



# Visva-Bharati to be World's First Living Heritage University

## Why in News?

**Visva-Bharati University**, founded by [Rabindranath Tagore](#) in 1921, is set to become the **world's first "living heritage university"**. The university is expected to receive the **heritage tag** from [UNESCO](#) in **April or May 2023**.

- Normally **heritage tag is given to a dead monument**. For the first time in the world, a **living university which is functioning** is going to **get the heritage tag from UNESCO**.

## What are the Key Points Related to Visva-Bharati University?

- It is located in Shantiniketan, West Bengal, India. When founded in **1921**, it was named after **Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore** until **Visva-Bharati Society** was registered as an organization in May 1922.
  - Rabindranath believed in **open-air education and introduced that system at the university**, which prevails to date.
- According to **UNESCO**, in 1922, **Visva-Bharati was inaugurated as a Centre for Culture with exploration into the arts, language, humanities, music** and these are reflected in diverse institutes that continue in their educational programmes like including Hindi studies, Sino-Asian studies, humanities, fine arts, and music.
  - They are based on the founding principles of **excellence in culture and culture studies**.
- Until Independence, it was a college and the institution was given the status of **Central University in 1951 through a Central Act**.
- The **structures within the institutes** of Visva-Bharati University are diverse in architectural expression.
  - **Examples** include the
    - **Kalo Bari** (a mud structure with coal tar finish and sculpture panels)
    - **Mastermoshai studio** (a single-story structure built for the first principal of Kala Bhavan, Nandalal Bose)
    - **Murals and paintings on Cheena and Hindi Bhavan**

## What is UNESCO?

- **UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)** is a specialised agency of the [United Nations](#) that promotes cooperation among nations through education, science, culture, and communication.
- **Major Initiatives of UNESCO:**
  - [Man and Biosphere Programme](#)
  - [World Heritage Programme](#)
  - [Global Geopark Network](#)
  - [Network of Creative Cities](#)

**Source: IE**

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