



To,
Mr. Ajay Kumar Mishra,
Senior Superintendent of Police,
Varanasi.

Sub: Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) officers are misusing their official power to harass citizens

Dear Sir,

This is to inform and complain to you that yesterday, on 8 June 2013, Mr. Satish Chandra Misra Joint Secretary VDA, along with Mr. K.D. Singh, Amrika Mal and 5 other VDA officers, barged into the official premises of the Kautilya Society, located at D-20/21 Munshi Ghat, Varanasi (also owned by me personally).

The above VDA officers forced their entry into our house without producing any official authorisation for entering our office premises. They violated all laws of privacy and correct behaviour as civil servants and citizens of our country, using unconstitutional language, defaming my personal name and tarnishing the image of the **Kautilya Society that is currently fighting a PIL in the Allahabad High Court against blatant violation of civil laws and rampant corruption among VDA officers.**

These VDA officers accused the organisation's staff of making new constructions in the office premises when my staff was only relocating some construction material (iron garters, some stones and cement bags) that we had stored in the premises for internal and emergency repair work.

These VDA officers mentally and physically harassed the staff of the Kautilya Society, even manhandling a lady staff to force their entry into our office premises. They accused my staff of lying that I was abroad when actually I am out of the country on a professional assignment. They also called the police force and lodged an FIR against one of my staff because we were not letting them enter the office premises without official permissions. Never before has a civil servant behaved in such a rowdy and unconstitutional manner in our office premises.

We would like to bring to your notice that the Kautilya Society is an NGO working for the protection, preservation and promotion of the heritage of the ancient city of Varanasi. **Further, the Kautilya Society filed a PIL, in 2005, against the VDA for blatantly violating civil laws by allowing illegal constructions to come up in the prohibited protected heritage zone 200 metres from the Ganga riverfront ghats in Varanasi and within 300 metres radius of ASI protected monuments.** Through our PIL, we hope to protect the ghats of Varanasi which are a unique heritage and treasure of humanity.

The mission conducted by Mr. Satish Chandra Mishra Joint Secretary VDA, and his colleagues to the Kautilya Society premises was pre-planned, along with the press and on a Second Saturday (8 June 2013) which is an official holiday for VDA. It was aimed at purposeful defamation of my personal name and tarnishing the image of the Kautilya Society. And this is only because the PIL filed in the Hon'ble Court of Allahabad, for protecting the Ganga riverfront ghats, has revealed that the VDA is hand in glove with the

owners of new illegal constructions on the ghats, and has resulted in VDA being called to task by the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad. (Attached is one of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court demonstrating exactly this).

Further, Mr. Satish Chandra Mishra of VDA has been verbally pressurizing and harassing the Kautilya Society because it has included, among the list of illegal constructions on the riverfront ghats, a building called Bhooma Niketan, located at Kedar Ghat, that Mr. Mishra is personally interested in protecting.

We therefore request you to kindly send someone to the office premises of the Kautilya Society to monitor whether there is any new construction happening in building that is against VDA bye laws and to kindly take action against me, the owner of the building, if you find any such construction in my building that violates VDA bye laws.

If this is not true, it is my humble request that appropriate strict legal action be taken against the concerned VDA officers who flouted civil laws and forcibly broke into my house.

I would further request you to please consider my letter to be an extremely serious complaint against the VDA officers who violated my privacy and the law.

I am currently out of the country on a professional assignment and am writing to you to kindly look into this matter with urgency as this is a serious issue and needs immediate and appropriate legal action against the VDA officers, especially Mr. Satish Chandra Mishra, who:

- misused their official power and took law into their hands,
- used unconstitutional language,
- harassed my staff,
- violated my right to privacy by forcing entry into my building without authorisation
- defamed and tarnished the image of the Kautilya Society and myself personally for personal vendetta
- gave false information to both the police and the press

I write with great hope in the justice system of your office and our country
best regards,

Vrinda Dar

Vrinda Dar, General Secretary
Kautilya Society

cc to (sent also by speed post):

Mr. R.M.Srivastava, Principal Secretary Home Ministry, Lucknow
Home Dept. UP Government

Mr. Rakesh Garg, Principal Secretary Chief Minister, UP
Shri Pawan Kumar, Dy. Secretary, Home
DGP UP

Shri Gopal Lal Meena, I.G Zone, Varanasi

Shri A Satish Ganesh, DIG Range, Varanasi

Human Rights HQ;

Embassy of Italy in New Delhi

Mr. V.K.Singh, V.C, VDA, Varanasi