



24.06.2024

SPEED POST / COURIER / ELECTRONICALLY

To:

1. Editor in Chief / Person Concerned
News Power Zone
A media outlet operating under URL: <https://newspowerzone.com>
2. Anil Dwivedi, Correspondent,
News Power Zone
E/398, H.T.P.P. Darri, Korba, Chhattisgarh

Subject: Legal Notice for Defamation publication of Article Titled "मंत्री ओपी के खिलाफ FIR कराने वाली मैडम की गजब माया. कोरबा ट्रैफिक DSP पोस्टिंग के लिए लगाया तगड़ा जुगाड़" published on 21st June 2024 on your website <https://newspowerzone.com>

1. I am issuing this notice on behalf of my client, Ms. Litesh Singh, who is currently serving as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in the State of Chhattisgarh. While performing her public duties, she has been dedicatedly upholding the principles of law and order with the highest levels of honesty, integrity, and professionalism since 2016. Throughout her distinguished career, Ms. Singh has consistently demonstrated exceptional commitment to her duties, earning the respect and admiration of her colleagues, superiors, and the community she serves.
2. A news article titled "मंत्री ओपी के खिलाफ FIR कराने वाली मैडम की गजब माया. कोरबा ट्रैफिक DSP पोस्टिंग के लिए लगाया तगड़ा जुगाड़." was published on your website, News Power Zone, on 21st June 2024. The article is available at the following URL: <https://newspowerzone.com/korba-breaking-madams-amazing-maya-who-filed-fir-against-minister-op-made-a-big-deal-for-posting-as-traffic-dsp/>
3. In this article, my client has been derogatorily referred to as "Madam Maya," and several statements have been made which are defamatory, ill-informed, and biased. Specifically, the following content is particularly damaging:
 1. "... चोरी की घटना जब नेशनल लेबल का खबर बना तो जिला पुलिस प्रशासन ने अपने बचाव के लिए वीडियो जारी करने के आरोप में बीजेपी नेता ओपी चौधरी के खिलाफ बांकी मोंगरा थाना में अपराध दर्ज किया था। ऐसा उसी महिला पुलिस अफसर ने किया था जिनकी इन दिनों कोरबा ट्रैफिक डीएसपी पद पर पोस्टिंग होने की खबर चल रही है।..."
 2. "सूत्रों की माने तो मैडम माया यानी डीएसपी अपना पोस्टिंग कराने के लिए एक मंत्री से अनुशंसा करा चुकी है। अब फाइल मंत्रालय मूव कर चुकी है। उनके पोस्टिंग की खबर आम होने



के बाद लोग कहने लगे हैं कि जो नेता जी को बदनाम करने में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ी थी। उन्हें अब उनकी सरकार मलाई वाले जगह पर पोस्टिंग करने लिए सिफारिश कर रहे हैं। इससे बड़ी दुर्भाग्य क्या होगी। कहा तो यह भी जा रहा कि मैडम की पोस्टिंग के लिए एक सीनियर आरएसएस नेता भी जोर आजमाइश कर रहे हैं। उनके पोस्टिंग कराने का कांट्रेक्ट को लेकर जानकर कहने लगे हैं जो सेवक फूंक- फूंककर कदम रखते हैं वे भी मैडम के इमोशनल ड्रामे का शिकार हो गए।"

4. It is essential to clarify that the registration of an FIR against any individual is an official procedure, and as a civil servant, any competent police officer is duty-bound to act under the prescribed procedures of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. At no point was my client, Ms. Litesh Singh, the in-charge of the Bakimongra police station, nor did she file any personal complaint against the alleged minister.
5. The aforementioned article is baseless, misleading, and has significantly tarnished my client's reputation among the general public as well as within specific communities and political parties. This defamatory content has had an immediate negative impact on her government service and could potentially have long-term detrimental effects on her career.
6. Know that the offense of Defamation has been dealt with by section 499 and punishable under section 500 the Indian Penal Code, 1860. For your reference Section 499 defines the defamation as:

"Whoever, by words either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs or by visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation concerning any person intending to harm, or knowing or having reason to believe that such imputation will harm, the reputation of such person, is said, except in the cases hereinafter excepted, to defame that person."

-Emphasis added.

7. Also, know that, Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 provides for a punishment for the offense of defamation which includes imprisonment that may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.
8. Also, it has also been noted that you, the noticee, have on multiple occasions referred to my client as "Madam Maya" and published derogatory articles about her on your website and social media handles. This has led the public to associate my client with the defamatory content you have maliciously published. Such actions are punishable under Section 500, amongst others, of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
9. Know that you are classified as a "News Aggregator" under Rule 2(O), and your website falls under the definition of "Digital Media," specifically as "a publisher of news and current affairs content" as defined under Rule 2(I)(ii) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the Rules of 2021). Your article against my client being defamatory, violates the Code of Ethics provided in the Appendix 1 of the Rules of 2021.



10. In light of the above, we hereby demand that you:
- Take down the Article published targeting my client, being ill-informed, misleading and defamatory within 2 (two) days of receipt of this notice.
 - Publish an unconditional and unequivocal apology for the defamatory article on your news portal and within 2 (two) days of receipt of this notice.
 - Ensure that the apology is placed in a legible and noticeable section of your publication, retracting the baseless allegations made against my client.
 - Pay an amount of Rs. 10,00,000/- as damages towards the reputation, mental harassment and agony caused to my client due to the aforementioned publication.
 - Pay an amount of Rs. 10,000/- towards the expense of this legal notice.
11. Should you fail to comply with the above demands within the stipulated time frame, we will be constrained to initiate appropriate legal proceedings against you, both **civil and criminal**, at your risk as to costs and consequences.
12. We trust that you will treat this matter with the urgency and seriousness it deserves and look forward to your prompt compliance.
13. Please note that, if you receive the instant notice by any medium which may include but is not limited to SPEED POST / COURIER / ELECTRONICALLY, the same would be considered as served.
14. Take notice accordingly. A copy of this notice is kept in my office for record and reference.


24/6/24
KHULESH SAHU
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High Court of Chhattisgarh

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