

Speed Post / Email

February 28, 2023

<b>Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade</b> Email: jeetghorpade@gmail.com	<b>Ms. Kshipra Jatana</b> Compliance Officer NBDSA TV18 Broadcast Ltd. Express Trade Tower, Plot No. 15 & 16, Sector 16A Film City, <b>Noida – 201301</b> Email: Kshipra.Jatana@nw18.com
<b>Citizens for Justice and Peace</b> Nirant, Juhu Tara Road, Juhu, Santacruz (West) <b>Mumbai – 400 049</b> Email: cjpindia@gmail.com	

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Order of NBDSA on Complaint (No. 252) and (No. 267) dated 6.10.2022 and 10.10.2022 from Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade and Citizens for Justice and Peace against News18 India for airing a programme on 4.10.2022**

Attached please find a common Order dated February 27, 2023, passed by the News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA).

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



Annie Joseph  
For and on behalf of the  
News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority

Encl: As above

**News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority**

**Order No. 157 (2023)**

**Complainants: Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade & Citizens for Justice & Peace**

**Programme: Desh Nahi Jhukne Denge**

**Broadcaster: News18 India**

**Date of Broadcast: 4.10.2022**

Since the complainants were not satisfied with the response received from the broadcaster, the complaints were escalated to the second level of redressal, i.e., NBDSA.

**1. Complaint filed by Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade:**

The complaint dated 6.10.2022 was in respect of a show aired on News18 India on 4.10.2022. The complainant stated that in the impugned programme, the channel celebrated police violence by calling it “*police ki dandiya*”. Not only had the channel failed to sufficiently condemn the violence but it also repeatedly aired visuals glorifying the violence. The channel also inaccurately and unfairly declared the alleged stone pelters as being guilty of the crime.

The complainant stated that by connecting stone pelting with *jihad* and by making negative generalised statements about young Muslim men, including accusing them of engaging in crimes or suspicious behaviour at garba events, the channel had tarnished the image of the Muslim community. In view of the above, the complainant stated that the impugned show aired by the broadcaster had violated NBDSA’s guidelines around depiction of violence, religious harmony, accuracy, neutrality and fairness.

**Reply from the broadcaster:**

The broadcaster in its reply dated 14.10.2022, denied the allegations made in the complaint and clarified that its programme was entirely consistent with the applicable NBDSA’s guidelines/advisories and applicable laws. It stated that the complaint had been made without going through the contents of the programme in its entirety.

The impugned programme was based upon the widely reported incident of stone pelting and subsequent police action, which took place during the occasion of garba in Khera District of Gujarat. At the beginning of the programme itself, the anchor stated that police should not have taken law unto itself and indulged in the beating of some accused miscreants’ who were allegedly involved in the stone pelting incident at the event. Further, during the debate, the anchor also sought the panellists’ views on how the police could take the law unto its hands and resort to beating the accused. The anchor also clearly stated that the allegations of stone pelting were being levelled against persons who were seen getting beaten by the police.



In response to the specific allegation regarding the use of the phrase '*Police Ka Dandiya*', the broadcaster stated that it had used the aforesaid phrase in reference to the incident that had transpired and the actions of police which in itself were questionable, as pointed by the anchor during the debate. It vehemently denied that the said phrase was used to convey a sort of celebration of the police action. During the course of the programme, at the various intervals, it was categorically stated that the persons beaten up by the police were accused of pelting stones during the garba festival.

The broadcaster denied the complainant's allegations that it had through the impugned programme given the issue a communal angle. It stated that during the programme, it had merely reported the issue as it had taken place and also sought opinions on the same from the panel in the debate. The debate also questioned and let the public decide if the police action on the accused was right, even if they were allegedly involved in the stone pelting incident.

#### **Decision of NBDSA at its meeting on 28.10.2022**

NBDSA considered the complaint in respect of the programme aired on 4.10.2022, response from the broadcaster and viewed the footage of the broadcast. NBDSA decided to call the broadcaster and the complainant for a hearing.

#### **Hearing**

On being served with notices the following persons were present at the hearing on 11.11.2022:

#### **Complainant:**

Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade

#### **Broadcaster:**

Mr. Puneesh Kochar, Counsel

Mr. Praveen Shrivastava, Associate Executive Producer – Editorial

#### **Submission of the Complainant:**

The complainant submitted that the impugned broadcast emanated from a viral video of an incident that took place in Khera District of Gujarat. In the video a group of men in plain clothes, presumably police officers, publicly flogged a group of people after tying them to an electricity pole for allegedly pelting stones at a garba event in Khera.

During the programme, the graphic of a Muslim man holding a stone in his hand, with fire in the background, was continuously broadcast and the following tickers "*Gujarat ke Kheda mein Police ka Dandiya*"; "*Garbe mein nahi aa payein isliye paththar barsaye?*"; "*Garba par paththarbaji, aparadh ya jihaad?*"; "*Hamare garbe mein tumhara kya kaam*"; "*Hinduon ka Garba, Muslimon par pahara*"; "*Kya garbon mein Muslimon ka aana*

*galat hai?"; "Hindu dharmic karyakramon mein aana kya Muslimon ka sanvedhanik aadhikar?"; "Garba mein jyadatar Musalman naam/pehchan badalkar kyon aate hai?"; "Garba mein Muslimon par hindu betiyon ki tasveerein lene ke aarop kyun?"; "Muslim yuvaon ka garba mein aane ka maksad kya hai?"; "Garba mein Muslim ladke hi kyon aate hai? Muslim betiyan kyon nahi?"; "Mazhab chipayenge, ab paththar bhi barsayenge?" and "Toh muslim betiyan shaamil kyun nahi hoti?" were aired.*

The complainant submitted that in the broadcast, the word "jihad" was deliberately used to paint an entire community with the same brush and portray all Muslims as extremists. Further, the allegation that the men who were publicly flogged had pelted stones at the garba event was also presented as facts. The complainant questioned the broadcaster on what basis did it claim during the broadcast that most Muslims attended the garba events after falsifying or concealing their identities.

The complainant submitted that the programme was started by the anchor who said "Audio de dijiye bhai, ambiance de dijiye, ye dekhiye Gujarat Police ka dandiya", "Ye kaun log hai puri kahani sunaunga, pehle ye tasveerein dekh lijiye aap", "Ab ye dekhiye 1, 2, 3, ye 1, 2, giniye aap", "ye garbe mein paththarbaji kar rahe the, police ne dandiye khel diya inke sath", "Inhone Kheda mein majhabi dadagiri se garba karyakram band karvane ki koshish ki, aur fir garba khel rahe loho par paththarbaji ki. aur fir police inhe gaon lekar aai sare aaropiyaon ko aur fir khambe se baandh kar dandiya khela police ne.", "Ye tasveerein Madhya Pradesh se dekhiye, paththarbaji karne walon ko ghar se juda kar diya, matlab sar tan se juda nahi, ghar se juda. Inhone bhi garbe par paththarbaji ki thi aur ab unke ghar par bulldozer chala diya gaya", "Ye jo kheda ne policewalon ne paththarbajon ka ilaaj kiya hai aur paththarbajon ke sath Gujrat Police ka dandiya. Audio up, ambiance up, puri tasveer dekhiye.", "Ab ye karvai sahi hai galat hai, ispar alag debate ho sakti hai" The anchor then asked a Muslim panellist present on the show "Garba target par kyun hai?" and subsequently interrupted the panellists by saying "Kagaaz dikhayenge, andar jayenge. Kagaaz bhi nahi dikhayege, garba mein jayenge, paththar barsayenge, aisa nahi." "Garbe ke alawa koi aur tyohar jisme itna interest ho Muslim yuvakon ka? Aap hairani hoti hai?"

The anchor then asked another Muslim panellist, "Garbe mein itna interest kyun hai Muslim yuvakon ka? Koi aur tyohar mein itna interest nahi hai. Lekin pehchan chupakar kyun jaate hai?" and "Why should Muslim youths not go to Garba." The panellist responded by making a stereotypical statement, "Ye aam taur par apni aurton ko hijab aur burkha pehenate hai", and stated that this was the reason why he thought that Muslim youth should not attend garba events. The panellist further said that Muslim men enjoy watching Hindu women dance, which is why they participate in garba and not in other festivals.

Other panellists also made generalised statements during the programme such as "Muslim bachcho ko bataya jata hai ki art and craft, cultural activity, nachna, gana, haram hai", "Na aap dusri chizon mein bhartiya sanskriti se juda apne aapko paate hai. Jo jahan hindu behene taiyar hokar aakarshak hokar jaati hai, wahan aap kyun jaate ho?", "Na Holi ke rang lagayenge, foran Allah naraaz ho jayega aur woh gohst kaatke aapko garam garam tel mein kadhai



*kein jalaya jayega, lekin Garba mein jaroor jayenge", "Ye jo chichore Musalman ladke hai woh kewal hamari hindu behenon ko dekhne ke liye garba mein ghusna chah rahe hai.", "ID dikhane ke liye aapko problem hai kyunki aapko wahan ladkiyan chhedne ke liye jana hai, love jihad karne ke liye jana hai, aapko wahan apraadh karne ke liye jana hai" and, "I challenge you, tell me about a garba where Muslim men and Muslim women also go, burkha or hijab clad Muslim women". "Ek tarah gala-cut pratiyogita chal rahi hai, hame dar lagta hai ki kahi humne isko wahan par rehne diya ko kahi kisi ka gala kaat kar na chala jaye. Hame iss baat ka darr lagta hai". "Hum liberal hai par bharat mata ki jai nahi bolenge, Hum liberal hai par vande mataram nahi bolenge....Hum liberal hai par hamari behene ganesh puja karti hai toh uske khilaf fatwa jaari kar denge, ye hai inki liberal ki definition, hum garba mein jayenge, paththar bhi fenge, naachti behenon ki lower angle se photo bhi lenge, video bhi banayenge, phir bhi Hum liberal hai, Hum liberal hai kyunki hum islam ko maante hai, Hum liberal hai kyunki hum thook kar dusron ko khilayenge"*

The complainant further submitted that apart from the panellists even the anchor made generalised statements during the programme by saying, "Ye jo (Muslim) log hai jo garbe mein jaate hai, ye vande mataram, ganpati bappa morya, jai shree ram. kyun nahi bolte? Inko garbe ki aarti mein interest nahi hai". "Koi aur ek aisa Hindu tyohar ho, jisme itni aastha hon Muslim yuvakon ki, bataiye koi? Jahan ghusne ke liye jhuth bhi bolenge" and forced a Muslim panellist to say "Jai Shree Ram".

### **Questions raised by NBDSA during the hearing**

After hearing the submissions, NBDSA stated that while the broadcaster had a right to conduct a debate on the viral video, how did it conclude that the men filmed in the video were miscreants who belonged to the Muslim community. NBDSA also asked the broadcaster to explain what was wrong with the participation of members of other religious communities in garba celebrations and on what basis did the broadcaster presume that Muslim women do not attend garba events. Further, NBDSA also questioned the broadcaster on how it could condemn the participation of members of Muslim community in a garba event.

### **Submissions of the Broadcaster**

The broadcaster submitted that the impugned broadcast was based on a statement made by the Khera Police that those who were publicly flogged in the video were miscreants who were accused of stone pelting at a garba event. In the impugned programme, it too had informed the viewers that the men being publicly flogged in the video were accused of trying to stop a garba event and on their failure to do so, had hurled stones at the event, as a result of which six women were harmed. In view of the above, the broadcaster questioned how the impugned broadcast could be considered to be communal in nature or said to target the Muslim community.

The broadcaster denied targeting the Muslim community in the impugned programme. It reiterated that during the programme, it had repeatedly condemned the actions of the police officials and stated that the officials did not have the authority to harm any individual.

It submitted that the ticker *"Police ne khela dandiya"* impugned in the complaint was merely a wordplay and could not be connected with the entire Muslim community. That the ticker *"Humare garbe main kyu aate hain"*, was based on statements made by the Samiti and the Culture Minister of Madhya Pradesh, who questioned why members of the Muslim community attended the garba events.

The broadcaster stated that the impugned programme was conducted based on the demand raised by the Samiti, requiring the attendees to show their identity proof before attending the event. Further, it submitted that it had also become aware that one of the miscreants had falsified his name from *'Salman'* to *'Raju'* to gain entry into the celebrations. Therefore, it submitted that the impugned broadcast only targeted men who were harassing women at the Garba event and did not target the Muslim community as alleged.

In respect of ticker *"Kya muslimano ka garbe main aana galat hai"*, the broadcaster submitted that it had only raised a question in the broadcast and had not passed any judgment on the same. Further, during the broadcast this question was also raised by the anchor to the panellists for their response. Since there were allegations that Muslim men were attending the event in order to take pictures of the women without their consent, it had raised the question *"Garba mein Muslimon par hindu betiyon ki tasveerein lene ke aarop kyun?"* in the ticker. That it was reported that people who had organized the garba events had alleged that such miscreants were attending the event in order to hamper the celebrations.

The broadcaster was asked by NBDSA whether it did not have the responsibility to ensure that its programmes do not inflame communal tensions, the broadcaster in response stated that as a responsible channel it had only reported the events as they had transpired. NBDSA thereafter asked the broadcaster whether it had also run a programme questioning the legitimacy of the police violence. The broadcaster reiterated that it had not condoned or celebrated the actions of the police officials. Further, the channel had also reported on the investigation into the actions of the police officials in a later broadcast.

In rebuttal, the complainant submitted that in the impugned programme police violence was glorified. Further, he reiterated that the anchor at the end of the broadcast coerced a Muslim Panellist to chant *"Jai Shri Ram"*. The complainant also invited the attention of the Authority to several broadcasts aired by the broadcaster which had similar communal tilt.

A similar complaint had been filed by Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) in respect of the same programme dated 4.10.2022 broadcast by the same broadcaster.





## 2. Complaint filed by Citizens for Justice & Peace:

The complainant vide complaint dated 10.10.2022 raised its concerns over a hate-filled and inflammatory show aired on News India 18 on 4.10.2022.

### About the show

At the outset, the complainant stated that the impugned show, was an example of a brazen display of hatred towards one community merely over questioning their entry into Navratra garba pandals. Through the entire debate, the panelists brought into question not just the various principles of Islam as a religion but also mocked speakers belonging to the Muslim community by asking them to hail Hindus gods on national television.

### What the show entailed

The show started with the host visibly cheering the Gujarat Police for beating men publicly with a stick for allegedly having pelted stones at a Garba event. The host then said, "*Aapko Gujarat Police ka Dandiya dikhate hai*" and cheered them as the beatings continued and the victims, visibly pained and begged for mercy by saying "please forgive us". The host then repeatedly stated, "*Gujarat Police ne unnke saath dandiya khela*" and "*Gujarat police ne unka ilaaj kiya*". The complainant stated that by openly encouraging such unlawful acts right in the beginning of the show, clearly indicated what kind of narrative was to follow.

The host then started the "debate" by taking the opinions of the speakers where one of the speakers, speaking about celebration of festivals together said that be it any festival, Hindus and Muslims should respect them and celebrate together because in this country we live together with love. The host then egged him on, by saying "*Koi aur tyohar garba kea lava jisme interest ho muslim ladko ka?*". At one point the two speakers belonging to Muslim community even pointed out that other festivals like *Holi* and *Raksha bandhan* are also celebrated by all, but the host was not interested in taking the same point forward.

Since the speaker said that festivals should be celebrated together, the host commented, "*Karnatak ke idgah me ganesh utsav nahi manane dia tha.. tab kaha gaya tha secularism*". The point of issue here was not collective or joint celebration but the perceived super-imposition of one faith on the minority place of worship. However, throughout the debate, the host openly forced one of the speakers to say *Jai Shri Ram*. He also made a generalized, even stereo-typical statement against Islam by saying, "*Vande Mataram bhi Islam me varjit ho jata hai*". He then questioned the speaker "*Aisa kya mil raha hai garbe me ki Islam ki sari rigidness khatam ho jati hai?*".

The host then forced the speaker to speak on behalf of those Muslims who go to play/dance the *garba* to say where their faith lies; whether they are followers of Islam or do they believe in Ma Durga. Despite the speaker refusing to speak on behalf of them, the host pushed him and asked him repeatedly to answer for somebody else's faith or belief.

Further, the debate veered away to Gyanvyapi mosque dispute which is a sub-judice matter and then to Ayodhya Ram Mandir, both of which were controversial and completely unrelated to the topic which was sought to be debated upon. This clearly indicated that the news point was merely an excuse for bringing divisive view points to the fore in the midst of a festival, to egg people on and incite them against the Muslim community.

The objective of the debate from the very beginning was amply clear that the host wanted to pitch Hindus against Muslims using incidents of alleged stone pelting during *garba* celebration in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh stating that stones were pelted by Muslim boys or that they tried to enter *garba pandals* (stages or platforms for the dance) by changing their names or identity. Through the show, the principles and tenets of Islam were brought to question, faith of people of Muslim community who wish to celebrate *garba* was brought to question, the unlawful action of the Police flogging Muslim men and holding them to a pole was lauded and tickers (as mentioned above) severely hurting religious sentiments were flashed throughout the show. In the broadcast, an overall a narrative of a divisive nature was created.

The complainant stated that there was not an iota of doubt that the intention of the host was to incite Hindus against the Muslim minority by questioning why Muslims should get involved in *garba* celebrations, by justifying the unlawful police action of flogging Muslim men publicly, by picking one or two incidents to show that Muslims are acting against Hindus by stone pelting or by entering *garba* celebrations to eve tease Hindu girls, by posing baseless questions like why Muslim girls do not celebrate *garba*.

The opening remark itself were brazenly divisive and the narrative of the show carried on with the same to a whole another level. The host made no attempts to mask his and his channel's prejudice against Islam and its followers or his brazen attempts to openly pitch Hindus against Muslims.

Through the content of the show, the complainant stated that the broadcaster had acted in complete violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards and other guidelines pertaining to maintenance of religious harmony.

In view of the above, the complainant stated that the broadcaster should remove impugned programme from all social media accounts & website, and issue a public apology for the communal reportage.

**Complaint dated 22.10.2022 filed with NBDSA and rejoinder dated 28.10.2022:**

The complainant stated that the broadcaster had in its response clearly stated that the impugned programme was based upon the widely reported incident of stone pelting and subsequent police action which took place during the occasion of *garba* in Khera District of Gujarat. That it had merely reported the whole issue as it had



taken place and had also sought the opinions on the same from the panel in the debate. However, the complainant stated that it would like to emphasize on the fact that the host had brought in his own personal biases while “debating” on a communally conflicted issue on the national television. Through the entire debate, the Members of the panel brought into question not just the various principles of Islam as a religion but also mocked speakers belonging to the Muslim community by asking them to hail Hindus gods on national television.

In addition to this, in its response, the channel stated that at the beginning of the programme itself, the anchor had stated that police should not have taken law unto itself and indulged in the beating of some ‘accused miscreants’ persons who were involved in the stone pelting incident at the event. However, the complainant reiterated that the show started with the host visibly cheering the Gujarat Police for beating men publicly with a stick for allegedly having pelted stones at a garba event. Since the beginning, the host had brazenly polarized the issue, attempted to create a communal divide and put forth questions with the aim of targeting a minority community in a democracy.

Regarding the phrase ‘*Gujarat Police Ka Dandiya*’, the complainant stated that in its response the broadcaster had stated that the said phrase was used in reference to the incident that had transpired pursuant to the event and on the actions of police which in itself was questionable, as pointed by the anchor during the debate. However, the complainant rejected the explanation offered by the broadcaster as during the impugned show, the host had openly encouraged such unlawful acts right from the beginning of the show, which clearly indicated what kind of narrative was to follow. The host visibly lauded the police for flogging Muslim men publicly by calling it ‘dandiya.’ At no point did the host imply or state that the action of the police was unlawful neither did he question such illegal acts of the police and was instead glorifying the act by calling it ‘dandiya’, making a mockery of the misery of the victims.

The narrative of the “debate” show was to depict that Muslim youths have some ulterior motive behind getting involved in garba celebrations being organized by the Hindu community, thereby creating divisions along communal lines and spreading their hate agenda. The tone and tenor of the show was not of neutrality but of putting doubts in the mind of the audience regarding the intentions of the Muslim men wanting to be a part of the garba celebrations.

The channel’s malafide intentions were also clear from the language used throughout the show and the comments displayed such as “*Hamare garba me tumhara kya kaam hai*” or from raising the issue of Ayodhya Ram Mandir and Gyanvapi Mosque dispute, and pitching the Hindu community against the Muslim community. Even the comments made by the host were objectionable and brazenly violative of most journalistic standards. Further, in the show image of a man wearing a skull cap holding a stone in his hand was broadcast.





In the impugned debate programme, Hindus were pitched against Muslims using incidents of alleged stone pelting during garba celebration in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Through the show, the principles and tenets of Islam and the faith of the people of Muslim community who wished to celebrate garba was brought to question. It was ironical and seemed almost intentional that the show itself created a communally biased narrative and then questioned why such a narrative existed in a secular country where every person has the right to celebrate each festival.

Throughout the show, the host kept asserting that the police was right to thrash the Muslim youth. The show in no manner was an unbiased debate but one that was driven completely by a narrative which was pre-decided by the host and had a clear propaganda to pitch Hindus against Muslims. The content of the show was downright offensive, aimed at ridiculing one particular community, amounted to hate speech and instigated communal violence.

The complainant reiterated that the impugned programme violated the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards and the Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage. In view of the above, the complainant prayed for appropriate action to be taken under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.

### **Decision**

NBDSA considered the complaint filed by Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade, response of the broadcaster and also gave due consideration to the arguments made by Mr. Ghorpade, the broadcaster and reviewed the footage of the broadcast.

Subsequently NBDSA noted that a similar complaint had been filed by Citizens for Justice & Peace in respect of same programme "Desh Nahi Jhukne Denge" aired on 4.10.2022. After perusing the complaint filed by Citizens for Justice & Peace and the response of the broadcaster, NBDSA noted that since the issues raised in the complaint were virtually the same as the complaint filed by Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade, it would proceed to pass a Common Order in respect of the complaints without any separate hearing in the complaint filed by Citizens for Justice & Peace.

NBDSA noted that the impugned broadcast emanated from a viral video from Kheda district of Gujarat, which showed a few men being publicly flogged for allegedly pelting stones at a garba event.

NBDSA observed that the impugned programme was interspersed with statements made by the anchor such as "Gujarat Police ne unnke saath dandiya khela"; "Gujarat police ne unka ilaaj kia" "Koi aur tyohar garba kea lava jisme interest ho muslim ladko kea? Aap hairani hoti hai?"; "Ye jo (Muslim) log hai jo garbe mein jaate hai, ye vande mataram, ganpati bappa morya, jai shree ram, kyun nahi bolte? Inko garbe ki aarti mein interest nahi hai" "Koi aur ek aisa Hindu tyohar ho, jisme itni aastha hon Muslim yuwakon ki, bataiye koi? Jahan ghusme ke liye jhuth bhi bolenge"; "Karnatak ke idgah me ganesh utsav nahi manane dia tha.. tab kaha



*gaya tha Secularism"; Aisa kya mil raha hai garbe me ki Islam ki sari rigidity khatam ho jati hai" and "Garbe mein itna interest kyun hai Muslim yuvakon ka? Koi aur tyohar mein itna interest nahi hai. Lekin pehchan chupakar kyun jaate hai?", which targeted, vilified and castigated the entire Muslim community for the actions of a few miscreants. NBDSA held that by condemning the entire Muslim community for the actions of a few miscreants, it was the anchor who had given the alleged incident a communal tilt. The manner in which the debate was conducted was condemnable and the statements made by the anchor had the tendency to disturb the communal harmony in the country.*

Further, the tickers which were aired during the impugned broadcast, raised rhetorical questions, thereby reinforcing the narrative created by the broadcaster and gave the impression that all Muslim men attended garba celebrations only with ulterior motives.

In the impugned broadcast, NBDSA also observed that the broadcaster had failed to condemn police violence and in fact kept looping the video of the police beating the men. The thrust of the broadcast appeared to give the impression that the actions of the police were justified.

In view of the above, NBDSA held that by making generalized statements about members of the Muslim community as can be seen from the statements made by the anchor and by failing to condemn police violence in the impugned broadcast, the broadcaster had violated the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards, Clause 9 of the Specific Guidelines covering Reportage pertaining to Racial & Religious Harmony and the Guidelines to prevent communal colour in reporting crimes, riots, rumours and such related incidents, which states that *"in broadcasting the commission of crime etc., it must be borne in mind that any communal colour to it has no relevance and, therefore, any reference to the community of the accused corrodes our secular fabric."*

Accordingly, after keeping in mind the repetitive nature of the above violations, NBDSA decided to warn the broadcaster not to repeat the violations in future and also decided to impose a fine of Rs. 25,000 on the broadcaster.

NBDSA further also directed the broadcaster to remove the video of the said broadcast, if still available on the website of the channel, or YouTube, and remove all hyperlinks including access which should be confirmed to NBDSA in writing within 7 days of the Order.

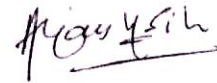
NBDSA decided to close the complaints with the above observations and inform the complainants and the broadcaster accordingly.



NBDSA directs NBDA to send:

- (a) A copy of this Order to the complainants and the broadcaster;
- (b) Circulate this Order to all Members, Editors & Legal Heads of NBDA;
- (c) Host this Order on its website and include it in its next Annual Report and
- (d) Release the Order to media.

It is clarified that any statement made by the parties in the proceedings before NBDSA while responding to the complaint and putting forth their view points, and any finding or observation by NBDSA in regard to the broadcasts, in its proceedings or in this Order, are only in the context of an examination as to whether there are any violations of any broadcasting standards and guidelines. They are not intended to be 'admissions' by the broadcaster, nor intended to be 'findings' by NBDSA in regard to any civil/criminal liability.



Justice A.K Sikri (Retd.)  
Chairperson

Place: New Delhi  
Date : 27.02.2023

*Certified True copy*  
*Ramesh Joseph*