

**ONLY BY EMAIL**

May 20, 2026

<b>Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade</b> Email: <a href="mailto:jeetghorpade@gmail.com">jeetghorpade@gmail.com</a>	<b>Ms. Annie</b> Compliance Officer, NBDSA Zee Media Corporation Ltd. No 19, Film City, Sector 16A, Noida - 201301 Email: <a href="mailto:legal@zeemedia.com">legal@zeemedia.com</a>
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Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Complaint (No.122) dated 11.06.2025 filed by Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade against broadcast titled “Raj Kushwaha Mother Interview: राज कुशवाहा की मां का रो-रोकर बुरा हाल! अचानक चिल्ला पड़ी!” aired on 10.06.2025 on Zee News**

Attached please find Order dated May 19, 2026 passed by News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority.

Regards



Shreya Rastogi  
For & on behalf of NBDSA

**News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority**

**Order No. 217 (2026)**

**Complainant: Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade**

**Programme: "Raj Kushwaha Mother Interview: राज कुशवाहा की मां का रो-रोकर बुरा हाल! अचानक चिल्ला पड़ी!"**

**Date of Broadcast: 10.06.2025**

Since the complainant did not receive a response from the broadcaster, on 25.06.2025, the complaint was escalated to the second level of grievance redressal, i.e., NBDSA.

**Complaint dated 11.06.2025**

In the impugned broadcast, a Zee News reporter can be seen shoving the mic in the face of a woman who is clearly very distressed and is grieving the murder of her son. The reporter does this despite her clearly stating that she does not want to speak with the media. This video is aired and subsequently uploaded to digital media by the broadcaster. The complainant questioned how this reporting practice can be considered sensitive, in good taste, ethical, and in compliance with the Code of Ethics and Specific Guidelines.

**Decision of NBDA at its meeting held on 14.10.2025**

NBDSA considered the complaint and, after reviewing the footage of the broadcast, decided to call the parties for a hearing.

On being served with the notices, the following persons were present at the hearing on 23.02.2026:

**Complainant**

1. Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade

**Broadcaster**

1. Ms. Ritwika Nanda, Counsel for ZMCL
2. Mr. Sarvesh Kumar Singh, Deputy Manager Legal, ZMCL

**Submissions of the Parties**

The complainant submitted that the impugned broadcast is an interview of the mother of Mr. Raj Khushwaha, an accused who has been arrested on charges of murder. In the video, it is evident that the accused's mother was grieving, weeping, distressed, and in shock. She requested that the reporters leave her alone and stated that she had already given her statement to the media. Despite this, the reporter continued to ask her questions. The video was clearly not in good taste. Further,

while the footage aired on the channel would have been live, the channel's editors made a conscious decision not only to air it on the channel but also to upload it later to its digital platforms.

The broadcaster submitted that the impugned broadcast covered the emotional aftermath and public reaction following the tragic murder of Mr. Raja Raghuvanshi. The broadcaster submitted that the impugned broadcast was part of field reporting, during which the reporter interviewed the accused's mother.

The broadcaster acknowledged the sensitivity of the issue and stated that it was not the only channel to have interviewed the mother of the accused, as shown in the video itself, and that reporters from other channels were already present. However, upon realising that emotions were running high, it was the only channel that had stepped away.

### **Decision**

NBDSA considered the complaint, viewed the footage of the impugned broadcast and the submissions of the parties.

NBDSA noted that in the impugned broadcast, the mother of the accused could be seen howling and crying. In such circumstances, NBDSA was of the view that, bearing in mind the sensitivities of the issue involved, no meaningful purpose had been served by interviewing the mother of the accused regarding the alleged crime committed by her son, especially when she was visibly distressed. The impugned broadcast was in clear violation of the principles of good taste and decency and also breached the guidelines concerning privacy, under which broadcasters are expected to exercise discretion and sensitivity when reporting on distressing situations.

In view of the above, NBDSA decided to levy a fine of Rs. 25,000/- on the broadcaster. NBDSA further directed the broadcaster to remove the footage of the impugned broadcast, if still available from the website of the channel (s), 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 complaint with the above observations and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

NBDSA also suggests that the broadcaster should impart training to its field reporters/journalists, to ensure that such violations are not repeated in future broadcasts.

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 : 19-05-2026