

08.03.2022
Court No.13
Item No.6
AP

WPA 3821 of 2022

**Visva Bharati and Anr.
Vs.
State of West Bengal and Ors.**

(Through Video Conference)

Mr. Soumya Majumder
Mr. Victor Chatterjee

... For the petitioners.

Mr. Soumitra Mukherjee
Mr. Sayan Ganguly
Mr. Santanu Chatterjee

... For the State.

Mr. Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, Senior Advocate
Mr. Samim Ahamed
Mr. Arka Maiti
Ms. Saloni Bhattacharya
Ms. Gulsanwara Pervin

... For the Respondent No.4.

The Superintendent of Police, Birbhum, Nagendra Nath Tripathi, is present virtually. Report has been received from him and is taken on record.

It is submitted that the restrained Registrar and other officials have been freed and the University has been offered every necessary assistance in ensuring that the administration is able to function.

In so far as outsiders are concerned, it is submitted that two particular gates of the University are manned by their own security staff, who verify identity cards before letting people inside the campus.

The University authorities shall be entitled to approach the Santiniketan Police for any further assistance, in securing the gates. If such approach is

made, the Santiniketan Police shall render all necessary assistance.

It is submitted by Mr. Majumder, learned counsel for the University that the officials are still apprehensive about entering the central administrative building in view of demonstrations being carried out by the Students.

Mr. Bhattacharya, learned senior counsel for the students submits that his clients are not in any way obstructing the officials of the University from entering the administrative building.

The Officer-in-Charge, Santiniketan Police Station, shall render all necessary assistance to the administration, in the event of any further obstruction.

There is one thorny issue that remains. Semester examinations of the University are starting from the 11th March 2022. A large number of students are loitering in the University campus since they have not been allotted to the hostel rooms.

Mr. Majumder, learned counsel for the University submits that a large number of rooms have been locked up by senior students with their belongings inside. The University has already formed a committee to inspect the aforesaid hostels. The students shall nominate two representatives to such committee. The presence of the students, police and

the committee members is necessary while breaking open locks of some hostel rooms.

The Officer-in-Charge, Santiniketan Police Station shall also depute two constables for the aforesaid purpose. All rooms, which in the opinion of the University, should not remain locked shall be opened after breaking open the said locks in the presence of the aforesaid committee members, representatives and the police personnel indicated hereinabove, and the articles inside the rooms shall be inventoried and kept in a separate place.

The rooms shall then be made ready for the students. Priority for occupation shall be given to students in terms of examination schedule i.e. those students who have examinations coming immediately shall be given priority over those students whose examinations are scheduled later.

It shall be ensured by the Santiniketan Police that no outsiders remain in the University or enter or the campus. Santiniketan Police shall conduct periodical and surprise inspection at their discretion at any point of time.

Let this matter stand adjourned and be listed two weeks hence for further consideration.

Mr. Sanjib Kumar Dan along with Mr. Rajarshi Basu claims to represent another section of students of

the University who seek to intervene. Their prayer shall be considered at the later stage.

All parties shall act on a server copy of this order duly downloaded from the official website of this Court.

(Rajasekhar Mantha, J.)