

वेद प्रकाश  
Ved Prakash



विशेष कार्य अधिकारी  
रेल मंत्री  
भारत सरकार  
Officer on Special Duty  
Minister of Railways  
Government of India

No. 2025/PR/01

27 May 2025

Dear Sir,

**Subject: Appreciation for distinguished contributions to the Chenab Railway Bridge and Invitation for a special recording session and media engagement on the USBRL Project**

Respected Prof. Sitharam,

It gives us immense pleasure to write to you our sincere appreciation for your distinguished contributions, spanning nearly two decades, to the successful realisation of the Chenab Railway Bridge — the world's highest rail arch bridge — and to the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project. You are the principal contributor to this landmark project from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

Your role as geotechnical consultant for slope stability and foundation design from 2005 onward, your elaborate 2D and 3D stability analyses under complex Himalayan geological and seismic conditions, your guidance on the excavation of over eleven lakh cubic metres of rock from the bridge slopes, and the pioneering "Design As You Go" methodology you introduced were instrumental in the safe and timely completion of the slope stabilisation and foundation works. Your readiness to respond at short notice whenever geological complexities emerged was, as the project executors themselves have acknowledged, central to the success of this national endeavour. The Chenab Bridge stands today as a symbol of collective Indian engineering excellence, and your contribution forms an integral part of that legacy.

#### **Invitation to a Special Recording Session**

To preserve this knowledge for future generations, Indian Railways is curating authoritative records on the engineering achievements of the USBRL Project. It would be a privilege to have you participate in a special recording session covering the geological and geotechnical complexities along the Chenab Bridge alignment, slope stability strategies in the young Himalayan terrain, foundation design challenges, the "Design As You Go" framework, and broader reflections on academia–industry collaboration in mega infrastructure projects. We would be grateful if you could kindly indicate a date, venue (or virtual platform), and duration convenient to you. The recording will form part of the official archival and publicity material of Indian Railways, with due credit.

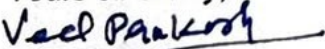
#### **Media Engagement and Editorial Contributions**

We would also be deeply grateful if you could kindly consider sharing your first-hand experiences on the making of the Chenab Bridge with leading national and international media, and authoring editorials and commentaries in reputed newspapers and journals on the engineering, geological, and human dimensions of this project. Such contributions from a scholar of your stature would inspire the next generation of engineers and infrastructure professionals. Our office will gladly facilitate introductions to media houses and editorial desks as per your convenience.

We would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your participation at your convenience. Our office will coordinate all logistical and travel arrangements as per your preference.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



VEDPRAKASH

Officer on Special Duty (OSD)

Minister of Railways

To,  
Prof T G Sitharam  
Chairman, AICTE,  
All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)  
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