



**Vashistha Institute for North Bengal and
North East Developmental Studies**

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VASHISTHA INSTITUTE

FOR NORTH BENGAL AND NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES

Affiliated to Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University

Centre for Regional Transformation and Applied Research



VASHISTHA INSTITUTE FOR NORTH BENGAL AND NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES (VINBNEDS)

Empowering Minds, Transforming Communities

Affiliated with Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University (Govt University)
Coochbehar, West Bengal, Pin-736131

Welcome to VINBNEDS, a pioneering institute dedicated to fostering research, education, and community development in North Bengal and Northeast India. Established with a vision to bridge academic excellence and societal impact, VINBNEDS is a multi-dimensional society that thrives on the passion and dedication of its members. Join us in our mission to empower individuals and transform communities through knowledge, innovation, and collaboration.

Contact Us

Vashistha Institute For North Bengal And North East Developmental Studies (VINBNEDS)

Registered Office : Vashistha Institute For North Bengal And North East Developmental Studies
Village: Chhotalaukuthi, P.O.: Bakshirhat, District: Coochbehar, West Bengal, India
Pin: 736131

Campus Address : Vashistha Institute For North Bengal And North East Developmental Studies
Vashistha Nagar, Village: Chhotalaukuthi, P.O.: Bakshirhat, District: Coochbehar, West Bengal, India. Pin: 736131

Academic Partner-Institute Office: **Centre For Human Resource Development (CHRD), Madan Mohan
Para**, P.O.: Bakshirhat, District: Coochbehar, West Bengal, India. Pin: 736131,  9749245926 , Website: www.onlineacademy.org

 **Email**
vinbneds_ri@yahoo.in

 **WhatsApp**
9832893078

Key Contact Persons

Dr. Bimal Kumar Saha
Director (Honorary)

 9474840386

 sahabk59@gmail.com

Dr. Chaya Rani Paul
Assistant Director

 9641227388

Sri Chandra Sekhar Pandit

Senior Fellow (Honorary) & Associate Editor, Institutional Journal

 9474515682



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About VINBNEDS

VASHISTHA INSTITUTE FOR NORTH BENGAL AND NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES (VINBNEDS) is a dynamic, multi-dimensional society committed to advancing education, research, and community development in one of India's most vibrant regions. Founded in the remote yet culturally rich district of Cooch Behar, West Bengal, VINBNEDS emerged from the collective vision of young, university-educated, research-oriented individuals driven by a passion to address regional challenges and opportunities (VINBNEDS, n.d.). Affiliated with Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University (CBPBU), the institute serves as a hub for interdisciplinary studies, focusing on North Bengal and Northeast India's socio-economic, cultural, and environmental issues.

VINBNEDS is more than an academic institution; it is a community of scholars, researchers, and activists dedicated to fostering sustainable development. The institute's unique location, far from urban centers, underscores its commitment to serving underserved areas, making education and research accessible to local talent. By blending academic rigor with grassroots engagement, VINBNEDS bridges the gap between theory and practice, empowering individuals to contribute meaningfully to society.

Key Objectives:

- Promote interdisciplinary research on regional developmental issues.
- Provide quality education and skill development programs.
- Foster community-driven solutions for sustainable growth.

Mission and Vision

Mission: VINBNEDS is dedicated to nurturing intellectual curiosity, promoting research-driven solutions, and empowering communities in North Bengal and Northeast India. We strive to create an inclusive platform where education, innovation, and social responsibility converge to address regional challenges and drive sustainable development.

Vision: To be a leading institute of excellence, recognized globally for its contributions to developmental studies, cultural preservation, and community empowerment in North Bengal and Northeast India. We envision a future where knowledge transforms lives, fostering equitable growth and harmony.

Core Values:

- **Integrity:** Upholding honesty and transparency in all endeavours.
- **Innovation:** Encouraging creative solutions to complex problems.
- **Inclusivity:** Embracing diversity and ensuring access for all.
- **Community Focus:** Prioritizing local needs and grassroots impact.

VINBNEDS' affiliation with CBPBU strengthens its academic foundation, enabling it to offer credible programs and research opportunities (VINBNEDS, n.d.). Our commitment to bridging the urban-rural divide ensures that even the remotest communities benefit from our initiatives. Through partnerships with local organizations, universities, and government bodies, VINBNEDS amplifies its impact, creating a ripple effect of positive change across the region.

Academic and Research Programs

VINBNEDS offers a range of academic and research programs designed to address the developmental needs of North Bengal and Northeast India. Affiliated with CBPBU, our programs combine theoretical knowledge with practical applications, preparing students and researchers to tackle regional challenges effectively.

Academic Programs:

- **Certificate Courses:** Short-term courses in Rural Development, Environmental Studies, and Cultural Heritage Management.
- **Diploma Programs:** Advanced studies in Social Entrepreneurship and Community Development.
- **Research Fellowships:** Opportunities for postgraduate students to conduct field-based research on topics like sustainable agriculture, tribal welfare, and regional economics.

Research Focus Areas:

- Socio-economic development and poverty alleviation.
- Environmental conservation and climate change adaptation.
- Cultural preservation and indigenous knowledge systems.
- Public policy and governance in Northeast India.

Our programs are delivered by experienced faculty and guest lecturers from CBPBU and other reputed institutions. Students benefit from hands-on fieldwork, access to VINBNEDS' research library, and mentorship from industry experts. The institute also hosts annual seminars and workshops, fostering collaboration among scholars, policymakers, and community leaders.

Academic Partnership: Centre for Human Resource Development (CHRD)

The **Centre for Human Resource Development (CHRD)** stands as a recognised institution dedicated to advancing educational innovation, skill development, and human capital formation across diverse sectors. As the principal academic partner of **Vashistha Institute for North Bengal and North East Developmental Studies (VINBNEDS)**, CHRD brings to this collaboration a legacy of excellence in designing and implementing outcome-oriented programmes tailored to meet the evolving demands of regional and national development.

With its expertise in vocational education, CHRD plays a pivotal role in strengthening the academic foundation of VINBNEDS. It contributes to the co-development of syllabi that bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. Through this collaboration, students and professionals gain access to **accredited certificate and diploma programmes**, which are aligned with the standards set by sector skill councils, state governments, and industry bodies.

CHRD also lends its expertise in **capacity-building and continuing education**, enabling VINBNEDS to offer modular training courses, refresher programmes, and workshops targeted at government officials, NGO workers, and grassroots functionaries. These programmes are particularly vital in North Bengal and the North East, where institutional support for decentralised governance, participatory planning, and policy literacy is still emerging.

Additionally, CHRD actively participates in **collaborative research initiatives** hosted by VINBNEDS, providing both technical input and mentorship. Joint fieldwork, policy studies, and monitoring & evaluation frameworks are integral parts of this partnership. Importantly, CHRD's pan-Indian network allows VINBNEDS scholars to engage with broader academic and policy-making communities, expanding their research visibility and employability.

Ultimately, this partnership ensures that learners at VINBNEDS are **not only academically enriched but also professionally equipped** to address critical challenges in education, development, and governance—particularly in marginalised and underrepresented regions of Eastern and North Eastern India.

Governance Structure

VINBNEDS operates under a robust governance framework, ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective leadership. The Governing Body for the year 2017-18, as outlined on our website, comprises dedicated professionals and academics who guide the institute's strategic direction (VINBNEDS, n.d.).

Composition of the Governing Body (2017-18):

- **President:** Leads the institute's vision and oversees operations.
- **Secretary:** Manages administrative functions and external collaborations.
- **Treasurer:** Ensures financial transparency and resource allocation.
- **Executive Members:** Contribute to policy formulation and program implementation.

The Governing Body meets quarterly to review progress, approve budgets, and plan initiatives. Members are nominated based on their expertise in developmental studies, education, or community service, ensuring diverse perspectives. The Executive Committee, a subset of the Governing Body, handles day-to-day operations, supported by sub-committees for research, education, and outreach.

Governance Principles:

- Transparency in decision-making and financial management.
- Inclusivity in representing regional and academic diversity.
- Accountability to members, stakeholders, and CBPBU.

VINBNEDS' governance model fosters a participatory approach, encouraging member input through annual general meetings and feedback mechanisms.

Facilities and Infrastructure

VINBNEDS is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to support its academic, research, and community engagement activities. Located in Cooch Behar, our campus offers a serene environment conducive to learning and innovation, complemented by modern infrastructure.

Key Facilities:

- **Research Library:** Houses over 5,000 books, journals, and digital resources on developmental studies, regional history, and cultural studies.

- **Seminar Hall:** A 200-seat venue for conferences, workshops, and guest lectures, equipped with audio-visual technology.
- **Computer Lab:** Provides access to research software and high-speed internet for data analysis and online learning.
- **Field Research Center:** Supports community-based research with tools for surveys, interviews, and ethnographic studies.
- **Guest House:** Accommodates visiting scholars and researchers, fostering collaboration.

Our affiliation with CBPBU grants access to additional resources, including university libraries and laboratories. VINBNEDS also maintains a digital platform for e-learning and virtual seminars, ensuring accessibility for remote members and students. The institute's website, designed by Techno Developers Group, serves as a hub for updates, applications, and research publications (VINBNEDS, n.d.).

Community Engagement

At VINBNEDS, community engagement is at the heart of our mission. We believe that sustainable development begins at the grassroots, and our initiatives are designed to empower local communities in North Bengal and Northeast India.

Key Initiatives:

- **Skill Development Workshops:** Training programs in sustainable agriculture, handicrafts, and digital literacy for rural youth and women.
- **Cultural Preservation Projects:** Documenting indigenous languages, folklore, and traditions to promote regional heritage.
- **Environmental Campaigns:** Tree plantation drives and awareness programs on climate change adaptation.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Collaborating with local governments to develop community-centric policies on education and healthcare.

VINBNEDS partners with NGOs, self-help groups, and tribal councils to implement these programs, ensuring community ownership and impact. Our annual "North Bengal Development Summit" brings together stakeholders to discuss regional challenges and solutions, fostering dialogue and collaboration.

Impact Highlights:

- Trained over 1,000 individuals in vocational skills since 2018.
- Regular Conferences organized on diverse topics for Scholars and General Researcher.
- Documented 50+ indigenous folk stories in collaboration with local communities.
- Planted 5,000 trees in Cooch Behar's rural areas.

Achievements and Milestones

Since its inception, VINBNEDS has made significant strides in education, research, and community development, earning recognition as a beacon of innovation in North Bengal.

Key Achievements:

- **Academic Excellence:** Launched 10 certificate and diploma programs, enrolling over 500 students since 2017.
- **Research Impact:** Published 20+ research papers on regional development in peer-reviewed journals.
- **Community Outreach:** Impacted 10,000+ lives through skill development and environmental initiatives.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Received the “Excellence in Community Development” award from CBPBU in 2023.
- **Partnerships:** Established MoUs with 5 universities and 10 NGOs for collaborative research and outreach.

Milestones:

- 2017: Founded and affiliated with CBPBU.
- 2019: Launched first certificate course in Rural Development.
- 2021: Hosted inaugural North Bengal Development Summit.
- 2024: Expanded research facilities with a new field research center.

These achievements reflect VINBNEDS' commitment to its mission and vision, positioning it as a leader in developmental studies.

Admission Process : Joining VINBNEDS is a straightforward process designed to be inclusive and accessible. We welcome students, researchers, and professionals passionate about developmental studies and community impact.

Steps to Apply:

1. **Online Application:** Visit <http://vashisthainstitute.org> and complete the application form.
2. **Document Submission:** Upload academic transcripts, ID proof, and a statement of purpose.
3. **Fee Payment:** Pay the application fee online (concessions available for economically disadvantaged applicants).
4. **Interview:** Shortlisted candidates attend a virtual or in-person interview.
5. **Admission Confirmation:** Receive an offer letter and enroll within the specified timeline.

Eligibility:

- Certificate Courses: 10+2 or equivalent.
- Diploma Programs: Bachelor's degree in any discipline.
- Research Fellowships: Postgraduate degree with research proposal.

Publications

The **Registered Office of VINBNEDS** is located at the residence of its founding associate, Bidhu Bhushan Saha (Bidhan), in the village of Chhotalaukuthi, under P.O. Bakshirhat, in the district of Coochbehar, West Bengal (Pin Code: 736131). Strategically positioned within a region marked by vibrant cultural heritage and pressing developmental challenges, this office serves as the administrative nucleus of the institution, overseeing a broad spectrum of educational, research, and publication activities. VINBNEDS is formally affiliated with **Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University (CBPBU)**, situated at Vivekananda Street, Cooch Behar (Pin Code: 736101), thereby strengthening its academic legitimacy and regional outreach. Through this affiliation, the institute contributes to knowledge dissemination and skill development, primarily focusing on developmental studies tailored to North Bengal and North East India.

Among its notable academic endeavours, VINBNEDS proudly publishes a biannual peer-reviewed research journal titled "**The Quest for Fundamental Development**" (ISSN 2394-8981). Since its inception in 2015, the journal has served as a critical platform for scholars across India and abroad to publish high-quality research in English and Bengali on topics related to developmental studies, social sciences, and humanities. The journal addresses both regional and international developmental issues, welcoming interdisciplinary perspectives that bridge theory and practice. Published every **June and December**, the journal is bilingual and biannual, reflecting the institute's commitment to inclusive academic communication.

The journal's editorial policies maintain strict academic rigour. Authors are required to submit original, unpublished research papers in hard and soft copies, conforming to formatting guidelines such as Times New Roman (size 12), A4 layout with 2-inch margins, and a 3,000-word limit. Each submission must include a declaration of exclusivity, with structured sections like introduction, methodology, results, conclusion, and references. Referencing formats are diverse and tailored—covering reports, theses, edited volumes, and even online sources—emphasising thorough documentation. Articles undergo peer review, and the editorial board holds full authority over acceptance, revision, or rejection.

To support the journal's operations, a nominal **processing fee of ₹1000 for employed authors and ₹750 for non-employed contributors** is charged post-acceptance, with scope for revision depending on operational needs. Over the years, the journal has released a consistent series of issues—beginning with Volume I, Issue 01 in January 2015 to secure its ISSN—and has since published up to **Volume X, Issue 02 (December 2024)**. This consistent publication history reflects the institutional commitment to academic continuity and regional knowledge production.

The journal's publication work is coordinated by a dedicated editorial team accessible via **journalqffd@gmail.com**, and a comprehensive record of back issues is maintained, ensuring scholarly transparency and accessibility. Through its registered office, university affiliation, and peer-reviewed journal, VINBNEDS asserts itself not only as a developmental think tank but also as a respected publisher advancing scholarship grounded in regional realities. This academic contribution enhances policy understanding and fosters inclusive discourse across borders, disciplines, and languages.

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