

SPEECH FOR THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEGHALAYA EDITORS PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION (MEPA)

Dear Friends,

My sincere greetings to all of you present here today.

First of all, I must thank the Meghalaya Editors' and Publishers' association (MEPA) for inviting me to this function. This is the first time that I was invited to be with you on the occasion of your Annual General Meeting. I hope you must have discussed many fruitful things during your Business Session in the morning as could be understood by your resolutions announced by the General Secretary.

I am told that MEPA is an apex body of newspapers, magazines, tabloids, periodicals, news agencies, electronic media and portals emanating from Meghalaya. The common goal of this organisation established in 1973 is to serve the people of the state through truthful dissemination of news and views.

The role of print and electronic media and especially the small and vernacular newspapers cannot be underestimated.

Personally, I find that the local print and electronic media of Meghalaya are quite lively and vibrant despite financial and other difficulties that they may be facing. The only request I want to make them through MEPA is to upgrade the depth of news reporting, news coverage of rural Meghalaya and presentation skills. There is a lot of scope for improvement on journalists' professionalism here.

The fundamental objective of journalism is to serve the people with news, views, comments and information on matters of public interest in a fair, accurate, unbiased and decent manner and language. It has assumed the foremost importance in society and governance. With so much power and strength, the media cannot lose sight of its privileges, duties and obligations.

The media should ensure objectivity and fairness in reporting and keep in mind its cascading effect on the society and on the individuals and institutions concerned. They should always maintain a balance in their writing. One should always ensure that what they are reporting is a true incident. A journalist should do thorough and deep study about the situation before reporting. The journalists will be respected in the long run if they give correct and appropriate news.

I am personally interested in journalism. It should progress and elevate. There was a period when investigative journalism helped our country a lot.

What is the future of journalism? While we are concentrating on Investigative Journalism, we must also focus on Inspirational journalism. Common men should get inspiration for education, employment, healthcare, travel, tourism, social work through the media. Let us elevate journalism to new heights.

In the daily newspaper, at least one page should be allocated for positive information, real incidents and news. You can also allot the front page for some positive news which would brighten the day of the readers.

On my part, I give all my support and best wishes to MEPA in its future endeavours and if you need any help you are free to come to me at any time. My doors are always open. I will definitely help you with whatever I can within my capacity.

Thank you once again for inviting me.
