



Chinese Scholars to Visit Visva Bharati | West Bengal | 29 Mar 2025

Why in News?

The Chinese Consul General in Kolkata announced that around 20 scholars and experts from China will visit [Visva-Bharati University](#) on **1st April 2025** to participate in an international seminar on [Rabindranath Tagore](#), marking the **75th anniversary of [India-China diplomatic ties](#)**.

Key Points

- **Tagore's Legacy and China-India Relations:**
 - **Rabindranath Tagore, who visited China in 1924**, symbolizes China-India friendship.
 - The international seminar at Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, **marks 100 years since Tagore's visit to China and 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations.**
- **International Seminar and Chinese Delegation:**
 - The Chinese Consulate is organizing the seminar in collaboration with Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University.
 - In 2024, Indian scholars and artists visited China to **"Retrace the Footsteps of Tagore."**
 - The Chinese Consulate also held a **photo exhibition at Visva-Bharati in 2024 to commemorate the centenary** of Tagore's visit to China.
- **Cheena Bhavana: The Center for China-India Cultural Exchange:**
 - Cheena Bhavana (Department of Chinese Language and Culture) at Visva-Bharati is the oldest Chinese studies department in South Asia.
 - **Established by Tagore and Professor Tan Yun-Shan in April 1937**, the department promotes historical and cultural ties between India and China.
- **Strengthening People-to-People Ties:**
 - The Chinese Consul emphasized the need to strengthen cultural and academic exchanges between the two countries.
 - He recalled the **Indian Medical Mission to China in 1938**, led by Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis.
 - The Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis Memorial Committee in West Bengal continues to promote initiatives fostering India-China relations.

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"You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the sea."

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

- First Indian and first non-European to achieve the **Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913** for his exceptional work, *Gitanjali*. Responsible for modernising **Bengali prose and poetry**.
- Gave the **national anthems of India and Bangladesh**: the *Jana Gana Mana* and the *Amar Shonar Bangla*.
- "*Jana Gana Mana*" was **translated by him from Bengali to English in February 1919** at Madanapalle in the District of Chittoor (Andhra Pradesh).
- In 1915, he was **awarded the knighthood** by British King George V which he later **renounced in 1919**, to protest against the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre.
- He is said to have given Mahatma Gandhi the title of Mahatma.
- Established the **Vishwa-Bharati University** in 1921.
- Spoke at the **World Parliament for Religions** in the years 1929 and 1937.



