

# Report on Rabindra Bharati University International Youth Day Celebration 2025 *Under Viksit Bharat @2047 Program*

Organised by  
Rabindra Bharati University  
56/A B.T. Road, Kolkata 700050



**Formal inauguration  
by the Hon'ble Vice-  
Chancellor**



**Hon'ble Vice-  
Chancellor addressing  
the audience**



**Registrar  
addressing the  
audience**



**Guest speaker  
speaking**



**Prize distribution in  
Debate Competition 1**



**Prize distribution in  
Debate Competition 2**



**Cultural Program:  
Singing**



**Cultural Program:  
Dance**

The Rabindra Bharati University celebrated the *International Youth Day 2025* with great enthusiasm and active participation from students and faculty members on **12 August 2025** at its premises. It was observed in alignment with the University Grants Commission's notification dated 9th July 2025, as part of the nationwide "Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Program" involving 1150 universities. The event reflected the vibrant spirit of the youth and highlighted their significant role in shaping the nation's future through knowledge, creativity, and leadership.

The program commenced at **12 noon** with the **felicitation of the distinguished guests**, followed by the **inauguration by Professor Dr. Sonali Chakravarti Banerjee, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RBU**. In her **inaugural address**, Professor Banerjee emphasized the importance of youth empowerment and the role of education in building socially responsible citizens. In her inaugural address, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor emphasized that the central aim of the initiative is to provide students with maximum exposure to issues of youth leadership and civic engagement. She highlighted the importance of such programs in shaping responsible citizens

and strengthening the nation's future through active participation of young minds. The Vice-Chancellor also noted that the day's events—including academic sessions and cultural performances, especially the university-level debate competition—were designed to raise awareness about the relevance of youth involvement in nation-building. Conveying her best wishes to all participants, she expressed confidence that the celebration would enrich students' perspectives and inspire them to contribute meaningfully to society.

An **inaugural song** presented by the Department of Vocal Music added a cultural touch to the occasion. This was followed by a **formal address by Professor Srabani Pal, Registrar, RBU**, who reflected upon the University's commitment to nurturing young minds through inclusive academic and cultural initiatives. She highlighted Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's vision of education that fosters intellect, character, and responsibility, asserting that true development lies not only in material progress but also in dignity, equality, and sustainability. The Registrar stressed that dreams must be backed by discipline, dedication, and self-development, urging students to volunteer for social causes, innovate for real-world challenges, preserve culture while embracing progress, and lead with integrity. Quoting Tagore, she reminded them that every dream precedes a goal and called upon the youth to act decisively today. She concluded by affirming her faith in the students as the true architects of *Viksit Bharat*, capable of breaking barriers and shaping a just, inclusive, and progressive nation.

The highlight of the first session was a thought-provoking lecture on "*Role of Youth in Building Nation*" delivered by **Dr. Zaad Mahmood, Presidency University**. His address inspired the students to contribute actively to social and national development while upholding democratic and ethical values. Dr. Zaad Mahmood in his talk on "Youth and Nation-Building" delivered at the Vikshit Bharat Yuva Connect Program, at Rabindra Bharati University places youth at the center of India's nation-building. However going beyond the political, social, and economic role of youth he emphasizes on a critical, theory-based understanding. He invokes Tagore and Nazrul to hail youth as dynamic, risk-taking agents of transformation. Youth is characterized as a socially constructed, in-between phase using Bourdieu, Furlong and defined by identity-seeking and flexibility. Then he examines the Nation-building theories—Smith's ethno-symbolism, Anderson's imagined communities, Gellner's modernist standardisation, and Hobsbawm's invented traditions and suggests that each consider young people to be central: guarding deep cultural symbols, replicating common narratives, being carriers of civic education, and driving national rituals. Through all of these perspectives, young people are both inheritors and reinterpreters of national identity. Involvement from young people reinforces social capital (Putnam) and maintains cultural cohesion. He however emphasises that genuine empowerment is or the youth following Hart's Ladder and not mere tokenism of youth participation. Constraints for youth development like unemployment, digital divides, and political disaffection is highlighted as key concern. He refers to Capability Approach of Amartya Sen and situates young people as moral agents of justice, equality, and inclusive growth. Dr. Mahmood urges us to move away from seeing young people as resources towards them being partners in the government. Investing in their potential is framed as necessary for democratic resilience. He closes with Radhakrishnan's reminder that India's future is made in its schools.

At **1:00 p.m.**, a **debate competition** was conducted on the topic "*Is Politics Indispensable in Artistic and Literary Expressions?*". Students from different departments participated

enthusiastically, presenting diverse perspectives on the interrelation between politics, literature, and art. The debate was adjudicated by an esteemed panel comprising **Professor Subrata Saha, Professor Jyotsna Chattopadhyay, and Professor Hitendra Patel**. Their insightful observations and fair judgment encouraged the students to sharpen their analytical and oratory skills.

The cultural segment of the program began with a **dance performance by the Department of Dance** at **2:20 p.m.**, showcasing the creativity and artistic excellence of RBU's young performers. The event proceeded with the **valedictory session**, where dignitaries appreciated the active involvement of students and reiterated the significance of International Youth Day in promoting unity, creativity, and leadership among youth.

The program concluded with a **closing song by the Department of Vocal Music**, leaving the audience with a sense of inspiration and cultural enrichment.

The entire programme was supervised and hosted by Professor Narayan Halder, the Coordinator of NSS, Dr Debabrata Das, Department of English, Dr Snigdha Naskar, Department of Library and Information Science and Dr Haimanti Chattopadhyay, the Dean of Students' Welfare.

The celebration of International Youth Day 2025 at Rabindra Bharati University not only provided a platform for students to express their views and talents but also reinforced the University's vision of empowering youth as torchbearers of cultural heritage, intellectual progress, and nation-building.

#### **Committee Members:**

1. Dr Haimanti Chattopadhyay (DSW)- Convenor of the program
2. Dr Snigdha Naskar (Faculty of Arts)
3. Dr Debabrata Das (Faculty of Arts)
4. Dr Madhuri Majumder (Faculty of Fine Arts)
5. Dr Dolanchanpa Ganguly (Faculty of Visual Arts)
6. Dr. Narayan Halder (Co-ordinator of NSS)

*Thank you!*