



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

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

30 September, 2023

Dear Madam,

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

Namaskar.

I understand from the media reports that those privileging their partisan interests over Visva-Bharati have formally communicated to you to not return the road that passes through the Ashram since it will adversely affect them once the plying of heavy vehicle carrying materials for building construction will be stopped. As you are aware, we are insisting on our request to save Visva-Bharati's heritage buildings which are certain to be damaged by the vibration which the plying of heavy vehicles causes.

Their arguments are based on the factors other than their concern for this great site of Santiniketan which is now a World Heritage Site. We need to safeguard this Site since it our and also global pride. Their points against our request appear to be fabricated and the reasons are as follows:

- Visva-Bharati never stopped the plying of two-wheeler and those who would like to visit the Ashram on foot.
- Visva-Bharati monitored the movement of vehicles (two wheelers, cycle, rickshaw) especially during the regular prayers when complete tranquillity is required.
- Visva-Bharati Ashram area is now a parking space for innumerable **Totos** which not only causes severe congestion on the road next to the core area of Ashram but also obstruct the free movement of those who would like visit the Ashram area on foot.
- Visva-Bharati's kindergarten school, *Ananda Pathshala*, is located next to this road. When the tiny-tots come out to go home after the school is over, speedy vehicle driven by irresponsible driver may cause fatal accidents. Hence plying of these types of vehicles should be stopped.
- As Archaeological Survey of India has already warned us to stop plying mechanical vehicles because (i) they cause pollution and noise, they unknowingly are responsible for gradually dilapidation of the Heritage buildings in the Ashram area.
(ii) Visva-Bharati nurtured no design to pose difficulties to any of those residing in the vicinity of Ashram and besides this feeder road although you are kind enough to have constructed a bypass road next to the road passing through the Ashram.



शान्तिनिकेतन, पश्चिम बंगाल, भारत-731235
SANTINIKETAN, WEST BENGAL, INDIA-731235

Website: www.visva-bharati.ac.in

Handwritten signature

Vice-Chancellor
Visva-Bharati



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

(e) if Visva-Bharati fails to protect this heritage property as per the directions of Archaeological Survey of India and International Committee for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the tag is likely to be withdrawn as was done in the past. This will be a big slap not only on Bengal under your care and also those who worked hard day-and-night to get this global recognition for our beloved Santiniketan.

Madam, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that those who are insisting on PWD's protection for the road will not take a second to put the entire blame on the Vice Chancellor and his team in case the UNESCO tag is withdrawn. This is the pattern of Visva-Bharati's detractors. They shed crocodile tears if their partisan interests are jeopardized; as soon Visva-Bharati suffered for problems created by these self-proclaimed devotees of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, they take out their fangs to ruthlessly attack Visva-Bharati's employees, especially the Vice-chancellor completely forgetting their role in continuously damaging Visva-Bharati. Please protect Visva-Bharati from these self-centric individuals who tend to leave no stone unturned to devastatingly ruin this great institution of learning, founded by one of most reputed sons of Bharat Mata.

As a true Rabindrik, I am making this earnest request to allow Visva-Bharati to monitor the plying of vehicles, to safeguard the tiny-tots from danger and to allow the tourists to freely move in the Ashram by shifting the self-created parking slots by Toto owners within the core area of Ashram.

This is an earnest request to you to consider our request most sympathetically since it involves the retention of this rare recognition for Santiniketan which is a source of pride to us as *Bangalis* and humanity in its entirety.

Warm regards
Bidyut Chakrabarty

Bidyut Chakrabarty
Vice Chancellor
Visva-Bharati
Santiniketan

30/9/23



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