

ANNEXURE 1

‘Thrust Areas’ chosen – *Raison de’tre* and ‘Off-Campus’ Centres

Swami Vivekananda prophesied on the eve of his passing away that “*the spiritual wave that has come to Belur [Math] will last for fifteen hundred years and it shall be a great University. Do not think I imagine it; I see it.*” This University therefore, bearing Swami Vivekananda’s hallowed name is a humble attempt by Ramakrishna Mission to actualize his vision. It is in this attempt that the ‘thrust areas’ have been chosen. The motivation for the choice of the ‘thrust areas’ came essentially from the following considerations:

- (1) These ‘thrust areas’ are in a sense ‘gap areas’ in the sense that these areas receive little attention in most of the conventional Universities in India.
- (2) These ‘thrust areas’ are meant to directly benefit the common man, particularly the underprivileged and the rural/tribal sections of the society, thereby fostering social commitment of higher education institutions in India as taught by Swami Vivekananda (which aspect, interestingly, the MHRD and the UGC have recently begun to emphasize).
- (3) The Ramakrishna Mission has developed a high degree of expertise and a huge infrastructure and resources at least in some of these areas over several decades of its educational service.
- (4) Fundamental science education and research was pioneered in India by Swami Vivekananda by inspiring Sir Jamshedji Tata to start an Institute to impart science education and to promote science research in India, the outcome of this inspiration being the well-known Indian Institute of Science.

The ‘thrust areas’ will therefore be operationalized through Specialized Faculty Centres located at various Ramakrishna Mission Centres (all of which are branch-Centres of Ramakrishna Mission headquartered at Belur Math) which have developed expertise in these areas. These Centres will be ‘Off-Campus’ Centres approved by UGC/MHRD as required by UGC Regulations for Deemed Universities. So far the University has the following Campuses housing the Specialized Faculties devoted the various ‘thrust areas’:

- (1) **Belur Main Campus:** Mathematical Sciences (Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science), Indian Heritage (Sanskrit, Indian spiritual heritage, yoga, classical music)
- (2) **Coimbatore Campus:** Disability Management and Special Education, General & Adapted Physical Education and Yoga, Agriculture and Rural Development
- (3) **Ranchi Campus:** Agriculture, Rural & Tribal Development, Integrated Rural & Tribal Development and Management, Agricultural Bio-technology
- (4) **Narendrapur Campus:** Agriculture & Rural Development, Integrated Rural Development and Management, Agricultural Bio-technology
- (5) **Kolkata Campus** (at Swami Vivekananda’s Ancestral House and Cultural Centre): Vivekananda Research Centre for doctoral and postdoctoral research

Further, in the effort to actualize Swami Vivekananda’s vision of blending ancient Indian Heritage with modern sciences, the School of Indian Heritage and the School

of Mathematical Sciences have been juxtaposed to create a natural intermingling of the scholars of these two great disciplines.

The details of the 'Faculties' and the Courses/Programmes under the above 'Schools' are as follows:

- (1) Disability Management and Special Education, through '**School of Rehabilitation Science and Physical Education**' with the following Faculties:
 - (i) Faculty of Disability Management and Special Education, and
 - (ii) Faculty of General & Adapted Physical Education and Yoga, located at Ramakrishna Mission Centre in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu,
 - (iii) Faculty of 'Sports Science' at Belur main campus,

The above Faculties are running Diploma, Advanced Diploma, B.Ed., M.Ed., M.Phil. and Ph.D. courses/programmes in Special Education, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, B.P.Ed., M.P.Ed., M.Phil. and Ph.D. courses/programmes in General and Adapted Physical Education and Yoga, Sports Science, etc.

- (2) Integrated Rural & Tribal Development, through '**School of Agriculture and Rural Development**' with following Faculties:
 - (i) Faculty of Integrated Rural Development and Management, including Agricultural Bio-technology, located at Ramakrishna Mission Centre at Narendrapur, Kolkata, West Bengal, and
 - (ii) Faculty of Integrated Rural & Tribal Development and Management, including Agricultural bio-technology, located at Ramakrishna Mission Centre at Ranchi, Jharkhand,
 - (iii) Faculty of Agricultural Research and Education at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu,

The above Faculties are running M.Sc. and Ph.D. courses/programmes in 'Agriculture and Rural Development', 'Agriculture, Rural and Tribal Development', and 'Agricultural Bio-technology', B.Sc. in Agriculture, with plans to start M.Sc. (Ag) and Ph.D. in Agriculture.

- (3) Indian Spiritual and Cultural Heritage including Value Education, through '**School of Indian Heritage**' with the following Departments:
 - (i) Department of Sanskrit Studies,
 - (ii) Department of Indian Spiritual Heritage,
 - (iii) Department of Ancient Indian Scientific Heritage,
 - (iv) Department of Yoga Studies and Research,
 - (v) Department of Classical Music with special emphasis on Dhrupad,
 - (vi) Department of Value Education located at the Belur main campus in West Bengal, and

'School of Humanities & Social Sciences' with the following Departments:

- (i) Department of Bengali Studies, and
 - (ii) Department of Philosophical Studies, both at the Belur main campus.
- These Departments are running Certificate, Diploma, Integrated 5-year M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. courses/programmes in Spiritual Heritage of India, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita, Srimad-Bhagavatam, Sanskrit (Integrated 5-year

- M.A.course completed taught in Sanskrit medium), Ph.D. in Sanskrit Studies with special reference to Vedanta, Vyakarana (Grammar), Ph.D. in Bengali Studies, etc.
- (4) Fundamental Science Education and Research, through '**School of Mathematical Sciences**' with the following Departments:
- (i) Department of Mathematics,
 - (ii) Department of Computer Science,
 - (iii) Department of Data Science and
 - (iv) Department of Physics,
- All these Departments are located at the Belur main campus, and at Coimbatore Centre and are running M.Sc., M.Phil. and Ph.D. courses/programmes in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science and Big Data Analytics.
- (5) Language and Literature, Economics, History, Sociology, Philosophy, etc., through '**School of Humanities and Social Sciences**' (in the process of formation), to be located at Belur main campus,
- (6) Environmental Science and Disaster Management, through '**School of Environment and Disaster Management**' located at Belur main campus and Ramakrishna Mission Centre at Narendrapur, Kolkata, West Bengal, running Ph.D. courses/programmes in Environmental Sciences (with emphasis on climate change and human health issues).

The vision of the University is, as stated earlier, the actualization of Swami Vivekananda's educational vision, namely, to impart 'man-making' and character-building education to the youths so that they would not be only acquire knowledge and skills, but also become men and women of character, possessed of the qualities of integrity, truthfulness, honesty, purity, selflessness, feeling for the suffering and the underprivileged, etc. Further, Swami Vivekananda wanted the blend of the ancient moral and spiritual wisdom of the East—the humanistic sciences—with the modern scientific and technological knowledge of the West—the natural sciences. The Deemed University is striving to achieve this unique blend by setting up two Schools: The School of Indian Heritage and School of Mathematical Sciences side by side so that scholars well versed in both could be created in a natural way by proximity and continuous exchange of ideas. We understand that the University is also trying to seriously explore the realization of Ramakrishna-Vivekananda ideal of Religious Harmony and Peace, as articulated by Swami Vivekananda in his famous two lectures: 'The Ideal of Universal Religion' and 'The Way to the Realization of a Universal Religion' through an institution for the study of and research into comparative religion and philosophy in its most liberal and widest form, through research programmes and the institution of Vivekananda Chair in Comparative Philosophy and Universal Religion.
