



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. Droupadi Murmu  
Hon'ble President of India  
Rashtrapati Bhawan  
New Delhi

8 October, 2023

**Subject: An appeal to support Visva-Bharati for protecting Santiniketan-Visva-Bharati as a World Heritage Site**

Dear Madam,

As the Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji and Visva-Bharati's Hon'ble Visitor, I am making this earnest appeal. Madam, Santiniketan where Visva-Bharati is located is now a World Heritage Site. As members of this great institution, founded by a great son of *Bharat Mata*, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, it is our primary duty to safeguard this site and Visva-Bharati.

There is a road that passes through the Asram and as per Archeological Survey of India, if Vehicles carrying heavy materials are allowed to ply, the buildings which are more than one hundred years old will be damaged by the vibration of the movement of these vehicles. As the road which was earlier kept under Visva-Bharati's tutelage is taken away by the State Government, there is no control of vehicles which is slowly damaging the buildings built more than a century ago.

Furthermore, Santiniketan is now a World Heritage Site. With the help of many who are associated now and, those in the past, this global recognition was made possible. Our Chancellor, Shri Narendra Modiji, the Education Ministry, the Ministry of Culture of the Union Government and Archeological Survey of India worked hard to get this Heritage tag. Now, it is our responsibility to retain the Heritage Status.

We have made earnest requests to our Hon'ble Chief minister to return the road to Visva-Bharati by sending letters to her on 25 and 30 September, 2023 although there is no reply.

This is also to reiterate that Visva-Bharati never restricted movements on foot, plying of two and four wheelers. On Wednesdays when we hold our regular prayers in the morning for just Twenty-Five minutes, we requested the drivers to slow the vehicle to avoid noise since tranquility is required during that brief period in the morning.

With the take-over of the road passing through the Asram by the Public Works Department of the government of West Bengal, it has become a source of nuisance and Totos (e-rickshaws) park on both sides of the road which makes the movement of the tourists very difficult.

BCR 8/10



विश्वभारती  
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Visva-Bharati



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Moreover, the *Ferriwalas* (venders) set up their temporary shops on the road which is adjacent to Asram. The place thus becomes noisy, crowded (unmanageable on most of the days when our museums are kept open for the tourists) and the crisscrossing of vehicles (tractors etc.) on this road was a source of alarm since not only does it harm the buildings in Asram because of the resultant vibration harming the structures inside Asram but also causes panic to the tourists because some of the drivers are not sensitive to rules and regulations of road safety. This is a constant source of alarm to the tourists and the students of *Patha Bhawan* and *Ananda Pathshala* (schools for the seniors and tiny-tots respectively which are located in Asram).

We understand that many earn their livelihood by driving e-rickshaws and also selling souvenirs to the tourists. There are however rooms just before the beginning of the Asram area and Toto drivers and the local sellers used to operate from that location when the road was kept under Visva-Bharati's supervision.

Visva-Bharati shall take ample care in sustaining the system that worked well so long as this road was managed by its staff. The purpose is to carry on with everybody because the Heritage declaration shall bring more tourists to the campus and it is our prime duty to protect these old buildings and Asram's pristine environment.

This is an earnest request to you to kindly intervene to support our endeavour to take the road back to Visva-Bharati which will not only save the State Government of the responsibility and also enable us to devise plans in consultation with the conservationists for its perfect maintenance. We assure you that Visva-Bharati shall never restrict the road for those who will pass through on foot, by two and four wheelers, as was the case in the past when the road was given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to Visva-Bharati for day-to-day management. As mentioned above, as it is a warning by the experts (belonging to Archeological Survey of India), we should not allow vehicles with heavy materials to ply given the harmful impact on the buildings which are located next to the road between the Post Office crossing and the entry road to Sriniketan.

*Bidyut Chakrabarty*  
Bidyut Chakrabarty  
Vice Chancellor  
Visva-Bharati  
8/10/23



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

Copy to

- 1) The Hon'ble Chancellor, Visva-Bharati
- 2) The Hon'ble Rector, Visva-Bharati
- 3) The Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal
- 4) The Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of India