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SC issues contempt notice to Maha Assembly Secy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday issued show cause notice to the secretary of Maharash-

tra Assembly asking him to explain in two weeks as to why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against him for his letter to Arnab Goswami cautioning him against disclosing House notice to the Supreme Court.

Granting protection from arrest to Goswami in the

breach of privilege motion case, a bench headed by CJI S A Bobde took strong note of the October 13 letter.

"This is a serious matter and amounts to contempt. The

above statements are unprecedented and have a tendency to bring the administration of justice into disrepute and in any case may amount to di-

rect interference in the administration of justice," the bench observed.

The SC said the assembly secretary would, have been well-advised to understand that "the right to approach this court under Article 32 of the Constitution of India is itself a fundamental right". If a citi-

zen is deterred in any way from approaching this court in the exercise of this right, it would amount to serious interference in the administration of justice, it added.



Intention of the author of the letter seems to be to intimidate the petitioner because he approached this court and to threaten him with penalty for doing so

SC bench