

# **Visva-Bharati**

## **Official Press Release**

**20/02/2013**

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### **Sub: Incident that took place in Visva-Bharati campus (Sevapalli area) on 19.2. 13.**

- 1) Visva-Bharati being a statutory authority established by law, landed properties owned Visva-Bharati is all public property. Visva-Bharati's premises are also covered under the definition of 'public premises' as per the P P Act 1971.
- 2) Soon after the theft of Nobel medallion, attention was drawn by various committees (appointed by the Gov't of India and UGC) on the porous nature of the campus, the close relationship between encroachment & security problems and the need to clearly demarcate/ fence the campus. Based on the recommendations of these committees, Visva-Bharati started fencing its campus in 2005, initially out of NCMP grant and later out of XIth Plan. However, owing to stiff resistance from encroachers and a section of local residents, the work gained momentum only after 2008.
- 3) Visva-Bharati is the owner of R.S plot no 92 / LR plot no 510 of mouza- Bolpur having an area of 3.62 acres. This land was acquired by Gov't of Bengal in 1946-47 under the LA Act 1894 and came into possession of Visva-Bharati on 25.5.1948. It is duly recorded in RS & LR Records-of-Right in favour of Visva-Bharati. We have our staff quarters (for nurses & medical staff) on this land. Part of it is vacant.
- 4) While constructing boundary wall on this plot between November 2008 and May 2012, Visva-Bharati, in accordance with its well defined policy, left a 14 feet wide road space on its northern peripheral part for giving access to 3-4 neighboring private houses that have no access except through our campus. This is used as access to our staff quarters also. The passage is connected to the *pucca* road by another 13 feet wide passage running north-south.
- 5) One Shibasri Ukil has been creating encroachment and obstruction over this property illegally during the last few years. Almost insanelly, he demands an exclusive passage to his house through our campus.
- 6) He has filed five civil and one criminal case against Visva-Bharati but contrary to what is being published in a section of the Press, these court cases are still pending and we have, with utmost deference, followed the interim orders given by the Learned Courts. There is no order from any court of law that declares any part of the above property as belonging to Shibasri Ukil or that he will have any exclusive right of passage through this property or that he will be permitted to erect pole / fencing on this property at his sweet will or that our staff will be intimidated even if they walk through the passage or that only Shibasri Ukil will be able to use the passage.
- 7) Several complaints were lodged against him at Bolpur P.S / Santiniketan Investigation Centre between November 2008 and January 2012. (21/11/2008, 27/07/2010, 01/09/2011, 10/12/2011, 05/01/2012).
- 8) In the second week of July 2012, Shibasri Ukil and associates illegally erected iron poles on the common passage on the aforesaid premises of the University.
- 9) Written complaints on this incident were made to the police and district administration on 12/07/2012, 21/07/2012, 22/07/2012 and 25/07/2012. The third complaint was a statutory one made by the Estate Officer under section 11(1) read with Section 11A of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants Act) 1971. The offence is cognizable. However, we do not know what actions have been taken on this complaint. While arguments continued on whether it was civil dispute, private dispute or no-dispute, unauthorized poles remained intact, obstructing the movement of our residential staff. Even the movement of rickshaw and ambulance was forcibly stopped.

- 10) Consequently, the Estate Officer appointed by Central Government issued an order on 25/07/2012, u/s section 5A of the PP Act, 1971 for removal of the unauthorized structures / fixtures. Copy of the order was given to SDO, SDPO, I/C Bolpur P.S etc. The structures / fixtures were not removed voluntarily.
- 11) About three weeks ago, senior citizens of the neighboring houses wrote to the Registrar for removing the unauthorized structures. Registrar ordered the Deputy Registrar (Estate) & Security Officer to remove the structures.
- 12) Between 12/02/2013 and 16/02/2013 Shibasri Ukil put up a fresh fencing on the passage owned by Visva-Bharati., thus cutting off the staff quarters from the rest of our campus.
- 13) This matter was reported in writing to Bolpur PS & Santiniketan Investigation Centre on 16/02/13, but there was no response. In broad day-light, goons hired by Ukil created total obstruction to the access /movement of our residential staff (who are all public servants by definition). Visva-Bharati took this very seriously. There was no alternative but to dismantle and remove the poles.
- 14) The authority decided to remove the unauthorized poles/ fencing from its premises at the earliest thereby also executing the statutory removal order dated 25/07/2012 of the Estate Officer (under the PP Act, 1951). Officials of Visva-Bharati went to Santiniketan Investigation Centre on 18/02/2013 with request for assistance in the removal work. Since assistance was not forthcoming, officials led by Security Officer, went to the site at about 11 am on that day to request Shibasri Ukil to remove the illegal poles/fencing, but they found local goons gathered there. They left the site after taking photographs.
- 15) On the following day, a written complaint was made to I/C, Bolpur PS, with copy to O/C, Santiniketan I C, SDO and SDPO at about 1.00 p.m requesting for police assistance during the removal work and also for taking steps against the culprits as per law. It was reminded that Visva-Bharati's property being public property, assistance of police was extremely necessary.
- 16) Yesterday at 3.00 p.m, when officers, staff and labourers gathered on the said premises and started giving warning through miking before the removal work, Shibasri Ukil and associates (five-six local goons) first let off a ferocious dog on our staff. Then they assaulted and injured at least five of our staff. They threw a sharp crowbar towards the Security Officer and Supervisor, Watch & Ward. They forcibly took one Security Guard inside the house "Chitralekha" and detained him for some time. The whole resistance was pre-planned as would appear from the presence of professional camera persons and hooligans.
- 17) In spite of this, the removal work was complete within 20 minutes. Since a scuffle started between our guards and the goons hired by Ukil, our personnel were ordered to leave the site immediately. The injured staff was treated at PM hospital. During the whole incident, there was, unfortunately, no police assistance at all, despite prior written intimation and several real time telephonic requests from Visva-Bharati. Incidentally, the Santiniketan Investigation Centre, located within our campus, is within 500 mtrs of the site.
- 18) Visva-Bharati has made a written complaint (with request for filing FIR) to Bolpur PS on yesterday's incident.
- 19) Shibasri Ukil, it is known, has lodged a complaint with Bolpur PS against various officials (even those who were not present at the site at all) charging them with attempt to murder, molestation, assault, theft etc. The allegations being fictitious & false are denied by the University. This is only an attempt to malign the University.

On behalf of Visva-Bharati authority,

Sd/-

Prof Sabujkali Sen  
Professor-in-Charge, CJMC  
& Director, Indira Gandhi Centre, Visva-Bharati