

Notes:

1. Shantiniketan is a university town in West Bengal. The University is called Vishva-Bharati. It was founded by Rabindranath Tagore, an important Bengali poet and philosopher who lived from 1861-1941.
2. The person interviewed is a native speaker of Bengali, not Hindi.

Hindi transcript:

- तो, विश्वभारती, शान्तिनिकेतन में जाना होता है?... आप अगर... आपने visit किया है उस...
- हाँ, बहुत बार।
- अच्छा, तो कैसा आपको लगता है वहाँ?
- वह तो जन्नत लगता है एकदम।
- Uh-huh.
- It looks like it's another planet.
- हाँ।
- It looks like paradise actually, because...
- Yeah, लेकिन अब unfortunately...
- हाँ...
- पहले से काफ़... अब वह बात नहीं है जो पहले होती थी उस ज़मान...
- Absolutely, absolutely. वह तो है, but...but it's still... it's so beautiful, it's so amazing.
- तो दर्शकों को जिनको नहीं मालूम है कि शान्तिनिकेतन – क्या था... बता रही थी – एक university थी जो कि रबिन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर ने...
- Start की थी...
- स्थापित की थी।
- ... स्थापित की थी उन्होंने, हाँ।
- जी। और मतलब, ऐसी... बहुत पुरानी university है, जिसमें वे चाहते थे कि पूरब और पश्चिम, दोनों का ही...
- एक fusion, हाँ।
- हाँ... दो... ना कि सिर्फ़ fusion but दोनों की ही best...
- हाँ, absolutely, हाँ।
- ... चीज़ें वहाँ पर सब को मिल...मिल सकें।
- हाँ, पर unfortunately जो problem अब है कि विश्वभारती जो पहले था, अब वैसा नहीं है।
- नहीं है।

- क्योंकि वैसे भी काफ़ी professors तो... false certificate भी दिखाए थे, and you know... तो वैसे...
- Uh-huh.
- It's not that good any more, but...
- Unfortunately, but...
- Yeah, it's very unfortunate, but...
- नहीं तो, अमर्त्य सेन भी, जैसे – इतने बड़े-बड़े economist – वहाँ पे पढ़ रहे थे, बचपन में, और वे कह रहे थे कि जो उनके दिमाग में जो सोचने की क्षमता... वही पर बहुत... पली।
- हाँ मुझे लगता है कि... you know what I think is, like, really amazing, कि एक गाँव से, you know – शान्तिनिकेतन is more like a village – एक गाँव से दो No...No...
- Nobel.
- हाँ, Nobel Laureates हैं...
- Uh-huh.
- तो एक जो अमर्त्य सेन हैं, और एक रबिन्द्रनाथ टैगोर... and I think it's really amazing.
- Uh-huh... the land of...
- Yeah.
- आप बता रही थी कि आप Calcutta में जो सब convent school में गईं, वहाँ पे medium of instruction English था। तो, M... वहाँ पर Mother Teresa ने भी पढ़ाया कुछ time?
- Mother Teresa ने जब... before she got her vision...
- Right.
- उसके पहले वे वहाँ पढ़ाती थीं
- Uh-huh. Wow. What is the name of your school?
- ... Loreto House.
- OK.
- Loreto House की काफ़ी branches हैं। Loreto is a big institution.
- Right.
- और उनकी काफ़ी schools हैं पूरी India में, लखनौ में...
- Uh-huh.
- ... म...महाराष्ट्र में... बहुत जगह में... schools हैं।
- Right... बहुत बहुत शुक्रिया, आयोति, यहाँ आने के लिए, and good luck!

English translation:

- So do you go to Vishvabharati, Shantiniketan? If you ... have you visited that...
- Yes, several times.
- Right, so how do you like it there?
- That place is just paradise.
- Uh-huh.

- It looks like it's another planet.
- Yes.
- It looks like paradise actually, because ...
- Yeah, but now unfortunately ...
- Yes...
- It's quite diff ... now it's not quite the same as it used to be back in those days ...
- Absolutely, absolutely. That is true, but ...but it's still ... it's so beautiful, it's so amazing.
- So our audience may not know that Shantiniketan – as ... you were saying – is a university that Rabindranath Tagore ...
- Set up ...
- Established.
- ... he established it, yes.
- Yes. And, I mean, it is ... an old university, where [Tagore] wanted to accomplish a [blend of] the east and the west ...
- A fusion, yes.
- Yes ... both ... not just a fusion, but [he wanted] to make the best of both ...
- Yes, absolutely, yes.
- ... worlds available to students.
- Yes, but unfortunately now the problem is that today Vishwabharati is not what it used to be.
- It's not.
- Because several professors [there] ... have actually produced false diplomas, and you know ... so in that way...
- Uh-huh.
- It's not that good any more, but ...
- Unfortunately, but . . .
- Yeah, it's very unfortunate, but ...
- Otherwise, people like Amartya Sen, for instance – important economists such as he – studied there as children*, and he (Sen) has said that his ability to think ... developed while he was there.

[*The speaker does not mean to suggest that Amartya Sen went to university at Shantiniketan. Her point is that people like him, who spent their childhood in Shantiniketan, and went to school there, benefited from the intellectual atmosphere of the place as a whole. The language here is somewhat elliptical.]

- Yes, I think that ... you know what I think is, like, really amazing, is that out of a single village, you know – Shantiniketan really is a village – out of a single village have emerged two No ...No ...
- Nobel.
- Yes, Nobel Laureates.
- Uh-huh.
- One of them is Amartya Sen, and the other is Rabindranath Tagore ... and I think it's really amazing.
- Uh-huh ... the land of ...
- Yeah.

- You were saying that the medium of instruction at your convent school in Calcutta was English. So, M ... did Mother Teresa also teach [at your school] for some time?
- Mother Teresa ... before she had her vision [of service to the poor, sick people of Calcutta] ...
- Right.
- [...] she taught there before that.
- Uh-huh. Wow. What is the name of your school?
- ... Loreto House.
- Okay.
- Loreto House has several branches. Loreto is a big institution.
- Right.
- And they have many schools all over India: in Lucknow ...
- Uh-huh.
- ... in M ... Maharashtra ... there are schools in several places.
- Right ... many thanks for agreeing to come here, Ayoti, and good luck!

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