

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
MEGHALAYA :: :: SHILLONG

Letter No. C.13/2019/20

Dated Shillong, the 14th August 2019

From : **Shri. G. K. Iangrai, MPS**
Asstt. Inspector General of Police (A)
Meghalaya, Shillong

To : The President,
Shillong Press Club.

Shri. Anirban Roy,
Editor-in-Chief,
Northeast Now, Guwahati-781006.

The Editor,
The Shillong Times/TNT-The Northeast Today/Meghalaya
Guardian/Mawphor/U Nongsain Hima/Meghalaya
Times/Meghalaya Today/ Peitngor/ Rupang/Salantini Janera/ T7
News / Highland Post.

Sub : **Press release-regarding.**

Sir/Madam,

In inviting reference to the subject cited above, I am enclosing herewith a brief write-up which is apposite to the news item "Meghalaya Police sends gag order to Northeast Now, demands source of information from journalist" dated Guwahati, August 13, 2019, published by Northeast Now agency. The same may kindly be published in your esteemed daily, for information and awareness of the general public.

Yours faithfully,



(G. K. Iangrai, MPS)
Asstt. Inspector General of Police (A)
Meghalaya, Shillong.

PRESS RELEASE

Apropos to your news item under caption "Meghalaya Police sends gag order to Northeast Now, demands source of information from journalist" dated Guwahati, August 13, 2019, wherein you had emphasized that "As per section 91 in the Criminal Procedure 1973, summons to produce a document happens in case of any registered criminal case," is however abridged when compared to the true definition of section 91 Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, whereby, it clearly states that "Whenever any Court or any officer in charge of a police station considers that the production of any document or other thing is necessary or desirable for the purposes of any investigation, inquiry, trial or other proceeding under this Code by or before such Court or officer, such Court may issue a summons, or such officer a written order, to the person in whose possession or power such document or thing is believed to be, requiring him to attend and produce it, or to produce it, at the time and place stated in the summons or order."

Here, it is also significant to point out that, the matter in contention is under inquiry as the publishing of the report/alarming news contains rumors which may incite hatred or ill-will between different communities, which is apart from the intent to defame the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Mukul M. Sangma.

Furthermore, there is no journalistic privilege or any codification that prevents media houses from disclosing their source of information as and when required; such remarks by the Editor-in-Chief of a reputed daily is uncalled for, as the only aim of the notice under section 91 Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 was to ascertain the authenticity of the information, which has been denounced as misinformation with criminal, malafide and defamatory intent by the Leader of the Opposition himself.

Meghalaya Police completely supports the media houses in its endeavors, to ensure fair investigation which is the hallmark of rule of law, and in no shape or form, is discharging official duties which is earning a bad name for our beloved nation, that we are continuously serving with pride and valor, nor are we curtailing the roles of the fourth pillar which is being ranked at 140 by the World Press Freedom Index.



(G. K. Langrai, MPS)
Asstt. Inspector General of Police (A)
Meghalaya, Shillong.