



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY**  
**NAGPUR BENCH, NAGPUR**

**Writ Petition No.7480 of 2017**

*“AjachaSudharak” a publication, through its Publisher Shri Bharat D. Mohoni, Nagpur*

vs.

*Union of India, through its Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Information  
Technology, New Delhi and others*

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*Office notes, Office Memoranda of  
Coram, appearances, Court's orders  
or directions and Registrar's orders.*

*Court's or Judge's Orders*

*Mr. A.O. Shriwas, Advocate for the Petitioner.*

*Mr. S.A. Chaudhari, Advocate for the Respondents.*

**CORAM : ANIL L. PANSARE & NIVEDITA P. MEHTA, JJ.**

**DATE : 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2026.**

The petitioner–Newspaper is before us, aggrieved by the communication dated 23/02/2017 issued by respondent No.2 raising objection in connection with postal registration and imposing a penalty of Rs.3,34,800/- for the period from January, 2006 to September, 2016.

02. The argument is that no such certification is required. The learned Counsel for the respondents has invited our attention to the Guidelines/Consolidated Ruling, dated 05/05/2008, issued by the Government of India, Ministry of communication and Information Technology Department of Posts, New Delhi. Clause (b) of Rule 23 provides a clarification, which reads thus:

**“(b) RNI Number and Postal Registration Number:**

*All newspapers have to register themselves with Registrar of Newspapers of India (RNI) under Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. RNI number is allotted by the Registrar After RNI Registration, the newspaper has to separately register Itself with the competent Postal Authority and get Postal Registration if it wishes to avail concessional postage rates.*

.....”

03. Thus, the first part of clause (b) provides for Registrar of Newspapers of India under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. Undisputedly, the petitioner has registered itself under the provisions of the said Act. The controversy revolves around the latter part of clause (b), which provides that after RNI Registration, the Newspaper has to separately register itself with the competent Postal Authority and get Postal Registration, if it wishes to avail concessional postage rates. According to the petitioner, the law does not provide for such registration.

04. We have gone through the provisions of the Act of 1867 to find that no such provision is made. The learned Counsel for the respondents, however, seeks time to take instructions.

05. Time, as sought, is granted.

06. List on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2026.

**(Nivedita P. Mehta, J.)**

**(Anil L. Pansare, J.)**

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