

## **Institutional Development Plan**

### **(ALIPURDUAR UNIVERSITY)**

I envisage Alipurduar University as a Higher Education Institution (HEI) for Excellence in research and the epitome of higher education teaching- learning dissemination in the country. The university needs to widen its horizon looking at the core competencies in terms of availability of resources, local aspirations, cultural heritage, and legacy of the indigenous population of the region and the Nation. The Alipurduar University should be built on the principles of igniting local values and embracing the advancement of the global knowledge ecosystem. From my long association and stint with the university of about 28 years, I understand that the varsity creates thinkers and planners for the future generation. The HEI should be able to create high-end skilled youth that can be absorbed in the economy or can avail alternative modes of livelihood for a superior quality of life in consonance with the model of open economy and the Gandhian rural / village-based model. I can envision this university as a platform for enhancing inclusive and sustainable development among societies to address the emerging economic disparities, environmental crisis as well as other local issues related to forest, tea gardens, tourism as well as heritage conservation etc. So, the university would work as a policy think tank for improvising the sustainability consciousness and eco-friendly practices among the people of Alipurduar district and beyond.

With the advent of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), my focus would be on augmenting the indigenous languages, heritage (tangible and intangible) and their Knowledge Systems by initiating new Departments or Centres for Indigenous Heritage Studies, so that the core essence of both NEP and UNESCO goals can be deliberated. I expect the future learners of the university will create and improvise novel models for science, technology, and society in the areas of

ethno-history, heritage, tourism, tea, folk and tribal art forms, language as well as alternative livelihood research keeping local people and resources within the purview. The strategic location of the university also create immense possibilities of promoting borderland research within the region and even across the boundaries of neighbouring nation-states. Finally, I aspire to create a fusion of indigenous value systems with technological intervention so that students, researchers and future leaders from this university can think rationally. They must have a global outlook and should nurture the strength of inter-cultural harmony with an emphasis on folk and tribal heritage and their traditional knowledge domain.

As per the operation part of the vision statement, we need to focus on internationalization of universities by signing MoU for various academic programmes with leading regional, national and global institutions or knowledge-hubs. This may be a motivating factor for the young faculty members and researchers to conduct innovative and inter-disciplinary research projects that can be applied to resolve diverse local and regional issues leading to sustainable livelihood strategies for the tribal /indigenous people and other communities in the region.

In the knowledge-driven economy, Alipurduar University needs to establish advance physical infrastructure, strong academic and research linkages with leading HEIs across the country and go ahead for collaboration with the Southeast Asian universities and beyond. Alipurduar University can contribute by developing policies and proposing policy reforms in various fields as per the existing resources to guide the state/central implementing agencies, for forming people-centric policies leading to the holistic development of people of our state and nation in general. I would like to visualize this higher education institute as one of the vibrant sub-Himalayan region universities in India that would promote

the indigenous knowledge and cultural traditions along with the essence of modern technologies to reinforce the quality of life in the region through an inclusive and transformative academic journey.

Currently University (APDU) is running 14 departments with UG and PG courses in the broader field of Science, Social Science, Arts and Commerce. However, University is planning to open new Departments as well as Research Centres and offering new courses in phased manner keeping the aspirational youth as well as local resources of Alipurduar district within the vision plan with the assistance of the Department of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal.