Glossary


Advaita- The philosophy of Oneness. It is non dualism. ‘A’ meaning not and ‘dvaita’ meaning two, so together it means not two or non-dual.

Advaita Vedanta- It is a type of Hinduism. People who believe in Advaita believe that their soul is never really different from God. The most famous philosopher who taught about Advaita Vedanta was Adi Sankara.

Adaya- The Senior School or Madhayamik stage at Patha Bhavan.

Arya Samaj – It is an Indian religious movement that promotes values and practices based on the vedas. The sect was founded by Dayananda Saraswati on 7 April 1875.

Ananada yoga- It is the balance between the mental and physical world. It is the aesthetic path which achieves growth in consciousness.

Asrama Education – Education based in Asrama. Asrama is a secluded place or a building, often the residence of a guru, used for religious retreat or instruction.

Ashrama Sammilani- Student’s Council at Patha Bhavan.

Atman- Soul

Atmya Sabha-The association started by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in the year 1815 to conduct philosophical discussions.

Barsha Mangal-Festival celebrated by the students of Santiniketan to welcome rain.

Bhagavad Gita- Simply referred as Gita, is a 700 verse Hindu scripture in Sanskrit that is a part of Hindu epic Mahabharata.
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Bhakti Marga- The approach of Hindu religion to attain salvation by way of ardent devotion to a deity.

Bhavana- Large building. At Santiniketan various programs were carried out through various departments called Bhavans.

Brahma- The Creator God in Hinduism

Brahma Dharma- Hindu denominations that revere Brahma as the Supreme being.

Brahma Sutras- It is the thread of life force by which all of the universal objects are bound together.

Brahma Vidyalaya- A type of school established to teach and train people in the theory and practice of Brahma.

Brahman- The supreme or the universal soul.

Brahmo- It is an adherent of Brahmoism to the exclusion of all other religions. Brahmoism is a religious movement from the late 19th century, originating the Bengal Renaissance movement and the wider Hindu reform movements of the period.

Brahmo Sabha- On August 20 1828 Raja Ram Mohan Roy convened this Sabha at the house of Feranghi Kamal Bose. This new theistic service was called Brahma Sabha or One God Society.

Brahmacharya Ashrama- In 1901 Tagore established Brahmacharya Ashram which is now called Patha Bhavan, as a school for children in the lap of nature at Bolpur.

Brahmacharya- The word brahmacharya means a lifestyle adopted to seek and understand Brahman- the Ultimate Reality.

Brati Balakas- Brati balakas are Indian adaptation of English Boy Scouts. Rabindranath Tagore studied the methods adapted by Robert Baden-Powell the founder of the English Boys Scout. He adapted them to the needs of the Indian village boy.
Brikha Rapana- Tree plantation ceremony started by Rabindranath Tagore at Santiniketan in the year 1928 on 14th July by planting Bokul tree.

Bodher Tapasya- Cultivation of feeling.

Cheena Bhavan- The Institute of Chinese language and culture established by Rabindranath Tagore on April 14 1937 with lofty ideals of strengthening the age old cultural ties between India and China.

Dharma- Religion

Dan Sangraha- It is a wing of Ashrama Sammilani of Shantiniketan to collect funds or donation

Gayatri Verse/Mantra-It is the mother of the Vedas and the foremost hymn in Hinduism and Hindu beliefs, inspires wisdom. It is also a prayer to the giver of light and light- the sun.

Gaudio Byakaran- A Bengali journal edited by Raja Rammohan Roy and started in 1822.

Gitanjali- Gitanjali is a collection of poems by Rabindranath Tagore. He won the Noble Prize for Literature in the year 1913 for his work in Gitanjali

Gram Paridarshan- It is a program adapted by Rabindranath Tagore in his school at Santiniketan to give the children first hand experience of the rural lifestyle.

Hala Karshana- It is a symbolic tribute to the activity of ploughing the land. It is celebrated during the rainy season on the 23rd day of Sravan that is 8th or 9th August.

Indriyer Shikha- Training of senses.

Ishvara- God

Jnaner Shiksha- Learning to gain Knowledge

Ju Jutsu- A type of game included in the curriculum of Patha Bhavan.
Kala Bhavan- It is a Centre of visual art and research initiated by Rabindranath Tagore at Visva Bharati.

Loka Shiksha-People’s Education

Loka Shiksha Sansad- Rabindranath Tagore to address the need of universal education through distance education model initiated the Lok Shikha Samsad in 1936. It was a society which organized home study and examinations for people who could not attend school.

Lathi play – A type of game played with lathi or long sticks.

Mahila Samitis- Women’s Committee.

Maya- Illusion, Unreality of matter.

Mantra- Hym

Madhya- The Middle school or the intermediate school at Patha Bhavan.


Montessori Shikhapranali- Montessori Education system. This was an essay published in Tattwabodhini Patrika, Bhadra, 1835 Shaka (1320B.S.).

Mukti - Freedom

Nari Bhavan – Hostel for women constructed at Santiniketan in the year in 1922.

Nabanna- Festival celebrated during the crop harvest in Bengal.

Palli Prakriti – It was the article written by Rabindranath Tagore. It was based on the speech given by Tagore to the workers of Sriniketan on his last visit to Sriniketan in 1939.

Patha Bhavan – It is the school that was established by Tagore in a natural setting at Bolpur. In the beginning it was called the Brahmacharyashram. Later it was renamed as Patha Bhavan.
Pathshala- A School providing the basic or rudimentary education.

Prathana Samaj- The “Prayer Society” was a movement for religious and social reform in Bombay, founded by Atmaram Panduranga with the help of Keshav Chandra Sen in 1867, with an aim to make people believe in one God.

Purva Vibhaga – The eastern side. The Patha Bhavan school is located in the eastern side of the campus.

Rishi- Sages

Rakhi Bandhan- Rakhi Bandhan Festival introduced at Santiniketan by Tagore in September 1909, to celebrate the friendship between all religions particularly Hindu and Muslim.

Sabdo Kalpadrum- Dictionary of Sanskrit words.

Sambad Kaumudi- It was a Bengali weekly newspaper published from Kolkata in the first half of the 19th century by Ram Mohan Roy.

Sangeet Bhavan- It was established by Tagore in1919 to impart training in dance, drama and music.

Santa Rasa- Divine Feeling.

Sati- It is an obsolete Hindu funeral custom where a widow immolates herself on her husband’s pyre.

Sahitya Sabha- The literary discussion held by a group at Patha Bhavan.

Shelaidah- It is a place in Kumarkhali Upazil of Kushita District in Bangladesh. The place is famous for Kuthi Bari, made by Dwarkanath Tagore. In 1890 Rabindranath Tagore was put in charge of the family’s rural properties at Shelaidah.

Shikhar Bahan- Tagore’s educational writing written in the year 1915.

Shikshar Herfer- Tagore’s criticism of the then existing system came out in detail in an address on education called Shikshar Herfer. It was read at a public meeting in Rajshahi in 1892. It was published in the monthly journal Sadhana in December 1892.
Shikshar Milan- Tagore’s educational writing published in the year 1931.

Shikha Bhavan- It was originally an undergraduate college for teaching Humanities at Visva Bharati later expanded to include in its curriculum the science stream.

Shikhar Bikiran- In this educational writing Tagore discusses about the spread of education in India. It was written in the year 1933.

Shiksha Charcha Bhavan- Institute at Visva Bharati to provide primary teacher’s training.

Shiksha Samasya – In 1906 Rabindranath Tagore gave the first detailed public statement concerning the development of an alternative educational model through Shikha Samasya.

Siksha Satra- The educational institution started in July 1924 at Sriniketan. It started with six destitute boys and were placed under the care of the Rural Reconstruction Institute at Sriniketan.

Sisu- The primary department at Patha Bhavan

Strishiksha- Tagore advocated for women’s education through this essay in the year 1915.

Swabhava- Own being.

Tapavon/Tapoban - This essay came in January 1910 where Tagore elaborately discusses the nature of Indian education. It discusses the unique historical and literary relationship with the forest. It introduces a new educational concept.

Tattwabodhini Sabha- It was a Sabha started in Calcutta on 6th, 1839 by Debendranath Tagore; its objective was the reformation of Hinduism and Indian Society.

Tattwabodhini Patrika- This Patrika was founded by Debendranath Tagore in 1843. It played an important part in the development and standardization of modern Bengali prose.

Uttara Vibhaga- The northern side of the Visva Bharati Campus.
Upanishad- The Upanishads is a collection of texts that contain some of the central philosophical concepts of Hinduism.

Upadhi- The Bachelor’s degree

Van Bhojan- Picnic

Vaishnavism- It is one of the major traditions within Hinduism. It considers Vishnu as the Supreme Lord.

Varnaparichay- It is a book written by Iswarchandra Vidyasagar. It introduces Bengali alphabets to small children. It introduces the vowels and consonants and progresses to word making and sentence making.

Vasant Panchami- Festival of Spring.

Vedanta- A Hindu philosophy based on the doctrines of the Upanishads.

Vidya Bhavan- The Bhavan administers academic activities and supported research activities. The keystone of Tagore’s concept of Visva Bharati as Centre of Indian Culture, is now the major faculty of the University with eight major departments and on subsidiary unit functioning under it.

Visva Parichay- A book written by Tagore to pay tribute to Satyendranath Bose. He was an Indian mathematician and physicist.