

Estd. 1911

The Hitavada

Nagpur

Managing Editor : Banwarilal Purohit, Ex. M. P.

To,
The Hon'ble Chief Justice,
Madhya Pradesh High Court,
Jabalpur

Respected Lordship,

This is with reference to a news item published in The Hitavada MP Line (July 4, 1998) regarding a speech in reaction to the judgement in Shankar Guha Niyogi murder case. That news item was published through an editorial oversight. We are acutely aware of the distress it caused to the Hon'ble High Court as well as to the individual judges whose names were mentioned therein.

Upon learning of the nature of the news item and the distress it has caused to the members of bar as well the bench, we had already published on our own initiative an unconditional apology to the High Court as well as the honourable judges on the front page of our issue dated August 6, 1998. A copy of the issue carrying that apology is being enclosed.

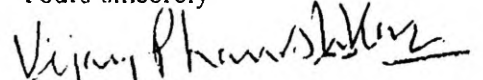
As your lordship will notice we have carried the apology even more prominently than the original news item. We have since learnt that contempt of court proceedings have been started against us by the Madhya Pradesh High Court Bar Association because of the same news item. The enclosed apology will amply make clear that we had no intention of maligning the judiciary or any of its members. We are also truly sorry for what has happened and have publicly apologised for the same.

As regards the court proceedings against us, we do not intend to contest it and our stand will be same as reflected in the apology we have published. We would, of course, be making the appropriate presentation before the court when the matter comes up for hearing.

Meanwhile, through this letter we wish to keep your lordship posted with the matter and once again convey our sincere regrets and apologies to you personally.

Nagpur
August 13, 1998

Yours sincerely


(Vijay Phanshikar)
Editor

cc: Mr Justice S.K. Dubey
Ms Justice Usha Shukla
President, MP High Court Bar Association, Jabalpur.



Javans on the spot and two at Jatha in Uri sector late in another incident, two were killed under similar circumstances in the same sector. Four civilians were killed in Poonchi district. Pakistani troops have missiles, artillery and mortar across the border at Indian Kupwara, Baramulla, Kargil sectors for the past one week. People living near the Line of Control to migrate to safer areas. Defence spokesman said Indian troops retaliated and targeted bunkers and forward posts and installations. However, he gave details about the casualties suffered by Pak troops.

to visit on 7th

ISLAMPUR, Aug. 5 (UNI):- Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will visit the Line of Control (LoC) on 7th to see for himself the damage because of the firing. Mr Sharif will visit the Chakoti post and the Kashmir main road leading to Baramulla. Talking to veteran Kashmiri leader and former "Prime Minister" of Jammu and Kashmir Abdul Quyyum Khan, Sharif said he was planning to shorten a meeting of the Kashmir leaders to discuss the situation on LoC. He informed the Kashmiri leader that he will talk with Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in which he stated that no positive result has been achieved to ease the strained relations.

seeks forces to fight ultras

DEHRADUN, Aug. 4 (PTI):- Himachal Pradesh government on Wednesday sought more security forces along the state's border with Jammu to curb infiltration from neighbouring Doda district. Chief Minister Amarinder Singh also demanded surveillance once a week in the rear areas of the state to counter the threat. He announced an ex gratia Rs 50,000 to the next of kin of those killed in yesterday's massacre of 35 Jammu Kashmiri militants, the first in the state. A sum of Rs 10,000 would be given to the injured. The bodies were placed before a visiting team, deputed to take stock of the situation here, following the killings.

A apologises for conduct

NEW DELHI, Aug. 5 (UNI):- Peace was restored to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly with Shiv Sena member Bala Patil's untidy behaviour in the House on Wednesday when he was involved in a scuffle with a Congress member leading to pan-chaos and eight adjournments.

Unconditional apology

This has reference to the news item published in The Hitavada (MP-Line Page C, July 4, 1998) which reported certain statements made by Mr Rajendra Sail, National Organising Secretary of the People's Union for Civil Liberties, referring to Madhya Pradesh High Court judgment in the Shankar Guha Niyogi murder case.

The statements attributed motives to the judiciary and used language that should not have been reported. The news item was filed by the Bhilai Bureau of The Hitavada and was dealt with at a lower level and hence escaped the filters that should have stopped it from publication. It was an editorial lapse for which we are deeply sorry and convey our sincere and unconditional apologies to the Madhya Pradesh High Court in general and the honourable judges Mr. Justice S.K. Dubey and Ms. Justice Usha Shukla whose names were mentioned in the report in particular.

We once again reiterate that The Hitavada has always had highest respect for judiciary at all levels and had no malafide intention while reporting the news item. Even though we admit to the lapse, we would wish to let the Honourable High Court, members of the Bar, as well as our readers know that those who dealt with the news item thought they were acting in public interest by bringing to light the bad things being spoken about judiciary. There never was any intention to malign the judiciary or cause pain to the individual judges. Still, it cannot be denied that by amplifying such views, the image and the sentiment of the judiciary were hurt. The responsibility for the act remains ours and we own it fully and unreservedly.

In order that such things are not repeated, The Hitavada has instituted even more stringent internal procedures to keep a check on all news reports pertaining to the judiciary as well as those affecting reputation of common man. We wish to assure that The Hitavada stands for good journalism and would never intentionally do anything that brings any of the country's public institution into disrepute, least of all the judiciary which is one of the beacons of hope in present troubled times.

We once again convey our sincere regrets and apologise unconditionally for the embarrassment caused to all concerned.

-Editor

Consortium to pay State 1 per cent of diamond price

BHOPAL, Aug. 5 (PTI):- The Madhya Pradesh Minister for Mineral Resources, Bisahu Lal Singh on Wednesday said in the State Assembly that the Mumbai-based Ms B Vijaykumar Diamond Consortium would give 12 per cent of the money earned through sales of diamonds to the State government.

The Minister, who in a suo motto eight-page statement dwelt at length on the process which had led to the selection of the consortium for working in the Diamond mines in one block in Raipur district.

He said that this would be in addition to the normal one per cent royalty that would be received by the State government.

Singh said the other highlights of the proposal given to the State government by the consortium include payment of Rs. 20 per carat for Local Area

Development Fund.

His statement led to an uproar in the Assembly as BJP members said the Diamond mining issue figured in the party's chargesheet for the no-confidence motion against the Digvijay Singh government. This led to noisy scenes in the House, forcing the speaker Srinivas Tiwari to adjourn the House for some time.

The Minister said the consortium would form a joint venture company with the State Mining Corporation.

He said that in the new company, the State Corporation would have an unsubscribed equity of 11 per cent which meant that it would get 11 per cent capital without making any investment.

The Minister said the consortium would also set up units for cutting and polishing diamonds in the state.

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