



2026:AHC:62794-DB

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

WRIT - C No. - 44086 of 2025

M/S Amar Ujala Limited

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

State Of U.P.And Another

.....Respondent(s)

Counsel for Petitioner(s) : Hira Lal Yadav, Sunil Kumar
Counsel for Respondent(s) : C.S.C.

Court No. - 1

**HON'BLE AJIT KUMAR, J.
HON'BLE VIVEK SARAN, J.**

1. Heard Sri Rakesh Pande, learned counsel Advocate, assisted by Sri Sunil Kumar, learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri Mukul Tripathi, learned Standing Counsel for the State respondents.

2. By means of this petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution, the petitioner has questioned the authority of the District Magistrate, Sambhal in passing the order dated 15.10.2025, whereby they have refused to cooperate with the publication, namely News Daily Amar Ujala and the result is that they are not being given the government advertisements. It is contended that this action on part of the respondents is quite discriminatory, especially in the circumstances when they had already issued a corrigendum publication regarding the earlier news item published in the matter of dispute at Gurudwara in the daily edition of News Daily dated 16.9.2025. It is contended that after the Commissioner had passed the order on 16.9.2025, corrigendum was issued by way of highlighting clarificatory stand taken by the publisher in the daily edition of the News Daily on 18.9.2025. It is submitted that though the order was to be complied with during the interregnum period between 16.9.2025 and 18.9.2025, a letter got written to the District Magistrate and the Police Officer, Sambhal and all the divisional officers of Moradabad Division at the end of Commissioner on 17.9.2025 regarding correction to be made in the act and conduct of the publisher and the District Magistrate without verifying the clarificatory publication made on 18.9.2025, passed the impugned order.

3. Considering the pleadings raised in this petition and the documents brought on record, particularly the argument advanced that the authorities had no such power vested with them to pass such kind of orders, this Court on 15.12.2025 passed following order: -

" Heard Sri K.K.Mehrtora, learned Senior Advocate assisted by Sri Sunil Kumar, learned counsel for the petitioner and Ms. Rajlaxmi, learned Standing Counsel for the State respondents.

It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that there was no objectionable publication in news item in the daily news Amar Ujala, Apna Sahar, Rampur dated 18th September 2025 which could have warranted action by District Administration by passing order impugned.

After perusing news item which has brought on record as annexure 6 to the petition, upon pointed query being made as to how order passed by Commissioner as well as consequential order passed by District Magistrate, Sambhal is sustainable.

Learned Standing Counsel seeks time to have instructions in the matter.

Put up this matter on 18.12.2025.

4. Today, Sri Mukul Tripathi, learned Standing Counsel has placed the instructions before the Court, according to which, the petitioner has been issued a notice on 17.12.2025 and it is upon furnishing the explanation and appearing before the District Magistrate that appropriate orders would be passed.

5. Having heard learned counsel for the respective parties and having perused the records and instructions placed before the Court, copy of which has also been supplied to learned counsel for the petitioner, we find it to be quite a trivial issue now at this stage when the Commissioner's directions contained in the order dated 16.9.2025 have got literally complied with in the publication of the News Daily edition of 18.9.2025. We are also impressed by the argument advanced by learned Senior Advocate that there is a forum available to the authorities to approach against the publisher and any dictatorial order like the one that has been passed, would certainly be impeaching upon the autonomy of the Fourth

State.

6. Therefore, we direct that in the event the petitioner moves a fresh application pursuant to the notice dated 17.12.2025 within two weeks from today along with certified copy of this order, the District Magistrate shall pass an order upon it taking a pragmatic view in the matter, considering the corrections made by the publisher itself in the publication of News Daily dated 18.9.2025, within a period of one week thereafter.

7. The petition is **disposed** of accordingly.

(Vivek Saran,J.) (Ajit Kumar,J.)

March 25, 2026

Jaideep/-