

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

Civil Writ Petition No. 615 of 2020 (O&M)

Date of decision : January 20, 2020

Younus Alvi

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana and others

....Respondents

CORAM:- HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE LISA GILL

Present: Mr. Mohammad Arshad, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Rohit Arya, AAG, Haryana.

LISA GILL, J.

This writ petition has been filed impugning communication dated 21.10.2019 as well as order 03.12.2019. The petitioner is claimed to be a Journalist working with the newspaper 'Amar Ujala' since October, 1999 and 'STV Haryana news TV Aaj Tak' since April, 2006.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is a recognized journalist in STV Haryana news TV, affiliated with Public Communication Department, Chandigarh, Haryana Government and he has been working in a honest and dedicated manner. Communication dated 21.10.2019 was issued by the Deputy Commissioner-cum-DEO, Nuh to Director General, Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana asking him to cancel press accreditation of the petitioner, in view of the certain Facebook posts. Thereafter, order dated 03.12.2019 was passed by the Director, Information, Public Relations and Languages, Haryana cancelling press accreditation of the petitioner. It is submitted that accreditation of the petitioner has been cancelled without even affording an opportunity of hearing to him in terms of Rule 6.(1)(d) of the Haryana Media accreditation Amendment Rules, 2017.

Learned counsel for the State who had been directed to seek instructions to the extent whether notice was issued to the petitioner, prior to passing of order dated 03.12.2019, on instructions, submits that notice was indeed not issued to the petitioner before passing of order dated 03.12.2019.

Keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the case, order dated 03.12.2019 is set aside with liberty to the competent authority to pass a fresh order after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner in accordance with rules. Needless to say, there is no expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

Accordingly, the present writ petition is disposed of.

January 20, 2020
rts

(Lisa Gill)
Judge

Whether speaking/reasoned :	Yes/No
Whether reportable :	Yes/No