



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
OLD SECRETARIAT, DELHI 110054.**

No.24/3/P&H/2020/LAS-VII/Leg.

Date 28.08.2020

To

Sh. Awesh Tiwari,
Raipur, Chhattisgarh
awesh29@gmail.com.

Subject: Notice for Appearance before the Delhi Legislative Assembly's Committee on Peace and Harmony, NCT of Delhi.

The Delhi Legislative Assembly's committee on 'Peace and Harmony', headed by Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, Mr. Raghav Chadha as its chairman along with other Hon'ble members of the Legislative Assembly, assisting and facilitating the state's endeavor to maintain and promote an irenic atmosphere in the city as well as establishing a conducive milieu of concordance, peace and pacification amongst different communities residing in NCT of Delhi.

Through the receipt of recent complaints, the committee has been intimated alleged instances of intentional omission and deliberate inaction on the part of social media platform- Facebook to enforce its policies against Inflammatory and hateful contents and alleged larger conspiracy involving said social media platform, drawing support from the news report published by The Wall Street Journal on 14.08.2020, titled as '*Facebook's Hate-Speech Rules Collide With Indian Politics*'. It has been alleged in the complaints that the Facebook, despite its comprehensive policies and regulations on curbing unabated dissemination of hateful and offensive content, in place, has been turning a blind eye to mass manufacturing and propagation of vile, hateful communal content which are not only bad in taste but allegedly have potential to erupt violence and riot like situation. More so, the article also exposes alleged explicit resistance posed by one, Ms. Ankhi Das, in the capacity of Facebook's top Public Policy Director, for applying the hate speech rules to some politician and other "Hindu nationalist individuals and groups", despite the fact that the content posted by these individuals or groups had been "flagged internally for promoting violence".

It has also come to this committee's notice that you, the addressee, have filed an FIR at Raipur against Ms. Ankhi Das and two other individuals eliciting serious and grave allegations against Facebook. Pertinently, you have thrown light to another perspective of the alleged insincerity of the Facebook and thus your inputs are extremely significant in enabling the committee to dissect the multiple layers of the issue in question. The committee also takes note that you are not based in Delhi. Pursuantly, your appearance through Video Conferencing before the committee shall be deemed appropriate.

Having regards to the gravity of the matter, the committee on "Peace and Harmony" under the Chairmanship of Hon' be MLA Sh. Raghav Chadha has promptly taken cognizance of allegations after carefully vetting the complaints. In view thereof, the committee call you, the addressee, as an independent witness for testifying on oath before the committee for rendering your assistance with a view to enable us in smoothly expediting the determination of the veracity of allegations levelled against Facebook in the complaints submitted to the committee. It is also requested that any relevant material/document pertaining to the issue at hand be kept available with yourself at the time of your deposition and may be also sent to the committee's email address at dvscommittee@delhi.gov.in In pursuance thereof, we hereby summon you, the addressee, to appear(virtually) before the committee on **31st August, 2020 at 10.30 A.M** at Delhi Vidhan Sabha, for the purpose of recording your deposition on oath and participating in the proceedings carried out by the committee.

Committee on Peace and Harmony
NCT of Delhi