

## SANGIT BHAVANA BEST PRACTICES

Holistic Curriculum	Fusion of Traditions	Emphasis on 'Sadhana'	Instrumental Mastery
Integration of Theory and Practice	Teaching and Research	Collaborative Roles	Versatile Skill Set

Sangit Bhavana has played an important role in preserving and propagating Indian knowledge system through Indian Classical Music and Tagorean artistic creativities. It has produced thousands of artists and introduced Indian culture to the world. As an integral part of Indian culture, Sangit Bhavana, since 1919, continues to play a crucial role in educating future generations in the art of music and dance.

Its two main departments—the Department of Rabindra Sangit, Dance, and Drama and the Department of Hindustani Classical Music—uphold a unique set of best practices that combine traditional Indian pedagogy with modern academic methods.

### A Synthesis of Tradition, Innovation, and Holistic Learning

**Holistic Curriculum:** The curriculum extends beyond mere performance. Students are taught the literary and aesthetic value of Tagore's songs and poetry, studying his philosophy on art and life as expressed in his essays like 'Sangit-Chinta'. This approach ensures that students understand the cultural and historical context of their art form, not just its technical aspects but values of life.

**Fusion of Traditions:** The department maintains the tradition of 'Tagore's unique dance-drama' style, which is a synthesis of various Indian and non-Indian dance forms. While it offers training in traditional forms like Manipuri and Kathakali, it encourages students to explore how these forms can be integrated into modern artistic expressions.

**Emphasis on Sadhana:** A core best practice is the focus on voice culture and 'swar sadhana' from the very beginning. Students are given a strong foundation in the fundamentals of vocal music, including the correct intonation of 'raga' phrases, before moving on to complex compositions.

**Instrumental Mastery:** The curriculum is structured to build a strong foundation for performance. Sangit Bhavana prepares students in Tabla, Pakhawaj, Sitar, and Esraj for performance and employability through a curriculum that combines rigorous practical training, theoretical knowledge, and exposure to a broad artistic community.

**Integration of Theory and Practice:** Unlike many institutions that separate performance and theory, Sangit Bhavana integrates them. The curriculum includes the study of musical theory, musicology, and the history of Hindustani music, encouraging students to develop an analytical and critical approach to their practice. This includes learning the musicological notions of various ragas and comparing the Hindustani system with other classical music systems like Carnatic music.

## Employability with the Curriculum

Sangit Bhavana's curriculum and environment are designed to prepare students for a range of career paths beyond being a solo performer.

- **Teaching and Research:** The focus on music theory, history, and notation systems prepares students for roles as **teachers or researchers**. Students who pursue higher degrees (Ph.D.) are trained in research methodology, including documentation, fieldwork, and the use of archival material, making them qualified to work in academic and research institutions.
- **Collaborative Roles:** The exposure to various artistic forms, including Rabindra Sangeet, dance, and drama, creates versatile artists who can collaborate with musicians and dancers from different genres. This skill is highly valuable for accompanying artists in dance-dramas and other mixed-media performances, enhancing their employability.
- **Versatile Skill Set:** The curriculum, which includes the study of other instruments and their respective musicology, encourages a holistic musical perspective. This makes students adaptable and capable of playing for various genres, from traditional classical concerts to contemporary fusions. Moreover, the new National Education Policy (NEP) aligned curriculum at Visva-Bharati includes internships and skill enhancement courses, aimed at providing practical, hands-on training to directly improve students' employability.