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The Cultural Heritage, Abode of Peace and an Institution of National Importance with Special Reference to Tagore's Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan

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Abstract:

Tagore's dreamland "Santiniketan" is an originative space where knowledges are views in a mosaic frame. The main motto behind the Visva-Bharati is its notion of being a pilgrimage for culture and education. Visva-Bharati is not just a university or an educational institution, where pupils are come only to take their degrees. It is the perfect place to find the self, because of the quiet and absolute peace, where world cultures are assembled together. It has an environment of freedom and joy, peace and love, sympathy and nobleness of spirit. In this study, the researcher discussed the objectives, peace of the dreamland of Tagore's Santiniketan, also explored the several Bhavana/institutions and various cultural festivals of Visva-Bharati which make it unique, national importance and cultural heritage. To completion this study, researcher has adopted qualitative study based on qualitative data from various sources. Finally, researcher revealed that, the Visva-Bharati has its own cultures, it reflects the Tagore's philosophy of holistic human and social development. It is a sacred place of learning in a peaceful environment in the lap of nature. Several Bhavanas are playing very crucial roles and the various cultural festivals makes Visva-Bharati inimitable and incomparable with any other institutions.

Keywords: Peace, Education, Cultural Heritage, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.

Introduction:

Visva-Bharati – "Yatra Visvam Bhavatyekanidam" (where the world makes a home in a single nest)

Rabindranath Tagore a great poet, philosopher, novelist, dramatist, actor, painter, guru, rishi, patriot, social reformer, educator and a universal man the founder of Visva-Bharati gave a practical shape and empirical application to his educational ideas in the form of an educational institution which he established in 1901 at bolpur, 93 miles north of Kolkata, far away from the fluster and bustle of the city life. He named it "Santiniketan"- the abode of peace. Santiniketan formed by Tagore's vision of learning place that is free from political, religious and regional barriers with the aim of helping education go beyond the blockade of the concrete classroom, santiniketan grew into the Visva-Bharati university in 1921. The formal inauguration of the Visva-Bharati took place in 22nd December, 1921, at a meeting presided over by Brajendranath Seal. Since then, Santiniketan has been the seat of Visva-Bharati—an international university, seeking to develop a basis on which the cultures of the East and the West may meet in common fellowship (Visva-Bharati, 1961,

p. 42). The word 'Visva-Bharati' is composed of two words. In Sanskrit, the word 'Visva' means 'World' and Bharati means 'Culture'. Thus, the term 'Visva-Bharati' signifies a place of 'universal knowledge' and 'world culture' (Dr. Mani, 1946, p. 205).

The educational philosophy of Tagore, four fundamental principles such as naturalism, humanism, internationalism and idealism, the Visva-Bharati and santiniketan are based on these core principles. Tagore described education as a "reformatory and expansive process which seeks to unfold all that is good and noble to the individual. The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence".

Objectives of the study:

- 1. To study the Peace in Santiniketan, the ashram school.
- 2. To mention the various Bhavanas and institutions of Visva-Bharati.
- 3. To highlight the cultural heritages of Visva-Bharati.

Method of the study:

The researcher has adopted fully qualitative study based on qualitative data. To fulfil this study, the researcher uses different sources of books written by Tagore, annual reports of Visva-Bharati, different books, journals, magazine, report and patrikas written on Tagore's work.

Peace and Santiniketan:

Peace is a state of universal being when we have interrelation, interdependence and harmonious existence with all the entities and transcendence to realize the creator. Peace is the state of correspondence amongst SARJAN, JEEVAN and VISARJAN. It is the affiliation for renunciation or PRAVRATI for NIVRATI. The state of peace begins when we cease to be. It is the state of ultimate de-becoming.

Peace is always lie in the name of Santiniketan. Literally, Santiniketan means "the adobe of peace". It is the dreamland of Gurudev Tagore, who always try to established a staid environment, where people can think freely, can express themselves without any restrictions and overalled people can live fetterless according to their own space. Lots of Tagore's fonders are comes from the different parts of the world to find a Rabindra entangled atmosphere in Santiniketan. "Borisho dhora majhe shantiro bani" the great line of Tagore always relevant with promulgates the peace all over the world and also in our mind. Maharshi Debendranath Tagore the father of Tagore has been realized the peace in santiniketan sitting under a chatim tree and he pronounced some great words...

"Tini Amar Praner Aram

Moner Ananda

Atmar Shanti".

Peace is to be at SANTINIKETAN! Santiniketan is a blissful abode, where, in & out, there is entrainment amongst all the body cells, such as, heart, brain, motor muscles, soul and ultimate control on all the senses to be in full resonance, that is, universe. Peace is a state of being, where, ideas spring, feelings flow, motor creates, spirit reins and the self resonates with the rest in full swing.

Objectives and Characteristics of Santiniketan (Ashram School) an Adobe of Peace:

The main fundamental principles of his school Santiniketan was to cultivate a love for nature, to impart knowledge and wisdom in one's native language, provide freedom of mind, heart and will, a natural ambience, and to eventually enrich Indian culture (Alam, J. 2020).

- ❖ It is residing an amidst natural ambient with a fine display of nature's own beauty with its diverse gifts of flowers, colours, fruit, and birds assembled with the joy of her mornings and the peace of her star-spangled nights.
- ❖ It is an inclusive society and school meant for all children regardless of caste, colour, creed, sex and place. All classes and other academic meetings are conducted under the trees, in open environment, except only rainy days. In rainy days, all the activities related to classes and other meetings are to be conducted in varandas.

- ❖ Mother tongue is the primary medium to impart knowledge of all children. Only foreign students are to be treated through English and Hindi language.
- * Close personal contact is being seen there between teacher and the taught. Students are treated there like a family member (parents and children) and they are received individually splendent attention.
- ❖ Santiniketan, amplify and propagate both the Eastern and Western cultures, also develop the nationalism, internationalism, bring about unity in diversity and spirit of world humanity.

Peace is by realizing which we know everything, we know every state, we know every intent and we know every return. It is the state of full immersion. The deepest revelations are when we are fully lost. The reality unfolds when the organism is completely lost. Peace is a state of perfect reason, but it may be realized through infinite quest, because, reason is re-as-on; infinitely recursive.

Bhavanas and Vibhagas of twin Contiguous campus in Santiniketan and Sriniketan of Visva-Bharati:

Visva-Bharati is the feelings, emotions and realisation of presence of the great poet Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. There are different departments, subjects under the different bhavanas or vibhagas are divided into twin contiguous campus santiniketan and sriniketan.

Santiniketan campus of Visva-Bharati:

In Visva-Bharati's santiniketan campus, there are many institutions and bhavanas, which are playing an incredible role in the field of education and makes Visva-Bharati unique. These are:

1. Patha Bhavana (Institute of Secondary and Higher Secondary education):

Patha Bhavana is the first experimental school founded as Brahmacharyashram by Rabindranath Tagore in the model of Tapovana education in 1901 and renamed as Patha Bhavana in 1924. It is a co-educational and residential school, which still upholds the Tagore's idea of educational philosophy in a natural ambience. Classes are taken in open air and natural atmosphere under the trees. There are several wings, namely, Seva Vibhaga (Social Service Unit), Poribesh Vibhaga (Unit for Environment), Sahitya Vibhaga (Literary Unit) and others.

❖ Mrinalini Ananda Pathsala: Mrinalini Ananda Pathsala is the nursery unit of Patha Bhavana, established in 1954, in the memory of poet's wife Mrinalini Devi. Children are admitted to this institution at 4+ years and after two-years completion of the learning they move on to Patha Bhavana.

2. Bhasha bhavana (Institute of language, literature and culture):

The uniqueness of this bhavana lies in serving as a centre of conflux for Indian and foreign languages/literatures/cultures. In this institute, there are two separate bhavanas (**Hindi bhavana and Cheena bhavana**). In Bhasha bhavana house, English, European languages and various Asian languages i.e., Tibetian, Arabic & Persian, Chinese, Japanese and Indian languages like Sanskrit, Oriya, Hindi, Bengali, Assamese, Marathi, Santali, Pali, Prakrit and Tamil. Bhasha bhavana offers M. Phil courses in Bengali, English, Sanskrit, Hindi, Santali, Odia and Comparative Literature. This institution offers UG, PG and Ph.D. in various subjects.

3. Vidya bhavana (Institute of Humanities and social sciences):

In 1919 Vidya bhavana has started operating as Uttar Vibhaga the department of advance studies and adopted the name Vidya bhavana in 1925. At present, Vidya bhavana is a major faculty of the university taught seven departments and one subsidiary unit: History, Geography, Economics, Philosophy & Comparative religion, Ancient Indian History culture & Archaeology, Journalism & mass communication, Anthropology and Education (subsidiary). Vidya bhavana also offers certificate courses in Bengali, Assamese, Arabic, French, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Marathi, German, Pali, Persian, Odiya, Sanskrit, Russian, Tamil, Tibetan, Santali and Urdu.

4. Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Sciences):

Siksha Bhavana was an Under-graduate college B.Sc. (Hons.) for teaching Humanities subjects, during 1961-1963. During 1963-1964, the M.Sc. programme was introduced in these subjects. Today, it consists of nine departments and two centres, viz. the department of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Statistics, Zoology, Botany, Computer & systems Sciences, Environmental Studies and Biotechnology, the centre for Mathematics Education and Integrated Science Education & Research Centre. All these are runs B.Sc. (Hons.) in seven subjects, M.Sc. degree in ten subjects and Ph.D. degree in all mentioned subjects.

5. Sangit Bhavana (Institute of music, dance and drama):

Tagore was the great composer of originality, he wrote operas, dance-dramas and more than 2000 songs known as Rabindra sangeet, where human emotions are come to play. Sangit Bhavana is a unique institute of music, dance and drama under Visva-Bharati. At present, Sangit Bhavana offers under-graduate and post-graduate training in Rabindra sangeet, Instrumental Music (Tabla, Esraj, Sitar, Pakhawaj), Hindusthani Classical Vocal, Rabindra Nritya, Kathakali and Manipuri Dance, Tagore's own Musical Dance-dramas and others.

6. Kala bhavana (Institute of Fine Arts):

Under Visva-Bharati, Kala-Bhavana is the unique, internationally well-known and distinguished institution of research in India. This institute has been initiated by Rabindranath Tagore and carried forward by the undertaking and wisdom of Nandalal Bose, Binode Behari Mukherjee, Ramkinkar Baij and other contemporaries. It introduced a broad-based academic programme; it offers to the learners to a vast repertoire of skills, techniques and art forms backed by the perception of History of art. The lectures, discussions, studio practices and exhibitions keep the art ambience of the faculty, where students can get huge opportunity to borrow their sensibilities and future prospects.

7. Vinaya Bhavana (Institute of Education):

Vinaya Bhavana, the institute of Education established in 1948 as an Art, Craft and Music Teachers' Training Centre and in 1951, this institution subsequently developed as a full-fledged Teachers' Training College. The objectives of the Vinaya Bhavana are to impart training for the secondary school teachers as well as academicians in the various forms. Vinaya Bhavana has three departments:

- i) Department of Education: B.Ed., M.Ed., M.A. in Education, and Ph.D. in Education.
- ii) Department of Physical Education: B.A./B.Sc. (Hons.) in Physical Education, B.P.Ed., M.P.Ed. and Ph.D.
- iii) Department of Yogic art and Science (since 2014): B.Sc. (Hons) in Yoga, Post Graduate Diploma in Yoga.

8. Nippon Bhavana (Department of Japanese Language, Literature and Culture Studies):

Nippon Bhavana is the centre for fostering Indo-Japanese relations and an independent centre, contact and exchange as per the desire of the donors, not placed under any Bhavana of Visva-Bharati. Now it is multi-disciplinary nature and has an area of shared interest with all the faculties of Visva-Bharati. At present the department of Japanese studies which is under Vidya Bhavana is housed at Nippon Bhavana.

9. Rabindra Bhavana (Institute of Tagore Studies and Research)

Rabindra Bhavana is a significant component and the focal point of Visva-Bharati, established in July 1942, just after the Gurudev's death. This Bhavana is the reservoirs of Tagore's correspondences, manuscripts, paintings, sketches and other equipment used by him. The poet's personal library, voice-recordings is here and gifts, photographs taken of him at different places and times. Honours and addresses also reserved here which he received from the different parts of the world and have saturated the bhavana's archival holdings.

10. Bangladesh Bhavana:

Bangladesh Bhavana is a new building and centre in Visva-Bharati for the development of bondage and interrelation between two parts of Bengal. It has launched by the Bangladesh government and Visva-Bharati. Bangladesh Bhavana has inaugurated by Smt. Sheikh Hasina (prime minister of Bangladesh) and Sri Narendra Modi (prime minister of India) 25th may in 2018. In this bhavana, there are 450 capacity auditorium, library, museum, two seminar halls, research centre and a cafeteria. People from all sectors of world in this centre will come to be a part of Tagore's association with the country, the liberation war of Bangladesh and Indo-Bangla relations.

Sriniketan Campus (The rural reconstruction and development):

Formally inaugurated this campus at surul, 3km. from santiniketan on February 6, 1922 and Leonard Elmhirst was the first director. The main objective was to help villagers to solve their problems and independent them. In sriniketan, there are different bhavanas and departments are existed which are:

1. Palli Samgathana Vibhaga (Institute of Rural reconstruction):

Rabindranath Tagore established Palli Samgathana Vibhaga at sriniketan in 1922. The main objective was to bring a normal and sustainable life into villages making self-respectful, self-reliant, acquainted with their own cultural tradition and to make efficient uses of modern resources for the improvement of their physical, mental, intellectual and economic conditions. Under this bhavana there are many departments playing a very important role:

- ❖ Department of Social Work: The Social Work department offers BSW (Hons.), MSW, Ph.D. and Diploma programmes and also conducts research and evaluation studies on specific themes when required by Government and other agencies.
- ❖ Palli Charcha Kendra (Department of Rural Studies): This teaching department offers UG and PG level course in rural studies and it came in 1977. Practical and compulsory field-work in villages, students can gain through this curriculum. It conducts Ph.D. and various research on aspects of life of the rural people.
- * Department of Lifelong Learning (Rural Extension Centre): The objective of the Department is "to bring back life in its completeness into the villages, making them self-reliant and self-respectful, acquainted with the cultural traditions of their own country and competent to make an efficient use of modern resources for the improvement of their physical, intellectual and economic conditions" as envisaged by Tagore.
- ❖ Silpa-Sadana: Silpa-Sadana was set up as an integral part of Tagore's experiment on Rural-construction in 1922 under Palli Samgathana Vibhaga and it is a pioneering institute of India in developing and revitalizing cottage industries and craft. This department offers in bachelor and masters of design, bachelor of vocation, certificate and Ph.D.

❖ Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture):

Palli Siksha Bhavana set up 1st september, 1963 as Palli Siksha Sadana and by Visva-Bharati Act, 1984 this institute renamed as Palli Siksha Bhavana. It offers under-graduate and post-graduate level course in Agricultural science. It imparts four-year (eight sem.) B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture course, two-year M.Sc. (Ag.)/ M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Entomology, Agricultural Chemistry, Agronomy, Agricultural Extension, Plant Pathology, Genetics & Plant Breeding, Soil Science, Horticulture and Animal Science.

2. Siksha Satra (Institute of Secondary and Higher Secondary education):

Tagore's once another experimental school (XI and XII) and an integral part of Visva-Bharati was set up on July 1, 1924 at santiniketan and later shifted to sriniketan in 1927. Mahatma Gandhi visited to Siksha Satra in 1925 and he enjoyed and inspired with its activities, he wanted to shape his own plan of basic education here. In respect to curriculum, objective, pedagogy and methodology Siksha Satra today performing as a

non-residential unique institution under Visva-Bharati. The junior division (NCC) and Santosh Pathsala opened at Siksha Satra in 1982 and 1988.

❖ Santosh Pathsala: Santosh Pathsala is a kindergarten school and an integral part of Siksha Satra established in 1988. It is preparatory school of Siksha Satra. After successful completion of two years pre-primary training the students are move in Siksha Satra.

Cultural Heritages of Visva-Bharati:

In santiniketan, seasonally changes her own colours and beauties automatically and naturally with various festivals. Its confluxes the Eastern and Western cultures. The various cultural festivals of Visva-Bharati addressed to her as the cultural heritage, eco-friendly in nature and mother of the local peoples. Most popular festivals and others are:

- ❖ Basanta Utsav: The most popular colour festival celebrated all over the India, known as "Doljatra" or "Holi". It is popularly known as "Basanta Utsav" in santiniketan. It represents the holistic celebration of diversity which makes human mind colourful and strengthen the bondage of togetherness. "Basanta Utsav" actually celebrated at the time of arrival of spring when nature make itself impassioned burst of colours as Malati, Ashoke and Palash bloom. In santiniketan, this colourful festival starts with Tagore's music "ore grihobashi khol dwar khol" and dance by the students, staffs and other local peoples. Large number of peoples are come to celebrate from all over the country and foreign countries.
- ❖ Poush Mela: Poush Mela has been formally started in 1898, 7th poush the ground of north side of the Brahma Mandir. Presently, due to the arrival of large amount of people, the Poush mela's ground has shifted to the big ground beside the central office and exam section of Visva-Bharati. Which is held on 7,8 and 9th poush (according to the Bengali calender), last week of December. The Poush Mela always administered by Visva-Bharati itself and decorated as village styles. The events are characterised by tribal dance (Santali), live performance of bengali folk music, specially bauls, variety of shops, exhibition stalls of various department of visva-bharati.
- ❖ Rabindra Jayanti Utsav: Rabindra Jayanti utsav is celebrate all over the India on the day (25th boishak, according to Bengali calender) the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore the originator of Visva-Bharati. On this special occasion, Visva-Bharati has celebrates this day through various cultural programmes by students, staffs and other locals. Remembering the presence of Tagore in Visva-Bharati, santiniketan, poem, drama and dances are played which is written and composed by him (R.N. Tagore).
- ❖ Vriksharopan & Halkarshan: Rabindranath Tagore has started the Vriksharopana utsav (tree plantation ceremony) in 14th July 1928 by planting a bokul sapling in pearson pally. From 1936 it became a regular ritual ceremony in visva-bharati. This tree plantation ceremony is regularly held on 22nd shravan/7 or 8th august. Halakarshana is a ploughing ceremony and symbolic tribute to the activity of ploughing with the dignity, almost sacredness of the land and is invited to drive the plough. This festival regularly held in Visva-Bharati on the day 23rd shravan/8 or 9th august.
- **Barsha Mangal Utsav:** It's a rain festival started by Tagore to celebrate the monsoons and it takes place in the month of July-August. It is an evening cultural festival which takes places a set of number of activities such as poems, plays, dramas and songs Tagore.
- ❖ Sriniketan Utsav or Magh Mela (6 8 February): Sriniketan Utsav or Magh Mela has celebrate on the occasion of anniversary of Sriniketan. Rabindranath Tagore has formally started this utsav on 23rd Magh or 6th February in 1922 (1328 B.S.). An exhibition has arranged there, which contains the agricultural products, equipment's as well as the handicrafts. It is held on during 23-25 Magh or 6-8 February.
- ❖ Ananda Bazar: Ananda Bazar is the great festival of visva-bharati totally arranged by the students. This festival held at Gour prangan, on the day of Mahalaya. Departmental students make their various little shop counters, stalls and they sell handmade various of foods, handicrafts and other things. In

the evening, local peoples, teachers, ex-students and all staffs are visit there, they buy the products from the stalls. Extra money from the stalls, the funds are used for charity.

- * Rathindra Mela (27 November): It is a little handicrafts mela held on 27 November commemorating the birth anniversary of Rathindranath Tagore (poet's son) in sriniketan. The students of the department of Shilpa Sadana under Palli Samgathana Vibhaga has arranged this festival.
- ❖ Nandan Mela (1-2 December): Nandan Mela is a creative and innovative art fair and also exhibition organised by Kala Bhavana in its campus on 1st and 2nd December, before the birthday anniversary of Nandalal Bose. Students and staffs of Kala Bhayana are decorating the total festival with their creative ideas.
- ❖ Gandhi Punyaha (10 March): The great Mahatma Gandhi visited santiniketan in 1914. To give respect of his (Gandhi ji) ideals, all members of the Visva-Bharati community cleans the total campus themselves on the day of 10th march.
- ❖ Sharodutsav: Sharod Utsav is another important festival of Visva-Bharati which welcome the Autumn where every bhavana has participated in this occasion. It held in "Natyaghar or Natyagriha" on before one or two weeks of Mahalaya.
- ❖ Nava Varsha & Rabindra Janmotsav (14/15 April; 1 Vaisakh): 1st vaisakh, the first day Bengali new year, Rabindra Janmotsav has celebrated at morning in "Brahma mandir" or "Glass House" by Tagore's songs and other discussions. Poet's birthday anniversary is celebrated on this day and the University remains closed for summer vocation.
- **Christotsav** (25 December): An evening prayer has arranged at the upasana mandir of Visva-Bharati with Chirstmas carols.
- Shilpkala Utsav: Tagore's son Rathindranath Tagore first introduced the Shilpakala Utsav in santiniketan, 1940 and removed the all barriers in the Indian crafts, caste and gender.
- ❖ Samavartana: Samavartana is an important date like a festival in Visva-Bharati's calendar. This is the annual convocation, in this great institution where students, scholars who have successfully completed their course, they receive "Saptaparni leaves" and certificate from the Acharya (the former prime minister). "Desikottam" is the highest accolade of Visva-Bharati which distinguished persons selected by the Karma Samiti.

Conclusion:

A calm and humble mind can earn more of peace than a disturbed & smart mind. Peace is not usually in the state of exhilaration of the mind although we are happy when incited but peace is realized when one's mind is quiet and satisfied. Visva-Bharati is internationally well-known institution. It is the land of the adobe of peace, where all aspects have been touched and furnished by Tagore. It is the developmental heritage centre of education and cultures also spiritual bondage of the universe. In Visva-Bharati, there are 283 programmes, 3740 courses, 60 departments and 2 schools exist right now, where education starts from kindergarten to M. Phil and Ph.D. The core values of Visva-Bharati are excellence, holistic human development, mutual cultural interface, eco-centric education, social responsibility and reforms. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is omnipresent each and every corner of Visva-Bharati. Even today, in every footstep, in every alley, spinaches and in every tree at Santiniketan, one can still feel and realize his presence, his passion, his dedication and his pride in the institution.

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