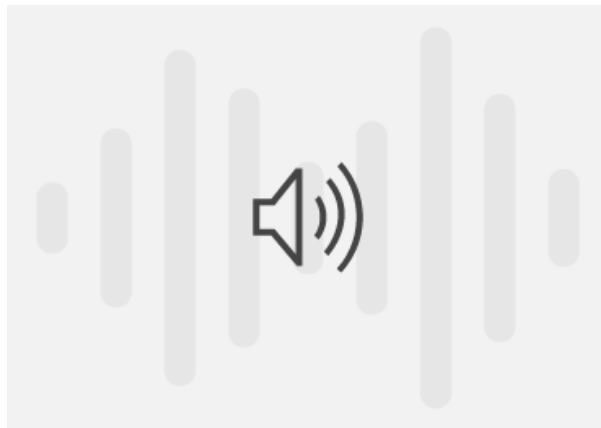




Shantiniketan... an Abode of Peace



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1 - "She is our own, the darling of our hearts, Santiniketan.

In the shadows of her trees we meet

in the freedom of her open sky.

Our dreams are rocked in her arms.

Her face is a fresh wonder of love every time we see her,

for she is our own, the darling of our hearts." – **Rabindranath Tagore**



- Shantiniketan is a neighbourhood of Bolpur city in Bolpur subdivision of Birbhum district in West Bengal, India, approximately 165 km north of Kolkata
- The area is flanked on two sides by the rivers, the Ajay and the Kopai. Shantiniketan earlier had an extensive forest cover, but substantial soil erosion gave certain areas a barren look, the resulting phenomenon is locally known as khaal.

History



Rabindranath Tagore with Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba Gandhi at Santiniketan in 1940



- In 1862, Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, father of Rabindranath Tagore, came across a landscape, which he found to be very peaceful and an ideal place for meditating.
- Shantiniketan also spelled Santiniketan, was previously called **Bhubandanga (named after Bhuban Dakat, a local dacoit)**, and owned by the Tagore family
- He renamed it Shantiniketan, which means abode (niketan) of peace (shanti). Debendranath Tagore founded an '**Ashram**' here in **1863**.
- In 1901, Rabindranath Tagore started a school at Shantiniketan. Tagore's vision was a world where man exists in perfect harmony with nature. It was named '**Patha Bhavana**' and started with only five students. After he received the Nobel Prize, the school was expanded into an International University. It was renamed **Visva Bharati**.



Festivities and Attractions



Rabindra Janmotsab: Though the birthdate of Rabindranath falls on May 8/9, the anniversary as well as the Bengali New Year is celebrated on the first day of the Bengali New Year (mid April).

Briksharopan: Planting of saplings and Halakarshan, ploughing of fields on 22nd & 23 Sravana (August).

Varshamangal : The festival of rains during August/ September.

Poush Utsav: (December 22/23-25). A fair is held at Shantiniketan from 7th to 9th Poush and Visva Bharati observes its foundation day.


Maghotsav: Celebrated on the 11th of magha (January), to mark the anniversary of Brahmo Samaj.

Vasanta Utsav: Held to mark Holi. The students dance and sing their ways through Amrakunja, followed by open-air variety programmes.

[Shantiniketan Calling](#)

Places of Interest





Beauty is truth's smile
when she beholds her own face in
a perfect mirror.

- Rabindranath Tagore