



आचार्य: श्री नरेंद्र मोदी
ACHARYA (CHANCELLOR)
SHRI NARENDRA MODI

संस्थापक: रवीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर
Founder: Rabindranath Tagore

उपाचार्य: प्रोफेसर विद्युत चक्रवर्ती
UPACHARYA (VICE-CHANCELLOR)
PROF. BIDYUT CHAKRABARTY

Ms. Mamata Banerjee
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of West Bengal
Nabanna, Shibpur, Howrah

29 October, 2023

Subject: An earnest request to return to the road that passes by the Ashram, Santiniketan

Dear Madam,

In pursuant of my two letters addressed to you on 25 and 30 September, 2023, I am making the same request to you again within a gap of one month. I was under the impression that a month was enough to enable you to make up your mind. I was also confident that the road was to be returned to Visva-Bharati given your steadfast commitment to carry forward the *Rabindrik* traditions.

Unfortunately, you appear to be indifferent to our request for returning the road to Visva-Bharati presumably because you do not appear to see the ground reality by your eyes. I wonder whether you continue to form your opinion on the basis of what your sycophants convey or you still see things through your ears.

You are perturbed that in the plaque, Rabindranath does not figure. That a devout supporter of Gurudev Tagore, the individual, bereft of his philosophical discourses will be a source of consternation to you does not require wastage of words. I just would like to draw your attention to our difficulties which are as follows. Please apply your mind and decide the next course of action against Visva-Bharati by inciting those of your loyalists who owe their political existence to you and your concern for the underprivileged.

- 1) The UNESCO declared Santiniketan as a World Heritage Site and we need to follow the ASI instructions while preparing the plaque and we are doing it, the result of which will soon be visible.
- 2) You perhaps know that your sycophants preferred to keep you in the dark that the road which you took away from us just before the 2021 state assembly election was congested because of the haphazard parking of Totos and also the presence of local vendors selling souvenirs. We endeavoured hard to keep the road free from congestion for two reasons: (a) the ICOMOS (International Council for Monuments and Sites, the premier organization which recommended Santiniketan to be eligible for consideration for the World Heritage tag, in its report put this condition that Visva-Bharati needs to take control of this road passing through the Ashram; and (b) the congestion was so bad that those who came to Santiniketan as tourists and visitors confronted serious problems even to move around the place on foot.



विश्वभारती
विश्वभारती
Visva-Bharati



आचार्य: श्री नरेंद्र मोदी
ACHARYA (CHANCELLOR)
SHRI NARENDRA MODI

संस्थापक: रवीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर
Founder: Rabindranath Tagore

उपाचार्य: प्रोफेसर विद्युत चक्रवर्ती
UPACHARYA (VICE-CHANCELLOR)
PROF. BIDYUT CHAKRABARTY

- 3) You are 100% correct when you claim that there were many who contributed to this recognition of Santiniketan as a World Heritage Site. Your statement that we owe this to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore carries our sentiments; we always admitted this which is evident in my many public statements on print and visual media.
- 4) What we did not expect from a very emotional and caring Chief Minister like you was your complete dismissal of the role of the present administration since 2019. Yes, it is true that the megalomaniac Rajya Sabha member of your political party tried to gain this recognition and the then Prime Minister also tried without, of course, success. Now, if you attribute the success to their failed attempts, do you think that you are fair to those who worked hard since 2019 to get this global recognition. Madam, please be magnanimous because you are as much a Chief Minister of your loyalists as others who may not always be your sycophants. Will you, for instance, give credit for India's freedom to AO Hume, the British civil servant, who was the main architect of Indian National Congress in 1885 for India's political emancipation since it was Hume who helped build the organization that acted critically in attaining the goal. Will you then completely ignore the role of Mahatma Gandhi in wresting political independence by battling against the brutal British regime. I am sure, you are intelligent enough to outrightly dismiss such an a-historical claim!
- 5) You may not like statement that those who claim to be Visva-Bharati's well-wishers are everything but what they claim. The introduction of online admission, the adoption of online booking of guest houses during festivals and the recent recruitment (more than seven hundred employees) through all-India competitive examination were a source of annoyance of those who made money by transforming Visva-Bharati into an institution governed by a formula – **KG (kindergarten) to PG (Pension and Gratuity)**. Please ask them who are in *dharna* on your instruction whether they attend regularly the prayer in *Mandir* or participate in *Baitaliks* (only five in number during a calendar year) or are they visible when many cultural events following Gurudev's instructions take place in the campus. If you see through your ears, you will not be able to assess whether I am correct; but, if you see through your eyes, you will immediately realize that you have been deliberately misled. Please come out by not being hallucinated.
- 6) If you consider that stealing public money is a welcome practice, then certainly, you may not have the right kind of mindset to understand our concern. Two of your senior ministers are in gaol; some of your trusted aides (even from Birbhum) in jail, including in Tihar jail in Delhi. Your government appointed Vice Chancellor is also incarcerated with the alleged charge of misappropriating of money in exchange of public jobs. Your most vocal member of parliament is being charged with activities which have already drawn the parliamentary ethics committee to examine the issue. Many of your prominent colleagues are alleged to have been involved in malpractices (the scam involving jobs in the education sector, ration scam, cow smuggling, land-grabbing etc) which are contrary to your standard of appropriate behaviour expected of those working for people.

Boh



आचार्य: श्री नरेंद्र मोदी
ACHARYA (CHANCELLOR)
SHRI NARENDRA MODI

संस्थापक: रवीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर
Founder: Rabindranath Tagore

उपाचार्य: प्रोफेसर विद्युत चक्रवर्ती
UPACHARYA (VICE-CHANCELLOR)
PROF. BIDYUT CHAKRABARTY

- 7) Despite our repeated requests, you remained indifferent to those siphoning off of public money from Visva-Bharati. We have recovered nearly six crores of money, illegally kept by many of those who claim to have been associated with the ruling party. We have reclaimed 15 acres of illegally occupied land. Let me also share with you that when the leasehold land is an inalienable part of some, a good Samaritan has unconditionally donated 72 decimal of land and a 3000 square feet structure to Visva-Bharati. The department of Statistics has now been functioning from this new property.
- 8) We have purged Visva-Bharati of evil forces involved in activities which stand in contradiction with Visva-Bharati's ethos. One of the designs was to clear the land occupied for illegal activities in many parts of Visva-Bharati. Let me give you an instance. An important piece of land next to Santiniketan post office was reclaimed that has now an open-air theatre, known as **Bharat Tirtha**. When we undertook the cleansing operation in the campus, many of those who owed their strength by being associated with you vehemently opposed. We did not deter because what we were doing had Gurudev Tagore's blessings. The task was accomplished and now if you come and let us know in advance, we will organize a cultural evening to celebrate your return to the abode of peace.
- 9) Visva-Bharati was a nursery of corruption. By dint of hard work, it has now changed and we are sure, in course of time, we will see the results. Those who are baptized by Gurudev's enlightening politico-ideological priorities have taken a vow to stand for truth and, as you will appreciate, the road to truth is not an easy one because it is not free from hurdles. We have learnt from you and also from Gurudev that if nobody comes in your favour and if you need to go forward alone, you should not restrain yourself (*Jadi Tor Dak Shune Keou Na Aashe, Tabe Eekla Cholo Re*).
- 10) An important point is about a universal truth – **nobody is permanent in his/her worldly existence**. I shall cease to be a Vice Chancellor once my term comes to end; you will no longer remain a Chief Minister if the voters express their disillusionment in 2026. So, we need to behave accordingly.
- 11) Visva-Bharati is our pride and let's come together to protect this globally reputed centre of learning. Let's protect Santiniketan as a World Heritage as you have taken ample care in sustaining the Heritage tag of Durga Pujo (in the **intangible category** of World Heritage). Please help us safeguard Santiniketan (recognized in the **tangible category** of World Heritage) and you have the capability to bring all of us together. We have also here in the campus competent individuals who are completely different from the sycophants surrounding you and are willing to support initiatives conducive to the protection of Santiniketan as a World Heritage site.
- 12) Please return the road and also let me again bring to your notice that nobody was disallowed to use the road and no two and four-wheeler is forbidden to ply on this road; we are worried that if the tractors and other vehicles carrying heavy construction materials (which is happening even now) it will cause harm to the building inside the Asram. Please help Visva-Bharati and we assure you that our purpose is not to put



आचार्य श्री नरेंद्र मोदी
ACHARYA (CHANCELLOR)
SHRI NARENDRA MODI

संस्थापक: रवीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर
Founder: Rabindranath Tagore

उपाचार्य प्रोफेसर विद्युत चक्रवर्ती
UPACHARYA (VICE-CHANCELLOR)
PROF BIDYUT CHAKRABARTY

enforcing the rule in case attempts are made to harm the buildings built more than 100 years ago and they are precious for our heritage and also helped us get the recognition by the UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

- 13) As *Ranjans* and *Nandinis* of Gurudev's play *Rakta Karabi* (Red Oleanders), we urge to come out of the vicious mindset (relevant for *Yakshapuri*, to express in Gurudev's lexicon) which is likely to undermine your libertarian ideas and see in your own eyes that the inputs you have received so far from the sycophants are not distantly connected with the prevalent reality.
- 14) We owe a great deal to a dynamic Chief Minister like you who appears to have misconstrued what we have been doing for Visva-Bharati's benefits by being sensitive to the values, mores and ideational vision in which Gurudev ideated his universe. Please see us in your eyes. The Hon'ble Prime Minister is our Hon'ble Chancellor and his role in getting this World Heritage tag cannot be gauged in any of the available yardsticks. That does not mean we deride the contribution of others. We are also sensitive to the obvious fact that without Gurudev's foresight and innovative ideational vision, Santiniketan could never have become what it is now. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is omniscient in Santiniketan and mere inscription of his name shall be anything but worthwhile because his endeavour and mode of thinking are sources of our pride and inspiration to stand firmly against odds of any form. So, we are well-equipped to battle difficulties however insurmountable they are.
- 15) Finally, our earnest request is to allow us an audience with you to enable us to acquaint you with the reality to defend our claim that you are being deliberately misled by those with partisan motives by saying what you would like to hear. Please avoid assessing Visva-Bharati on the basis what your close associates (and sycophants) selectively inform you. A face-to-face dialogue with us give you an opportunity to see the other side of the narrative. And, if you give us directions how to shape our future, we will be extremely happy and please rest assured that we are as steadfastly committed as you are to Santiniketan, Visva-Bharati and, above all, the ideational preferences of the illustrious son of Bharat Mata, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

Bidyut Chakrabarty
Bidyut Chakrabarty
29/10/23



Vice-Chancellor
Visva-Bharati
Santiniketan
West Bengal-731235
India