

To ,

Dated 26.06.2015

- 1) M/s. Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.
(Times of India),
Having its Office at Plot No.8-2-351,
Road No.3, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad-500034
Represented by its Resident Editor,
Mr. Kingshuk Nag
- 2) Ms. Christina Francis
Editor, Hyderabad Times
M/s. Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.
(Times of India),
Having its Office at Plot No.8-2-351,
Road No.3, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad-500034
- 3) Ms. K.Samyuktha
Correspondent, Hyderabad Times, (Times of India)
M/s. Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.
Having its Office at Plot No.8-2-351,
Road No.3, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad-500034.

Dear Sir/Madam,

“Art @ Telangana”, a registered Trust, having its office at D4 Block, Flat No 105, Shanthi Shikara Apartments, Somajiguda, Raj Bhavan Rpad, Hyderabad, (hereinafter referred to as “Our Client”) has instructed us to issue the following notice:-

1. That you have published a prominent news item in Hyderabad Times on 25th June, 2015 under the heading “Japan junket leaves Telangana art frat fuming” & “Secret mission to Japan” which news item is replete with falsities and is in total distortion of facts.

2. It is inter-alia alleged in the report as follows:

- i. that the Trust has selected a group of Artists in an adhoc manner for participation in a camp in Japan. It is further contended that such Artists being taken on Government expenses and purports to allege that a few Artists such as Laxman Aelay, Priyanka Aelay, Anand Gadapa, Nirmala, Bharat, Priti Samyukta and Masuram have been selected for the camp.
- ii. that it looks whole exercise to promote Artists from the same Caste and keep money within the same community.
- iii. that in the name of the book, the Trust has laundered a lot of money from different sources.

3. All the allegations made in the said news paper published by addressee No.1 represented by addressee No.2 and its correspondent addressee No.3 are completely incorrect, baseless and false. Thus the report is a malicious and a motivated act with an unlawful intention on your part to cause deliberate harm and knowing fully well and intending to bring down the reputation our client.

4. Even without indicating the persons who made such statement and without verifying the veracity and genuineness of the contents, and contrary to the clear information conveyed to you the addressee No 3 Ms K.Samyuktha, Correspondent of addressee No 1, when she met one of our client's Trustees Mr Papa Rao, the prominent news item was published making various libellous and defamatory statements. The news item does not, therefore, has any characteristics of being a *bona fide* reporting but, was mischievously and deliberately aimed causing harm to our client's reputation.

5. The said news item has been published despite being aware that the Art @ Telangana is purely a private Trust which is being run entirely on the Trustees and few well wishers contribution. There has been no Government

grant and nothing has been run on Government expenses. On the contrary substantial contribution have been made by the Trustees personally in terms of time effort and money for promoting the cause of the Art in Telganana.

6. Hence, the report published by you is clearly a deliberate attempt to defame our client in an unlawful and incorrect manner. The news item published by you was intended to communicate to several people absolutely false and misleading information with the sole intention to harm the reputation of our client. The clear intent to tarnish the reputation and image of our client is also evident by the fact that you the addressee No 3 were well aware that no artist has been selected and also verified the letter addressed by one our client's trustee who requested the Indian Ambassador to Japan to select the artists. Having verified the letter, you have carried out defamatory publication, which has caused tremendous distress and anxiety to our client's trustees.

7. In view of the above facts it is clear that you have deliberately carried out publication with false and defamatory allegations concerning our client and its trustees causing immense loss to their repute resulting in pain and agony. Our client and its trustees enjoy very high reputation and are highly respected persons in the society. Our client's trustees and office bearers have been questioned by several relatives, friends, acquaintances and well wishers inquiring and questioning about the publication caused by you. This has caused tremendous distress, anxiety and defamation to our client and its trustees. That though the said damage is incalculable in terms of money, our client conservatively estimates the damage cost to our client at Rs.10 Crores.

Therefore, take notice that unless within 15 days

- a) you cause a publication withdrawing the illegal and defamatory publication carried out in your news paper on 25.6.2015, and;
- b) tender an unconditional written apology to our client and,
- c) furnish the names of the person/s who you allege to have made the statements against our client and,
- d) furnish names of artists who made derogatory cartoons/caricatures in the said publication,

failing which our client would be constrained to initiate appropriate criminal and civil steps against you for the above said acts including the claiming of damages conservatively estimated as Rs.10 Crores by holding you responsible for the cost and consequences thereof.

G.ASHOK REDDY
ADVOCATE