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SUPREME COURT

Free Speech Shielded

Supreme Court Orders Cops to Pause Before Filing FIRs Over Words and Art

Sheikh Rayees • March 29, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a ruling that sharpens the line between dissent and crime, the Supreme Court has stepped in to stop the growing trend of knee-jerk criminal cases against speech, poetry, and opinion. From now on, if someone is accused of an offence punishable by three to seven years in prison—and if that accusation involves speech or expression—police must first conduct a preliminary inquiry before even thinking about filing an FIR. This...

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