VISVA-BHARATI

18.04.2026

PRESS STATEMENT

It has come to the notice of Visva-Bharati that wild fabrications about the history of certain iconic heritage monuments and structures of the Ashrama area have been peddled by certain individuals either by design or out of ignorance. Although these individuals are not in any way part of or connected to Visva-Bharati, some sections of the media have picked their fabrications up and amplified them through the social media. Visva-Bharati expresses deep concern about this, as the unchecked circulation of such disinformation may misguide and confuse visitors who come to pay their respects to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's Ashrama.

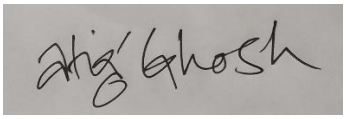
It has also been noticed that the source of such stories— even when they are not picked up and amplified by certain sections of the media— are self-appointed guides who gather along the road running from the Santiniketan Post Office to the Sangit-Bhavana. They ferry tourists along this road in overcrowded e-rickshaws (*totos*) and stop at various points of this road— causing severe traffic congestion. Added to this is the presence of a large number of vendors along this road who occupy and block both sides of the road, making passage perilous for pedestrian tourists and university staff.

In the light of such unfortunate developments, the competent authority of Visva-Bharati has decided to take the following measures with immediate effect:

1. To advise and exhort all tourists not to listen to random individuals who claim to be guides. Visva-Bharati has its own dedicated team of guides for Heritage Walk. Anybody wishing to learn about the distinguished history of Visva-Bharati's tangible and intangible heritage is encouraged to undertake the University-organised Heritage Walks on Wednesdays (whole day), Fridays (second half), Saturdays (second half), and Sundays (whole day) every week.
2. For security of pedestrian tourists, Visva-Bharati would henceforth strictly enforce a policy of no parking or stopping of non-Visva-Bharati vehicles on the stretch of the road from Santiniketan Post Office to Sangit Bhavana. Such non-Visva-Bharati vehicles will be allowed only to pass through without stopping.
3. The University will also ensure from now on that no vendors are allowed to sell their wares or food items along the road mention above.

It is the earnest and sole desire of Visva-Bharati to uphold the world-famous and distinguished heritage of Santiniketan in the correct manner before visitors and to ensure that their visits are made as comfortable as possible, without the harassment of misleading self-appointed guides, traffic snarls and pushy vendors.

This statement is issued under the express instructions of the competent authority.



In-Charge, Public Relations
Visva-Bharati