, including nature-based learning, art integration, and community engagement, in relation to contemporary educational debates.

➤ **Tagore's Philosophy: Humanism, Spirituality, Universalism and the Idea of the Modern**

Tagore's relationship with modernity was complex and ambivalent. This theme examines his critique of mechanical modernity, nationalism, and industrial civilization alongside his embrace of intellectual freedom, individuality, and global exchange. Papers may explore Tagore as a thinker negotiating between tradition and modernity.

➤ **Nation, Nationalism and Internationalism**

Tagore's critique of aggressive nationalism and his vision of internationalism remain highly relevant today. This theme examines his political thought, including works like *Nationalism*, and his dialogues with contemporaries such as Gandhi, addressing questions of identity, freedom, and global citizenship.

➤ **Gender, Feminism, and the Idea of the New Woman in Tagore's Works**

Tagore's portrayal of women often challenges patriarchal norms and explores female agency, desire, and self-realization. This sub-theme encourages feminist readings of his novels, short stories, and plays, situating them within broader gender discourses.

➤ **Physical Education for Holistic Development**

Rabindranath Tagore emphasized physical culture as an essential part of holistic education, alongside intellectual and moral growth. He believed that physical training develops discipline, cooperation, and self-confidence among youth, which are vital qualities for responsible citizenship.

➤ **Tagore in India and the World: Translation, Transcreation and Global Circulation**

Tagore's works have traveled widely through translation, often undergoing transformation in the process. This theme examines translation as transcreation, addressing issues of language, reception, loss, and reinterpretation in the global dissemination of Tagore's writings. The reception of Tagore has varied across time and space. This sub-theme explores how Tagore has been read, celebrated, critiqued, marginalized, or revived in different cultural and historical contexts, including colonial and postcolonial frameworks. Tagore is to be situated within comparative literary studies, exploring his dialogues with Western and non-Western writers, philosophers, and artists. It encourages cross-cultural and inter-textual analyses that highlight global literary networks.

➤ **Tagore's Engagement with Modern Science**

This sub-theme examines Tagore's responses to contemporary scientific developments, including physics, biology, and astronomy. Special attention may be given to his interactions with leading scientists of his time, such as Albert Einstein, and how these dialogues shaped his understanding of reality, truth, and knowledge. This theme focuses on Tagore's vision of science education at Santiniketan, where scientific learning was integrated with nature, art, and everyday life. It invites studies on experiential science education, outdoor learning, and Tagore's challenge to rote-based, examination-driven scientific pedagogy.

➤ **Rural Reconstruction: Ecology, Nature, Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Thought**

Rabindranath Tagore promoted the use of scientific methods in agriculture through his rural reconstruction program at Sriniketan. He encouraged farmers to adopt improved techniques, research-based practices, and education to increase productivity and reduce poverty. Tagore emphasized sustainable farming practices that respect nature and maintain ecological balance. He believed agriculture should protect soil fertility and natural resources so that rural communities could achieve long-term self-reliance and well-being. Nature occupies a central place in Tagore's imagination. This sub-theme examines his ecological sensibility, representations of landscape, and critiques of environmental exploitation, aligning his thought with contemporary environmental humanities.

➤ **Loksiksha: Public Library and Public Health Awareness and its Relevance in Contemporary World**

Tagore's vision of Loksiksha (people's education) extended learning beyond formal institutions, making knowledge accessible to wider sections of society. Public libraries, reading rooms, and community initiatives can be understood within this broader vision as spaces for disseminating knowledge and cultivating informed, socially responsible citizens. Public health awareness similarly becomes an essential dimension of Loksiksha, enabling communities to understand sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, disease prevention, and collective well-being. The seminar explores the contemporary relevance of Tagore's educational philosophy in connecting libraries, community learning, and public health for building healthier and more informed societies.

➤ **Media, Adaptations, and Contemporary Reinterpretations**

Tagore's works have been adapted into films, television, theatre, and digital media. This theme focuses on adaptations and reinterpretations, analyzing how Tagore is re-imagined for contemporary audiences and new media platforms.

➤ **Tagore in the 21st Century: Relevance and Re-Readings**

This sub-theme addresses the continued relevance of Tagore in the 21st century. It invites reflections on how his ideas speak to current global challenges such as cultural conflict, ecological crisis, education reform, and the search for human values.

➤ **Tagore's Visva-Bharati and World Heritage**

Visva-Bharati, founded by Rabindranath Tagore as a meeting ground of cultures and civilizations, embodies his distinctive vision of education, humanism, nature, and international intellectual exchange. Its recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2023 underscores the global significance of Tagore's experiment in creating an alternative model of learning rooted in the dialogue between the local and the universal. This sub-theme invites reflection on Visva-Bharati's cultural, educational, architectural, and ecological heritage and its continuing relevance in an increasingly interconnected world.



Guidelines for Paper Submission

- **Abstracts:** Maximum of 300 words with 5-6 keywords.
- **Full Papers:** Should be of 4,000-6,000 words.
- **Formatting Style:** Strictly follow the APA 7th edition citation style.

***Publication Opportunity:** Peer-reviewed, selected papers will be published in a special edited volume by a globally reputed academic publisher.*

Revised Deadlines

Abstract Submission Deadline	: November 25, 2026
Notification of Acceptance	: November 30, 2026
Full-Paper Submission Deadline	: December 30, 2026
Registration Closes	: January 15, 2027

Follow the Link Below or Scan this QR Code to Submit Your Abstracts

<https://forms.gle/v6WWuixEZJmdZGeLA>



Registration Fees

International Delegates	: \$150
Indian Faculty/Academicians	: Rs. 5,000
Research Scholars & Students	: Rs. 2,500
Accompanying Persons	: Rs. 2,000

(Note: Registration fees cover the conference kit, access to all sessions, three lunches, and two dinners during the event.)

Bank Details

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Organising Committee

Chief Patron: Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati

Conference Chair:

Professor Bipasha Raha, Principal, Vidya Bhavana

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Principal, Palli Sangathan Vibhaga

Academic and Non-Academic Members of Visva-Bharati

Convenor:

Dr Atig Ghosh, In-Charge, Public Relations Office, Visva-Bharati

Contact Us

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How to Reach Santiniketan

By Air: The closest domestic airport is Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport (RDP) in Durgapur (approx. 2 hours away by car). The nearest international airport is Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport (CCU) in Kolkata.

By Train: Disembark at Bolpur (Santiniketan) station, which is connected by regular express trains from Howrah, Sealdah and Kolkata stations.



Accommodation

Budget accommodations are available at the university guest-houses for registered scholars upon early request.

Luxury options, heritage stays, and eco-resorts are available in the Bolpur-Prantik area for self-booking.