

ONLY BY EMAIL

February 18, 2026

Mr. Utkarsh Mishra 19, Gautam Apartments, Gautam Nagar, New Delhi – 110049 Email: utkmishra09@gmail.com	Ms. Kirtima Maravoor Compliance Officer NBDSA Bennett, Coleman & Company Ltd. (TV Division), Ground Floor, Trade House, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400013 Email: legalnow@timesgroup.com
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Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Complaint (No.163) dated 31.10.2024 filed by Mr. Utkarsh Mishra against
a broadcast aired on 23.10.2024 on Times Now Navbharat**

Attached please find Order dated February 17, 2026 passed by News Broadcasting
& Digital Standards Authority.

Regards



Shreya Rastogi
For & on behalf of NBDSA

News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority

Order No. 209(2026)
Complainant: Mr. Utkarsh Mishra
Channel: Times Now Navbharat
Date of Broadcast: 23.10.2024

Complaint dated 31.10.2024

In the impugned broadcast, the broadcaster had reported on the issue of thook jihad, which violated NBDSA guidelines on communal reporting.

0:00 - 1:44

Anchors: बारा बंकी से आपको बताते हैं एक बार फिर से एक धिनौनी तस्वीर सामने आई है जहां थूक जिहाद का एक और वीडियो हाफिज होटल से सामने आया है! वहीं फिर से उसी तरह की तस्वीरें उसी तरह की हरकतें जो है वो फिर से देखने को यहां पर मिल रही है! ये होटल बताया जा रहा है जहां पर रसोई कर्मी जो है वो रोटी पर एक बार फिर से थूकता हुआ नजर आता है और बारा बंकी नहीं इस तरह के और भी कई मामले हैं जिनसे जुड़ी हुई खबरें हमने आपको दिखाई! बहुत चिंता की बात है सोचिए बाहर जब हम खाते हैं तो इस विश्वास के साथ खाते हैं कि हमें साफ खाना मिले सफाई के साथ उसे बनाया गया होगा! लेकिन जैसे एक के बाद एक ऐसे मामले सामने आ रहे हैं कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार इसको लेकर बहुतही सख्त है और यह जरा आप तस्वीर देखिए य ह एक होटल बताया जा रहा है जिसका नाम है हाफिज होटल! रोटी बनाते वक्त उसमें रसोई कर्मी थूकता हुआ नजर आया है और उ सकेबाद रोटी बनाकर यह ग्राहकों को परोस रहा था यह वीडियो वायरल होने के बाद यह समझा जा सकता है कि कितनी धिनौनी हरकत को यहां पर अंजाम दिया जा रहा था !और ऐसा कोई पहला मामला नहीं है पहली मर्तबा नहीं है कई ऐसे मामले सामने आ ए हैं जो वाकई हैरान करते हैं! और देखिए सोशल मीडिया पर लगातार इस तरह की तस्वीरें जो हैं वो यहां पर देखने को मिली है जब इस तरह दुकानदार हो ये खाना बनाने वाले लोग हो इसी तरह सेरोटी में खाने में थूकते हुए नजर आते हैं! अलग- अलग तस्वीरें जो हैं वो आपको अलग अलग जगहों की इसी बीच में हम दिखा रहे हैं और छह तस्वीरें अब इस वक्त आपके सामने हैं इन छह तस्वीरों के जरिए आप समझ सकते हैं कैसे धिनौनी हरकत एक बार फिर से की गई है बाराबंकी से ये ताजा मामला सामने आया है किसी ने अपने मोबाइल फोन में इस वीडियो को रिकॉर्ड किया है! और ये देखिए अलग अलग जगहों की जहां सहारनपुर को 10 सितंबर को उसके अलावा 9 सितंबर की तस्वीर आप देखिए जो बागपत की है, ग्रेटर नोएडा में ही ऐसा मामला सामने आया, बरेली, कन्नौज, लखनऊ हर जगह कहीं पर सैलून के अंदर हाथ में थूक लगाकर मसाज करते हुए वीडियो सामने आया तो कहीं खाने में धिनौनी हरकत की गई!

Response dated 17.11.2024 of the broadcaster

The broadcaster stated that it was writing in response to the complaint, in which certain concerns had been raised about its reporting of unhygienic practices at certain hotels in Uttar Pradesh.

It constantly strives to report on issues related to public health, safety, and hygiene. The focus of this broadcast was on public safety and sanitation, highlighting reported incidents where hygiene standards were compromised, an issue that it believed deserved attention for the welfare of the general public. The editorial intent was to provide transparent, factual information on an issue affecting consumers across multiple areas. It had taken care to avoid any language or implications that could

foster division, and the coverage was strictly aimed at highlighting genuine concerns raised by citizens themselves.

Decision of NBDA at its meeting held on 13.12.2024

NBDSA considered the complaint and response of the broadcaster and decided to call the parties for a hearing.

The following persons were present at the hearing on 18.11.2025:

Complainant

Mr. Utkarsh Mishra

Broadcaster

1. Ms. Aanchal Tondon, Advocate
2. Ms. Niti Jain, Advocate
3. Ms. Kirtima Maravoor, Compliance Officer, NBDSA
4. Mr. Utkarsh Singh, Senior Editor

Mr. Ranjit Kumar, Editor Member representing the broadcaster in NBDSA (Times Now Navbharat), being an interested party, recused himself from the proceedings.

Submissions of the Parties

The complainant's grievance is against the usage of the term "thook jihad" in the impugned broadcast. The anchor reports on the steps the UP Government is taking. The complainant asserts that there is an evident trend whereby any act committed by a Muslim individual that appears potentially unlawful or where motives are subject to suspicion is being promoted as a form of jihad. This constitutes a clear breach of the guidelines on racial and religious harmony and the directives to prevent hate speech, as well as a failure to adhere to the principles of neutrality and objectivity. Furthermore, the recurrent dissemination of jihad-related conspiracy theories is grounds enough to hold the broadcasters responsible, irrespective of the specific nature of the conspiracy being promoted, given that the overarching impact involves the targeting and discrimination of minority communities.

The broadcaster submitted that, without prejudice to its rights, it had removed the impugned broadcast upon receipt of the complaint. The broadcaster further submitted that the video was already in the public domain and that the impugned broadcast was aired because the video had gone viral across all social media platforms. The impugned broadcast concerned food safety, citing FSSAI estimates that unsafe food causes 600 million infections and 4 lakh deaths annually. The impugned broadcast was part of the broadcaster's ongoing reporting on the two ordinances aimed at cracking down on unsanitary food practices. The term "thook jihad" was only used once in the impugned broadcast without any wrong intention.

Decision

NBDSA considered the complaint, the response of the broadcaster and gave due consideration to the arguments of the parties.

NBDSA noted that, based on the transcript reproduced in the complaint, the broadcast reported incidents in which individuals were allegedly caught spitting in food. The broadcast in particular referred to one such alleged video from Barabanki.

Since the broadcaster had itself removed the video of the impugned broadcast upon receipt of the complaint, NBDSA decided not to go into the issue but advises the broadcaster to exercise caution in future broadcasts. NBDSA decided to inform the complainant and broadcaster accordingly.

NBDSA directs NBDA to send:

- (a) A copy of this Order to the complainant 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 : 17.02.2026