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SUPREME COURT

SC Slams Shortcut

Magistrates Can't Tell Police Who to Charge—Summons Must Stand Alone

Sheikh Rayees • March 21, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a clear message to lower courts, the Supreme Court has ruled that magistrates cannot play director in the police's investigative script by ordering them to add names to a charge sheet. If a court believes someone should face trial but hasn't been named by police, the proper route is not a behind-the-scenes rewrite—it's a formal summons. This came during a case involving a man named Gopal Pradhan, whose name...

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