



15th
ANNUAL
REPORT
2021-22

News Broadcasters & Digital Association Board of Directors



Rajat Sharma
President



Avinash Pandey
Vice President



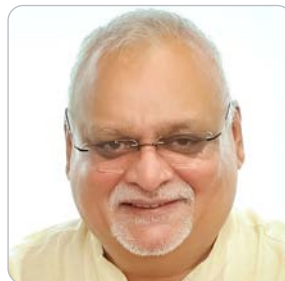
M. K. Anand
Honorary Treasurer



Anuradha Prasad Shukla



I. Venkat



M.V. Shreyams Kumar



Rahul Joshi



Kalli Purie Bhandal



Sonia Singh

News Broadcasters & Digital Association

Board of Directors

Mr. Rajat Sharma

President
Independent News Service Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Avinash Pandey

Vice President
ABP Network Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. M. K. Anand

Honorary Treasurer
Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd.

Mrs. Anuradha Prasad Shukla

News24 Broadcast India Ltd.

Mr. I. Venkat

Eenadu Television Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. M. V. Shreyams Kumar

Mathrubhumi Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd.

Mr. Rahul Joshi

TV18 Broadcast Ltd.

Ms. Kalli Purie Bhandal

TVToday Network Ltd.

Ms. Sonia Singh

New Delhi Television Ltd.

Zee Media Corporation Ltd.

Secretary General

Mrs. Annie Joseph

Auditors

S. S. Kothari Mehta & Co

Chartered Accountants

Bankers

Bank of India

Bank of Baroda

Registered Office

FF-42, Omaxe Square, Commercial Centre, Jasola, New Delhi – 110 025

Corporate Office

Mantec House, 2nd Floor, C-56/5 Sector 62, Noida – 201301

CIN: U22211DL2007NPL165480



Message from President, NBDA

Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to present our Annual Report for the fiscal year 2021-2022. The contents of this Annual Report indicate that the past year has been a busy year for the industry.

News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA) formerly known as the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) was established in the year 2008 for the primary purpose of being the unified voice for the news broadcasters. After, a decade and half, we are entitled to reflect on how, from quiet and unfamiliar beginnings, NBDA has become a known entity, both visibly and productively and has been recognised, as an independent organisation of the news broadcasters. Our views, inputs, suggestions and recommendations have been acknowledged and considered by the government, regulators etc, which has yielded positive results such as the recent withdrawal of the Personal Data Protection Bill by the government. NBDA had submitted that if the Bill was passed by Parliament, it would definitely and adversely affect the media's rights as granted under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. NBDA also submitted that it was necessary to balance the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and expression and privacy.

NBDA represents 26 national, regional and digital broadcasters/media, which command over 80% of the viewership.

The broadcast sector's point of concern has been the decline in viewership of the news genre and other genres. In its latest report for the January-March 2022 quarter, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) observed that DTH lost 1.6 million subscribers. A very sharp decline.

There is no doubt that in the last decade there has been an exponential change of how media is being consumed and the transformations happening within and to the news media industry. With increasing penetration of Internet, the predominant mode to access content is through the mobile. Digital consumptions are increasing by leaps and bounds. The fall in viewership is also attributable to other modes of consumption such as the OTT platforms. The issues which presently confront the news broadcasters is the enormous rise of digital platforms and services, which have resulted in a paradigm shift in the consumption of content by the consumers which the broadcasters need to deal with. The rapid technological changes have led to the evolving of new business models and commercial strategies in the broadcasting sector.

The recent nation-wide survey of Indian TV consumers commissioned by Broadband India Forum and CUTS International has in its conclusions stated that *"However, it is clear from our survey that consumers prefer TV across various relevant parameters, including content availability"* and *"most consumers see TV as a value for money proposition relative to other modes of video consumption such as Over the Top (OTT) services. Other prominent determinants include availability and quality of content as well as viewing experience and quality of service"*. It also states that *"easy availability of the TV content on the OTT platforms/ apps is also posing a serious challenge to the traditional cable/dish TV services"*.

In view of the above observations, TRAI, the sectoral regulator needs to step in to ensure that its policies and recommendations facilitate the growth of the sector. Without any further delay, TRAI should come out with its recommendations on the Consultation paper on 'Issues related to New Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting

and Cable Services', so that the road map is laid for an efficient and transparent business environment for all stakeholders.

As news media plays a vital role in keeping the public informed which helps to strengthen democracy, the news broadcasters have an onerous responsibility to ensure that the content shown is verified, objective, impartial, neutral and the media should be responsible for the content carried on the news channels in order that the credibility of the media is not lost. NBDA believes in editorial standards of ensuring objectivity, neutrality, impartiality, fairness and accuracy in reporting. In fact, it should be our world class content and reporting, which should attract the viewers to the news channels.

After a gap of 18 months in March 2022, BARC resumed the ratings of the news genre. Despite all the changes made by BARC, the ratings are not to the satisfaction of the news broadcasters. NBDA and the broadcasters are in discussion with BARC to address the issues of concern to make the ratings robust, transparent and credible. We should be able to amicably find solutions.

NBDSA, the independent self-regulatory body set up fifteen years ago, chaired by eminent judges of the Supreme Court of India, comprising of independent persons and editorial members, is a time-tested and successful complaint redressal body. On behalf of the Board and on my behalf, I would like to place on record our sincere gratitude and thanks to the Chairperson, Independent and Editors Members of NBDSA for their support, invaluable guidance and time.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Board Members of NBDA for their constant support in running the affairs of the Association.

My gratitude to the members of NBDA for the unstinted support the Board and I have received in conducting the affairs of the Association.

Finally, I would like to thank Mrs. Annie Joseph, Secretary General, NBDA for her efforts in ensuring that the objectives and initiatives of NBDA are achieved and implemented. I would also like to thank the staff of NBDA Secretariat, Legal Counsel, Financial, Legal and Corporate Consultants as well as the Auditors of NBDA and Bankers for their valuable time and cooperation.

Best Wishes



Rajat Sharma

Date: August 29, 2022

Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Members of News Broadcasters & Digital Association will be held on Friday, 16th September, 2022, at 12 noon through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM"), to transact the following business:

Ordinary Business

1. To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statement of the Company for the financial year ended March 31, 2022 together with Auditor's Report and Director's Report thereon and for the purpose, to pass with or without modification(s) the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT the Audited Financial Statement of the Company for the financial year ended March 31, 2022, together with Auditor's Report and Director's Report thereon, be and are hereby considered and adopted."

Special Business

2. To consider and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s) the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT Mrs. Anuradha Prasad Shukla who was appointed as an Additional Director on February 1, 2012 by the Board of Directors in terms of Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association liable to retire at every Ordinary General Body Meeting and who holds office up to the date of this Annual General Meeting and in respect of whom the Association has received a notice in writing from a member proposing her candidature for the office of Directorship duly seconded by another member, be and is hereby appointed as Director of the Association, liable to retire at the next Ordinary General Body Meeting, in terms of the provisions of Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association."

3. To consider and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s) the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT Mr. M.V. Shreyams Kumar who was appointed as an Additional Director on March 29, 2014 by the Board of Directors in terms of Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association liable to retire at every Ordinary General Body Meeting and who holds office up to the date of this Annual General Meeting and in respect of whom the Association has received a notice in writing from a member proposing his candidature for the office of Directorship duly seconded by another member, be and is hereby appointed as Director of the Association, liable to retire at the next Ordinary General Body Meeting, in terms of the provisions of Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association."

4. To consider and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s) the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT Mr. I. Venkat who was appointed as an Additional Director on February 17, 2017 by the Board of Directors in terms of Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association liable to retire at every Ordinary General Body Meeting and who holds office up to the date of this Annual General Meeting and in respect of whom the Association has received a notice in writing from a member proposing his candidature for the office of Directorship duly seconded by another member, be and is hereby appointed as Director of

the Association, liable to retire at the next Ordinary General Body Meeting, in terms of the provisions of Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association.”

5. To consider and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s) the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:

“**RESOLVED THAT** when required, all Members and Associate Members of NBDA will contribute towards meeting the legal expenses for engaging Senior Counsel (s) which includes fees for appearance on behalf of NBDA before the Courts, related conference charges, settling petitions, legal advice rendered and clerkage as raised by the Senior Counsel.”

“**FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Secretary General, NBDA be and is hereby authorised to sign and to do all or any of the acts, deeds, matters, and things as may be considered expedient and necessary for implementing the said resolution on behalf of the Association.”

**By Order of the Board of Directors of
News Broadcasters & Digital Association**



Annie Joseph
Secretary General

Place: New Delhi
Date: August 29, 2022

Explanatory Statement Pursuant to Section 102 of the Companies Act, 2013

Item No. 2

Mrs. Anuradha Prasad Shukla was appointed as an Additional Director on February 1, 2012 by the Board of Directors in terms of Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association liable to retire at every Ordinary General Body Meeting. The office of her Directorship expires on the date of this Annual General Meeting.

The Association has received a notice in writing from one member proposing her candidature, which has been duly seconded by another member, for her appointment as Director, liable to retire at the next Ordinary General Body Meeting under Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association of NBDA. The Board of Directors, therefore, recommends the Resolution to be passed by the members as an Ordinary Resolution.

Relevant documents relating to said item are available for inspection by members at the Registered Office of the Company. None of the Directors, except Mrs. Anuradha Prasad Shukla in respect of whom the Resolution is being moved, is concerned or interested, financially or otherwise, in the Resolution set out at Item No. 2 of this Notice.

Item No. 3

Mr. M.V. Shreyams Kumar was appointed as an Additional Director on March 29, 2014 by the Board of Directors in terms of Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association liable to retire at every Ordinary General Body Meeting. The office of his Directorship expires on the date of this Annual General Meeting.

The Association has received a notice in writing from one member proposing his candidature, which has been duly seconded by another member, for his appointment as Director, liable to retire at the next Ordinary General Body Meeting under Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association of NBDA. The Board of Directors, therefore, recommends the Resolution to be passed by the members as an Ordinary Resolution.

Relevant documents relating to said item are available for inspection by members at the Registered Office of the Company. None of the Directors, except Mr. M.V. Shreyams Kumar in respect of whom the Resolution is being moved, is concerned or interested, financially or otherwise, in the Resolution set out at Item No. 3 of this Notice.

Item No. 4

Mr. I. Venkat was appointed as an Additional Director on February 17, 2017 by the Board of Directors in terms of Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association liable to retire at every Ordinary General Body Meeting. The office of his Directorship expires on the date of this Annual General Meeting.

The Association has received a notice in writing from one member proposing his candidature, which has been duly seconded by another member, for his appointment as Director, liable to retire at the next Ordinary General Body Meeting under Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association of NBDA. The Board of Directors, therefore, recommends the Resolution to be passed by the members as an Ordinary Resolution.

Relevant documents relating to said item are available for inspection by members at the Registered Office of the Company. None of the Directors, except Mr. I. Venkat in respect of whom the Resolution is being moved, is concerned or interested, financially or otherwise, in the Resolution set out at Item No. 4 of this Notice.

Item No. 5

The issue for consideration before the Board relates to meeting the expenses for engaging a Senior Counsel and the related expenses for legal matters pending or matters that may arise in future in the Courts. With the limited financial resources, NBDA will not be able to meet the said expenses. Since the issues are related to the industry and affects all members, these expenses should be borne/ honored by the Members/ Associate Members of NBDA and should be equitably shared pursuant to Sub clause 15 and 16 of Clause III (B) of the Memorandum of Association. There are matters presently pending before the Supreme Court and High Courts, in which NBDA has intervened or filed writ petitions. There is a possibility that in the future critical industry matters may arise in the courts, which would need intervention of NBDA. Routine legal matters are handled by NBDA Counsel. The Board of Directors, therefore, recommends the Resolution to be passed by the members as an Ordinary Resolution.

Relevant documents relating to said item are available for inspection by members at the Registered Office of the Company. None of the Directors, in respect of whom the Resolution is being moved, is concerned or interested, financially or otherwise, in the Resolution set out at Item No. 5 of this Notice.

**By Order of the Board of Directors of
News Broadcasters & Digital Association**



Annie Joseph
Secretary General

Place: New Delhi
Date: August 29, 2022

Notes

1. Considering the present COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (“MCA”) has vide its General Circular No. 2/2022 dated May 5, 2022 and other applicable Circulars (collectively referred to as “MCA Circulars”) permitted convening the Annual General Meeting through Video Conferencing (“VC”) or Other Audio Visual Means (“OAVM”), without the physical presence of the members at a common venue. In accordance with the MCA Circulars, provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (‘the Act’), the 15th AGM of the Company (hereinafter referred to as ‘AGM’) is being held through VC / OAVM. The deemed venue for the AGM shall be the Registered Office of the Company.
2. Members can join the AGM through VC/OAVM 15 minutes before the scheduled time of the commencement of the meeting by following the procedure mentioned in the Notice. The facility of participation at the AGM through VC/OAVM will be made available to all members.
3. Since the AGM will be held through VC/ OAVM, the route map of the venue of the meeting is not annexed hereto.
4. Participation of members through VC/ OAVM will be reckoned for the purpose of quorum for the AGM as per Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013 (“the Act”).
5. Since the AGM will be held through VC/ OAVM, all resolutions at the meeting shall be carried on by show of hand.
6. Member entities should provide Board Resolution under Section 113 of the Companies Act, 2013 authorising person(s) who will represent them at the Annual General Meeting. Such person(s) shall be deemed to be member present in person.
7. Pursuant to the Circular No. 02/2021 dated January 13, 2021 read with other applicable Circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the facility to appoint proxy to attend and cast vote for the members is not available for this AGM. However, the corporate entities are entitled to appoint authorised representatives to attend the AGM through VC/OAVM and participate there at and cast their votes.
8. A statement pursuant to Section 102 (1) of the Companies Act, 2013 relating to Special Business to be transacted at the meeting is annexed hereto.
9. Members are requested to keep the copy of the Annual Report with them during the meeting.
10. No person other than the authorized representative of the member entity as aforesaid shall be entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
11. Members desirous of having any information on accounts are requested to send their queries to NBDA at its Registered Office, at least seven days before the date of the AGM, to make the requisite information available at the meeting.
12. Relevant documents referred to in the accompanying Notice and the Statement are open for inspection by members at the Registered Office of the Company on all working days, except Saturdays, during business hours up to the date of meeting.
13. In compliance with the aforesaid MCA circulars, notice of the AGM is being sent only through electronic mode to members whose email addresses are registered with the Company.
14. Members who have not registered their e-mail addresses so far are requested to register their e-mail address for receiving all communication, including Annual Report, Notices etc. from the Company electronically.

Directors' Report to the Members

The Directors have pleasure in presenting the 15th Annual Report of your Association together with Audited Accounts for the period from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

Financial Review

	31.03.2022 (Amount in Rs.'00)	31.03.2021 (Amount in Rs.'00)
Income from Subscription	1,63,763	1,37,550
Other Income	32,362	25,679
Depreciation and amortization expense	384	597
Total Expenditure	1,86,427	1,49,289
Surplus/(Deficit) after depreciation and tax carried to General Reserve	9,698	13,940

Of the Income and Expenditure account a sum of Rs. 68,045 (previous year Rs.53,811) has been transferred to special reserve.

Change in Nature of Services

There is no change in nature of services provided by the Association.

Directors

Mrs. Anuradha Prasad Shukla, Mr. M. V. Shreyams Kumar and Mr. I. Venkat were appointed as Additional Directors on February 1, 2012, March 29, 2014 and February 17, 2017 by the Board of Directors in terms of Articles 16 and 22 of the Articles of Association liable to retire at every Ordinary General Body Meeting. Members again approved their appointment in the last Annual General Meeting.

Mr. Sudhir Chaudhary, who was representing Zee Media Corporation Ltd. on the Board of NBDA resigned from the Company w.e.f. 1.7.2022.

Membership of Association

The number of Members/Associate Members of the Association are 25 broadcasters representing 117 both channels and news digital platforms.

News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA)

News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority [NBDSA] is an independent self-regulatory adjudicatory body. The present composition of the NBDSA is as under:

Chairperson

Justice A. K. Sikri (Retd.)

Independent Members

1. Dr. Nasim Zaidi, former Chief Election Commissioner of India
2. Mr. Navtej Sarna, former India's Ambassador to the United States of America

Editor Members

1. Mr. Sandeep Chaudhary, Executive Editor, News24
2. Mr. Vishal Pant, Senior Executive Editor of India Today TV
3. Mr. Suman De, Senior Vice President - News & Programming & Editor of ABP Ananda
4. Mr. Rajnish Ahuja, Editor of Zee News

Auditors & Auditors' Report

M/s S.S. Kothari Mehta & Co., Chartered Accountants, were appointed as the Statutory Auditors of the Association to hold office for a period of five years from the conclusion of 14th Annual General Meeting until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in the year 2026.

The Statutory Auditors' Report on the Financial Statement of the Association for the financial year ended 31st March, 2022 is self-explanatory and do not require further comments in the Directors' report. The Audit Report does not contain any qualification, reservation or adverse remark.

Report on Conservation of Energy, Technology Absorption, Foreign Exchange Earnings and Outgo etc.

Information in accordance with the provisions of Section 134 (m) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014 is given hereunder:

Energy conservation measures taken by the Association include: (1) use of LED/CFL lighting in the entire office area; (2) improved insulation using ceramic fibre in the heat treatment furnaces; (3) installation of heat reflecting film on windows of air-conditioned areas etc. At present, Association has not taken any steps for utilisation of alternate source of energy and no capital investment has been made on energy conservation equipment.

And other information in accordance with the provisions of Section 134 (m) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Accounting) Rules, 2013 regarding technology absorption is not applicable to the Association being involved in welfare services to its members.

Association has no foreign exchange earnings and outgo during the period.

Directors' Responsibility Statement

Pursuant to Section 134 (5) of the Companies Act, 2013, it is hereby confirmed:

- i. that in the preparation of the annual accounts, the applicable accounting standards had been followed along with proper explanation relating to material departures, if any;
- ii. that the Directors had selected such accounting policies and applied them consistently and made judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association at the end of the accounting year and of the surplus of the Association for that year;

- iii. that the Directors had taken proper and sufficient care for the maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of this Act for safeguarding the assets of the Association and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities;
- iv. that the Directors had prepared the annual accounts on a going concern basis;
- v. the Directors had devised proper systems to ensure compliance with the provisions of all applicable laws and that such systems were adequate and operating effectively.

Extract of Annual Report

Pursuant to Section 92 (3) and Section 134(3) (a) of the Companies Act, 2013 the Annual Return is available on the website of the Company at www.nbdanewdelhi.com and may be accessed through the web link <https://www.nbdanewdelhi.com/annual-return> as compliance under amended Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 vide MCA Notification No. GSR 538(E) dated 28th August, 2020.

Meetings of the Board

Nine meetings of the Board of Directors were held on 9.4.2021, 3.6.2021, 13.7.2021, 5.8.2021, 27.9.2021, 27.9.2021, 18.10.2021, 13.1.2022 and 9.2.2022 during the financial year.

Particulars of Loans, Guarantees or Investments under Section 186 of Companies Act, 2013

Company has not given any loan or provided any guarantees or made investment to any person under Section 186 of Companies Act, 2013.

Particulars of Contracts or Arrangements with Related Parties Referred to in Sub-Section (1) of Section 188 in the Prescribed Form

Company does not have any related party transaction with any person in any form as asked in Form AOC_2 under Rule 8 of The Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014.

Management Report

Management Report containing a brief review of the activities of the Association and the state of the Company's affairs during the year under review is attached with this Report.

Material changes and commitments, if any, affecting the financial position of the Company which have occurred between the end of the financial year of the Company to which the financial statements relate and the date of the report:

Material changes occurred subsequent to the close of the financial year of the Company to which the balance sheet relates are: **None.**

A statement indicating development and implementation of a risk management policy for the Company including identification therein of elements of risk, if any, which in the opinion of the Board may threaten the existence of the Company:

Association is generating receipts through subscription from members and provide them welfare services. At present, Company has not developed and implemented any such policy and system which nullify any type of risk on its existence.

Details of material and significant orders passed by the Regulators or Courts or Tribunal impacting the going concern status and Company's operations in future:

No such order is passed by any such Regulators or Courts or Tribunal which impacts the going concern status and Company's operations in future.

Compliance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013

The Company has only four employees which includes two women employees. Under the provisions of The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the Policy of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, along with enclosure approved by the Board have been circulated to the Internal Complaints Committee Members, employees of NBDA and the Members of NBDA and also uploaded on the NBDA website. The Internal Complaints Committee has the following persons as its members:

1. Presiding Officer – NBDA Representative: Mrs. Anuradha Prasad Shukla
2. Member-NBDA Representative: Ms. Kshipra Jatana
3. Member-NBDA Representative: Mr. M. N. Nasser Kabir
4. External Member: Ms. Nisha Bhambhani

NBDA has not received any complaints under the provisions of this Act.

Details in respect of adequacy of internal financial controls with reference to financial statements:

The Company has in place adequate internal financial controls with reference to financial statements.

Fraud Reported by Auditor, if any

No fraud was reported by Auditors during the year.

Acknowledgements

The Board of Directors wish to place on record their appreciation for the support and cooperation extended by every Member of the Association, the Secretariat, its Bankers, and valuable contribution made by the Consultants, Counsels and officials of the Member Companies.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Place: New Delhi
Dated: August 8, 2022

Sd/-
Rajat Sharma
President
[DIN No.: 00005373]

Sd/-
Avinash Pandey
Vice President
[DIN No.: 02828532]

Sd/-
M.K. Anand
Honorary Treasurer
[DIN No.: 02973420]

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of News Broadcasters & Digital Association

(Formally known as News Broadcasters Association)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of News Broadcasters & Digital Association (formally known as News Broadcasters Association) ("the Association"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022, and the statement of Income and Expenditure and cash flow for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements comprising of a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information (hereinafter referred to as "the financial statements").

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by the Companies Act 2013 ("The Act") in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the Company as at March 31, 2022, and the surplus and its cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) specified under Section 143(10) of the Companies Act, 2013. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements under the provisions of the Act and the Rules thereunder, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon

The Company's Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. Other information comprises the information included in the Director's report, does not include the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. The Director's Report is expected to be made available to us after signing of this Auditor's Report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

When we read the other information identified above if, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report the matter to those charged with governance.

Responsibility of Management for Financial Statements

The Company's Board of Directors is responsible for the matters stated in Section 134(5) of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") with respect to the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flow of the company in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, including the accounting Standards specified under Section 133 of the Act. This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the Act for safeguarding of the assets of the Company and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statement that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those Board of Directors are also responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. However, the provisions of Section 143(3)(i) of the Companies Act, 2013 are not applicable on the Company as per MCA Notification No. G.S.R. 583(E) dated June 13, 2017, read with corrigendum dated July 13, 2017 on reporting on internal financial controls over financial reporting, accordingly, we are not responsible for expressing our opinion on whether the company has adequate internal financial controls system in place and the operating effectiveness of such controls.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude

that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Materiality is the magnitude of misstatements in the financial statements that, individually or in aggregate, makes it probable that the economic decisions of a reasonably knowledgeable user of the financial statements may be influenced. We consider quantitative materiality and qualitative factors in (i) planning the scope of our audit work and in evaluating the results of our work; and (ii) to evaluate the effect of any identified misstatements in the financial statements.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

1. This Report does not include a statement on the matters specified in paragraph 3 & 4 of the Companies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2020 issued by the Central Government in terms of Section 143(11) of the Companies Act, 2013, since in our opinion and according to the information and explanations given to us, the said Order is not applicable to the Company.
2. As required by Section 143(3) of the Act, we report that:
 - a. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit;
 - b. In our opinion proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Company so far as appears from our examination of those books;
 - c. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account and the cash flow dealt with by this Report are in agreement with the books of account;
 - d. In our opinion, the aforesaid financial statements comply with the Accounting Standards specified under Section 133 of the Act, read with Rule 7 of the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014.
 - e. On the basis of written representations received from the Directors as on March 31, 2022, and taken on record by the Board of Directors, none of the Directors is disqualified as on March 31, 2022, from being appointed as a Director in terms of Section 164(2) of the Companies Act, 2013.
 - f. This Report does not include Report on the internal financial controls under clause (i) of Sub-section 3 of Section 143 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the 'Report on internal financial controls'), since in our opinion and according to the information and explanation given to us, the said Report on internal financial controls is not applicable to the Company in the current year basis the exemption available to the Company under MCA notification No. G.S.R. 583(E) dated June 13, 2017, read with corrigendum dated July 13, 2017 on reporting on internal financial controls over financial reporting.

- g. With respect to the other matters to be included in the Auditors Report in accordance with the Rule 11 of the Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014, in our opinion and best to our information and according to the explanation given to us:
1. There are no pending litigations impacting financial position of the Company as on 31st March, 2022.
 2. The Company did not have any long-term contracts including derivative contracts for which there were any material foreseeable losses.
 3. There were no amounts which were required to be transferred to the Investor Education and Protection Fund by the Company.
 4.
 - a. The Management has represented that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, no funds (which are material either individually or in the aggregate) have been advanced or loaned or invested (either from borrowed funds or share premium or any other sources or kind of funds) by the Company to or in any other person or entity, including foreign entity ("Intermediaries"), with the understanding, whether recorded in writing or otherwise, that the Intermediary shall, whether, directly or indirectly lend or invest in other persons or entities identified in any manner whatsoever by or on behalf of the Company ("Ultimate Beneficiaries") or provide any guarantee, security or the like on behalf of the Ultimate Beneficiaries;
 - b. The Management has represented, that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, no funds (which are material either individually or in the aggregate) have been received by the Company from any person or entity, including foreign entity ("Funding Parties"), with the understanding, whether recorded in writing or otherwise, that the Company shall, whether, directly or indirectly, lend or invest in other persons or entities identified in any manner whatsoever by or on behalf of the Funding Party ("Ultimate Beneficiaries") or provide any guarantee, security or the like on behalf of the Ultimate Beneficiaries;
 - c. Based on the audit procedures that have been considered reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances, nothing has come to our notice that has caused us to believe that the representations under sub-clause (i) and (ii) of Rule 11(e), as provided under (a) and (b) above, contain any material misstatement.
 5. The company is registered as limited by Guarantee, hence it has neither declared nor paid any dividend during the year and until the date of this report in compliance with Section 123 of the Act.

For S S Kothari Mehta & Company

Chartered Accountants
Firm Regn. No. 000756N

Sd/-

Naveen Aggarwal

Partner

(Membership No. 094380)

UDIN – 22094380APDSCK6023

Place: New Delhi

Date: August 8, 2022

News Broadcasters & Digital Association
(Formally known as News Broadcasters Association)

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2022

(All amounts in '00 unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	Note No.	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
I EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
(1) Members' Funds			
(a) Entrance Fees	1	16,500	15,000
(b) Reserves and Surplus	2	373,735	364,037
(2) Non- Current Liabilities			
(a) Long Term Provisions	3	33,399	28,284
(3) Current Liabilities			
(a) Short Term Borrowings	4	2	9,580
(b) Short Term Provisions	5	718	678
(c) Other Current Liabilities	6	63	60
TOTAL		424,417	417,639
II ASSETS			
(1) Non-Current Assets			
(a) Property, Plant & Equipment and Intangible Assets			
(i) Property, Plant & Equipment	7	2,132	2,059
(b) Other Non-Current Assets	8	1,890	1,890
(2) Current Assets			
(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents	9	404,612	387,656
(b) Short-Term Loans and advance	10	4,631	8,182
(c) Other Current Assets	11	11,152	17,852
TOTAL		424,417	417,639

Significant accounting policies and other Notes to Accounts 16-27

The accompanying Notes are the integral part of the Financial Statements

As per our Report of even date attached

For S.S. Kothari Mehta & Co

For and on behalf of the Board

Chartered Accountants

Firm Regn. No. 000756N

Sd/-

Naveen Aggarwal

Partner

M No. – 094380

Place : New Delhi

Date : August 8, 2022

Sd/-

Rajat Sharma

President

DIN No: 00005373

Sd/-

M.K. Anand

Honorary Treasurer

DIN No: 02973420

Sd/-

Avinash Pandey

Vice President

DIN No: 02828532

Sd/-

Annie Joseph

Secretary General

PAN No: ADTPJ0257E

News Broadcasters & Digital Association
 (Formally known as News Broadcasters Association)

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended March 31st, 2022

(All amounts in '00 unless otherwise stated)

	Particulars	Note No.	Year Ended 31st March, 2022	Year Ended 31st March, 2021
Income				
I.	Subscription	12	163,763	137,550
II.	Other Income	13	32,362	25,679
III.	Total Income (I + II)		196,125	163,229
IV. Expenditure				
	Employee Benefit Expenses	14	123,537	103,918
	Depreciation and Amortization Expense	7	384	597
	Administrative & Other Expenses	15	62,506	44,774
	Finance Cost	15	-	-
	Total Expenditure		186,427	149,289
V.	Surplus/(Deficit) before Tax (III - IV)		9,698	13,940
VI.	Tax Expense:			
	(1) Current Tax		-	-
	(2) Deferred Tax		-	-
VII.	Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year (V - VI)		9,698	13,940

Significant accounting policies and other Notes to Accounts 16-27
 The accompanying Notes are the integral part of the Financial Statements
 As per our Report of even date attached

For S.S. Kothari Mehta & Co
Chartered Accountants
 Firm Regn. No. 000756N

For and on behalf of the Board

Sd/-
Naveen Aggarwal
 Partner
 M No. – 094380
 Place : New Delhi
 Date : August 8, 2022

Sd/-
Rajat Sharma
 President
 DIN No: 00005373
 Sd/-
M.K. Anand
 Honorary Treasurer
 DIN No: 02973420

Sd/-
Avinash Pandey
 Vice President
 DIN No: 02828532
 Sd/-
Annie Joseph
 Secretary General
 PAN No: ADTPJ0257E

News Broadcasters & Digital Association

(Formally known as News Broadcasters Association)

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended March 31st, 2022

(All amounts in '00 unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	Note	Year Ended 31st March, 2022	Year Ended 31st March, 2021
A. Cash Flow Operating Activities			
Net Operating Surplus before Tax & Extraordinary Items		9,698	13,940
Adjustments for:			
Net Operating Surplus before Tax			
Depreciation	7	384	597
Interest Income	13	- 21,820	- 23,675
Operating Surplus before Working Capital changes		- 11,738	- 9,138
Movements in Working Capital			
(Increase) / Decrease in Other Current Assets	11	6,000	- 6,000
(Increase) / Decrease in Short Term Loans and Advances	10	3,551	5,140
Increase / (Decrease) in Long Term Provisions	3	5,116	2,079
(Increase) / Decrease in Short Term Borrowings	4	- 9,578	- 1,719
Increase / (Decrease) in Short Term Provisions	5	40	- 10,739
Increase / (Decrease) in Other Current Liabilities	6	3	- 4,961
Cash generated from Operations Before Tax		- 6,606	- 25,338
Net Direct Taxes Paid			
Net Cash from Operating Activities			
B. Cash Flow From Investing Activities			
Purchase of Fixed Assets	7	- 458	- 629
Interest received		22,520	25,690
Net Cash from Operating & Investing Activities		15,456	- 277
C. Cash Flow From Financing Activities			
Entrance fees received	1	1,500	500
Interest paid (Net)		0	0

Particulars	Note	Year Ended 31st March, 2022	Year Ended 31st March, 2021
Net Cash from financing activities		1,500	500
Net Increase in Cash & Cash equivalent		16,956	223
Cash & Cash equivalent at the beginning of the year	9	387,656	387,434
Cash & Cash equivalent at the end of the year	9	404,612	387,656

Significant accounting policies and other Notes to Accounts 16-27

The accompanying Notes form the integral part of the Financial Statements

As per our Report of even date attached

For S.S. Kothari Mehta & Co
Chartered Accountants

Firm Regn. No. 000756N

For and on behalf of the Board

Sd/-

Naveen Aggarwal

Partner

M No. – 094380

Place : New Delhi

Date : August 8, 2022

Sd/-

Rajat Sharma

President

DIN No: 00005373

Sd/-

M.K. Anand

Honorary Treasurer

DIN No: 02973420

Sd/-

Avinash Pandey

Vice President

DIN No: 02828532

Sd/-

Annie Joseph

Secretary General

PAN No: ADTPJ0257E

News Broadcasters & Digital Association

(Formally known as News Broadcasters Association)

Notes Forming Part of Balance Sheet

Note # 1

Members Funds

(All amounts in '00 unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
Entrance Fees		
Entrance fees as per last Balance Sheet	15,000	20,500
Addition during the year	1,500	500
Transferred to Capital reserve	-	(6,000)
	16,500	15,000

Note # 2

Reserve & Surplus

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
Reserve and Surplus		
(a) Capital Reserve		
As per last Balance Sheet	7,000	1,000
Addition during the year	-	6,000
	7,000	7,000
(b) Special Reserve		
As per last Balance Sheet	135,257	143,329
Addition/(Transfer) during the year (Refer Note 22)	(13,404)	(8,072)
	121,853	135,257
(c) Surplus i.e. Balance in the Statement of Income & Expenditure		
As per last Balance Sheet	6,780	9,768
Addition during the year	9,698	13,940
Amount transferred to Corpus Fund	(25,000)	(25,000)
(Appropriations)/transfer from Special Reserve	13,404	8,072
	4,882	6,780
(d) Corpus Fund (Refer Note 25)		

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
As per last Balance Sheet	215,000	190,000
Addition Amount transferred from Income & Expenditure A/c	25,000	25,000
	240,000	215,000
	373,735	364,037

Note # 3 Long Term Provisions

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
Provision for Gratuity (Refer Note 24)	33,399	28,284
	33,399	28,284

Note # 4 Short Term Borrowings

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
Bank Overdraft*	2	9,580
	2	9,580

*Secured against Fixed Deposit amounting to Rs. 87,48,944

Note # 5 Short Term Provisions

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
Provision for expenses	718	678
	718	678

Note # 6 Other Current Liabilities

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
Advance received from Members	-	-
Statutory Dues payable	63	60
	63	60

Note # 7

Tangible Assets

(All amounts in '00 unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	Gross Block				Depreciation				Net Block	
	April 1, 2021	Addition	Disposal/ Adjustments	March 31, 2022	April 1, 2021	Addition during the year	Sale/ Adjustment	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2021
Computer	9,724	-	-	9,724	8,324	208	-	8,532	1,192	1,400
Office Equipment	8,798	458	-	9,256	8,200	151	-	8,351	905	598
Furniture & Fixtures	237	-	-	237	176	25	-	201	36	61
Leasehold Improvement	43,014	-	-	43,014	43,014	-	-	43,014	-	-
Total	61,772	458	-	62,230	59,714	384	-	60,098	2,132	2,059
Previous Year	61,144	629	-	61,772	59,116	597	-	59,714	2,059	2,027

Note # 8

Other Non-Current Assets

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
Security Deposit	1,890	1,890
	1,890	1,890

Note # 9

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
Balance with Banks		
In Current account	10,824	2,434
Cash on Hand	126	111
	10,950	2,545
Current Portion		
Fixed Deposits with Bank*	393,662	385,111
	404,612	387,656

* Including amount under lien with Bank for Credit facilities Rs. 87,48,944

Note # 9.1

Fixed Deposits with Bank

(All amounts in '00 unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
Fixed Deposits with Bank		
Upto 12 months maturity from date of acquisition	393,662	385,111
Shown as Current Assets	393,662	385,111

Note # 10

Short Term Loans and Advances

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
Unsecured considered good		
Advances recoverable in cash or kind or value to be received	3,856	7,587
TDS Receivable	775	595
	4,631	8,182

Note # 11

Other Current Assets

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2022	As at 31st March, 2021
Interest accrued on Fixed deposits	11,152	11,852
Unbilled Revenue	-	6,000
	11,152	17,852

Notes Forming Part of Income & Expenditure Account

Note # 12

Revenue From Operations

Particulars	Year Ended 31st March, 2022	Year Ended 31st March, 2021
Subscription	163,763	137,550
	163,763	137,550

Note # 13

Other Income

Particulars	Year Ended 31st March, 2022	Year Ended 31st March, 2021
Interest Income	21,820	23,675
Miscellaneous Income	10,542	2,004
	32,362	25,679

Note # 14

Employee Benefit Expenses

(All amounts in '00 unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	Year Ended 31st March, 2022	Year Ended 31st March, 2021
Salaries and Wages	111,309	95,397
Contribution to Provident Fund	6,968	6,354
Gratuity Expense	5,116	2,079
Staff Welfare Expenses	144	88
	123,537	103,918

Note # 15

Administrative & Other Expenses

Particulars	Year Ended 31st March, 2022	Year Ended 31st March, 2021
Printing & Stationary	1,138	804
Legal & Professional Charges	37,389	19,710
Meeting Expenses	6,450	7,200
Newspapers, Books & Periodicals	-	-
Communication Expenses	355	564
Travelling & Conveyance Expenses	131	99
Rent & Electricity	14,267	13,319
Website Maintenance Expenses	1,334	786
Repairs & Maintenance-Computer	114	332
Repairs & Maintenance- Building	398	967
Repairs & Maintenance- Equipment	-	88
Office Insurance-Noida	77	62
Miscellaneous Expenses	122	172
Amount Written Off	-	19
Rates & Taxes	68	16
Auditor Remuneration:		
Audit Fee	600	600
Tax Matters	-	-
Out of pocket expenses	63	36
	62,506	44,774

16. Brief Information of the Company

News Broadcasters & Digital Association (formally known as News Broadcasters Association) is a Private Company Limited by Guarantee not having a Share Capital, not for Profit having CIN- U22211DL2007NPL165480 registered under Section 8 of the companies Act, 2013 (Section 25 of the erstwhile Companies Act, 1956) with the main objectives inter alia, to promote, aid, help, encourage, develop, protect and secure the interests of the news broadcasters in the Indian television Industry and other related entities and to promote awareness about the latest developments in the television industry relating to news broadcasting and to disseminate knowledge amongst its members and the general public regarding such developments.

17. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

- a. The Company follows the mercantile system of accounting and recognizes income and expenditure on accrual basis. The accounts are prepared on historical cost basis in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in India, accounting standard specified under Section 133 of Companies Act 2013, read with Rule 7 of Companies (Accounts) Rules 2014, the Companies Act 2013 (to the extent applicable) as a going concern.

b. Revenue Recognition

Subscription from the members is recognized on accrual basis considering the reasonable certainty for the ultimate collection.

c. Fixed Assets and Depreciation

- i. Fixed Assets are stated at cost inclusive of all related and other incidental expenses less accumulated depreciation.
- ii. Depreciation on Tangible assets is provided in accordance with Schedule II of the Companies Act, 2013 based on Straight Line Method pro-rata over the remaining useful life of the assets. The useful life of asset taken for the aforesaid depreciation is as under :-

Assets	Useful Life
Computers Hardware	3 Years
Office Equipment	5 Years
Furniture & Fixture	10 & 8 Years

d. Taxation

The Company is exempt from tax on income under Section 11 & 12 of the Income Tax Act, 1961; hence no provision has been made for the same.

e. Entrance Fee

Entrance fees treated as Capital Receipts and hence been shown separately.

Forfeited entrance fee is transferred to Capital Reserve in the case of removal or resignation of any Member.

f. Employee Benefits

Gratuity and other retirement liability is provided on actual basis pro-rata to the number of years served based on the principles stated under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

g. Provisions, Contingent Liability & Contingent Assets

- i. Provisions involving substantial degree of estimation in measurement are recognized when the present obligation resulting from past events give rise to probability of outflow of resources embodying economic benefits on settlement.
- ii. Contingent liabilities are not recognized and are disclosed in Notes.
- iii. Contingent assets are neither recognized nor disclosed in financial statements.
- iv. Provisions are reviewed at each Balance sheet date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimates.

h. Use of Estimates

The presentation of financial statements in conformity with the generally accepted accounting principles requires estimates and assumptions to be made that affect reportable amount of assets

and liabilities on the date of financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Difference between the actual results and estimates are recognized in the year in which the results are known / materialized.

Other Notes to Accounts

18. In the opinion of the management, the value on realization of current assets, loans and advances in the ordinary course of activities would not be less than the amount at which they are stated in the Balance Sheet and provisions for all known liabilities has been made.
19. The Company is a Small & Medium sized Company (SMC) as defined in the general instructions in respect of Accounting Standards specified under Section 133 of The Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 7 of Companies (Accounts) Rules 2014 notified under the Companies Act, 2013. Accordingly, the Company has complied with the Accounting Standards as applicable to a Small & Medium sized Company.
20. Based on the information available with the Company, no balance is due to Micro & Small Enterprises as defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 as on 31st March 2022. Further during the year no interest has been paid, accrued or payable under the terms of the said Act.
21. The Company is registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (Section 25 of the erstwhile Companies Act, 1956) and further it has got the registration under Section 12AA of the Income Tax, 1961. Accordingly, income is also exempted from Tax u/s 11 & 12 of the said Act. Therefore, provisions of the Accounting Standard, AS-22 on Accounting for Taxes on Income are not applicable on the Company.
22. Special reserve has been created under Section 11 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, by transferring the unutilized amount in excess of 15% of the total income, for the purpose of building the infrastructure of the Association with a view to achieve the objects stated in the Memorandum of Association.
However, during the year, Company has incurred expenditure of Rs. 81,448/- (Previous Year Rs. 61,882/) from special reserve created under Section 11 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, towards the objectives as stated above.
23. The lease rentals charged during the period and the obligations on long-term, non-cancellable operating leases payable as per the rentals stated in the respective agreements are as follows:

Particulars	2021-2022	2020-2021
Lease payment for the year	11,912	11,108
	2021-2022	2020-2021
Lease Obligations Payable		
- within one year	13,088	11,912
- in a period between one year and five years	18,080	31,169
- in a period after five years	-	-

24. Gratuity provision has been provided pro-rata based on the current salary drawn and number of years of services. Management is of the opinion that this provision will not be materially different from actuarial calculations as provided in Accounting Standard-15.
25. During the year Board of Directors, decided to set aside Rs. 25,000 of the surplus of the Association as corpus fund for the purpose of long term Association requirement. Accordingly, disclosure has been made in the Note 2 relating to reserves and surplus.

26. Additional Regulatory Information Ratios

Particulars	Numerator	Denominator	Current year	Previous year	Variance	Remarks
Current ratio (in times)	Current Assets	Current Liability	537.48	40.09	1241%	In FY 2021-22, Short Term Borrowings has been paid.
Debt-Equity ratio (in times)	Total Debt	Shareholders Equity	N/A	N/A	N/A	Entity don't have any share capital
Debt service coverage ratio (in times)	Earning available for debt service	Debt Service	N/A	N/A	N/A	Entity don't have any debt service
Return on equity ratio (in %)	Net profit after tax	Average total Equity	2%	4%	-32%	In FY 2021-22, Surplus has been reduced
Inventory turnover Ratio	Cost of goods sold	Average Inventory	N/A	N/A	N/A	Entity don't have any inventory of goods
Trade receivables turnover ratio (in times)	Revenue from operation	Average Trade receivable	N/A	N/A	N/A	Entity does not have trade of goods or services
Trade payables turnover ratio (in times)	Net Credit Purchase	Average Trade payable	N/A	N/A	N/A	Entity does not have trade of goods or services
Net capital turnover ratio (in times)	Net Income	Average Working Capital	0.40	0.35	14%	
Net profit ratio (in %)	Surplus	Net Income	6%	10%	-42%	In FY 2021-22, Surplus has been reduced
Return on capital employed (in %)	Earnings Before interest & Taxes	Capital employed	2%	4%	-32%	In FY 2021-22, Surplus has been reduced
Return on investment (in %)	Income generated from invested funds	Average invested funds in treasury investments	N/A	N/A	N/A	The entity has no investment

27. Figures of the previous year have been rearranged/ regrouped to conform to those of current year.

As per our report of even date attached

For S.S. Kothari Mehta & Co
Chartered Accountants

Firm Regn. No. 000756N

Sd/-

Naveen Aggarwal

Partner

M No. – 094380

Place : New Delhi

Date : August 8, 2022

For and on behalf of the Board

Sd/-

Rajat Sharma

President

DIN No: 00005373

Sd/-

M.K. Anand

Honorary Treasurer

DIN No: 02973420

Sd/-

Avinash Pandey

Vice President

DIN No: 02828532

Sd/-

Annie Joseph

Secretary General

PAN No: ADTPJ0257E

Management Report for the year 2021-2022

Industry Overview

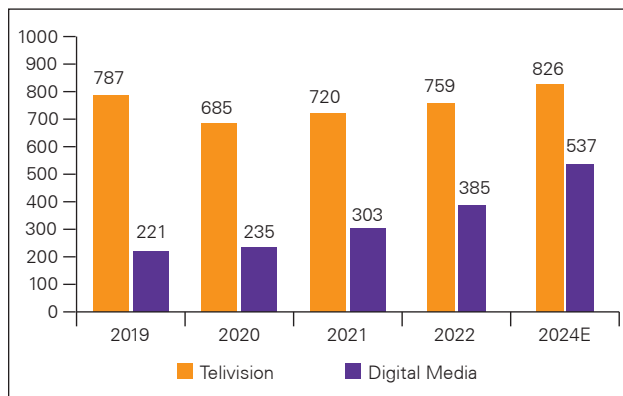
Post the Covid-19 pandemic, which adversely affected the growth of the Indian Media & Entertainment (M&E) sector, the year 2021 emerged as a year of resilience, with the M&E sector witnessing a steady growth of 16.4% to reach INR1.61 trillion (US\$21.5 billion). As the M&E sector continues on its path to recovery, some experts have forecasted that the industry will recover to the pre-pandemic levels in 2022 and reach INR1.89 trillion (US\$25.2 billion).¹

Key Segments

The key contributors to the growth of the M&E Sectors in 2021 were the television and digital media segment. the television segment grew by 5%² and retained its dominant position as the largest segment in the sector, followed closely by the digital media segment, which continued to experience sustained exponential growth at INR68³ billion and further bolstered its position as the second largest segment in the sector (Figure 1).

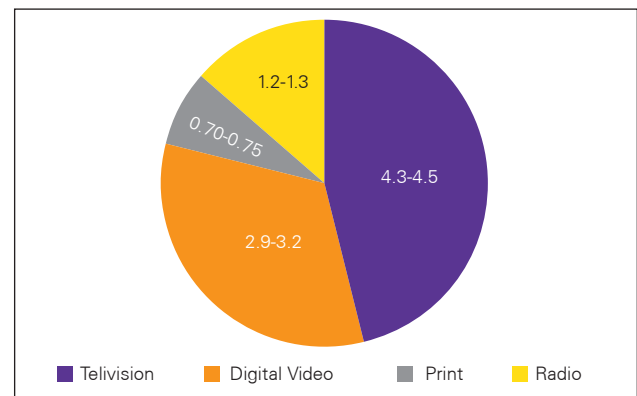
Per capita, media consumption also continued to grow across all segments. However, digital consumption witnessed the most growth, largely driven by changes in consumer behaviour during the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to an increase in consumption across all digital platforms (Figure 2).⁴ Further, the adoption of ConnectedTVs also led to viewers accessing digital content through various streaming services. As per reports from Google India, its streaming platform YouTube was streamed by over 55 million people in India in December 2021 alone i.e., a growth of 2.7x in six months.⁵

Figure 1. Segment-wise Growth



All figures are gross of taxes (INR billion) for calendar years | EY estimates |Source: EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into consumer

Figure 2. Number of Hours of Consumption/Day



Source – CII -BCG Report: Blockbuster Script for the New Decade, December 2021| BCG Estimates

¹EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into Consumer, March 2022, page 10

²EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into Consumer, March 2022, page 34

³EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into Consumer, March 2022, page 11

⁴CII -BCG Report :Blockbuster Script for the New Decade, December 2021, page 12

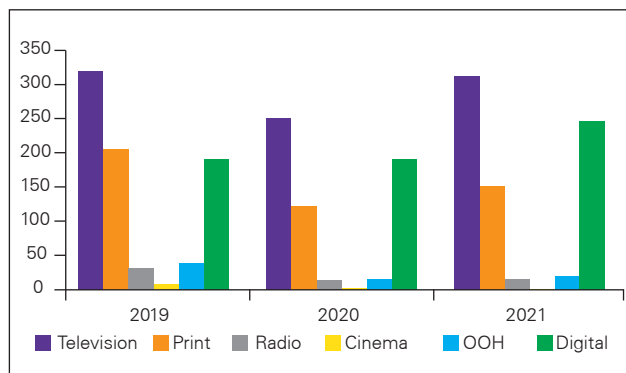
⁵Richa Suri Malhotra, Kanika Jain, 'Go big, go home: How brands in India use CTV to win over more people in new ways' (Think with Google, July 2022) <<https://www.thinkwithgoogle.com/intl/en-apac/marketing-strategies/video/increase-reach-india-connected-tv/>>

Advertising Revenues also grew 25%, with, television advertising experiencing the highest growth, followed by digital and print. In fact, television and digital segment generated combined income of Rs. 559 billion, which accounted for 75% of the total advertising revenue for the year (Figure 3).⁶

The GEC-led genre became the largest contributor of ad volumes with a 28% share, while news genre experienced a small decline from 31% in 2020 to 28% in 2021 (Figure 4).⁷ Within the news genre, Hindi news (including Hindi regional news and Hindi business news) continued to be the largest contributor of ad volumes, followed by Bengali News, Telugu News, Tamil News and Kannada News. The five sub-genres collectively accounted for nearly 65% of the Ad Volumes (Figure 5).⁸

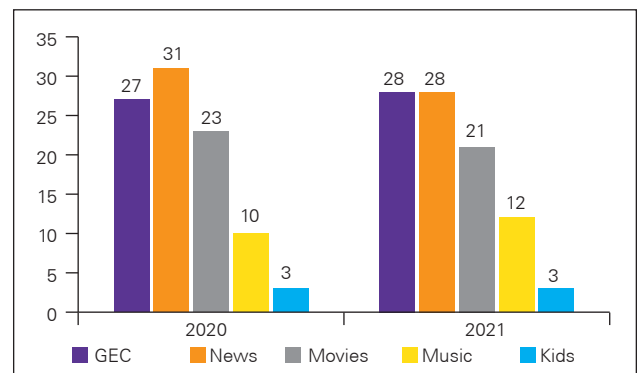
However, as per recent reports, news genre once again overtook GEC to become the most popular genre in terms of advertising (Figure 6).⁹

Figure 3. Advertising Revenue



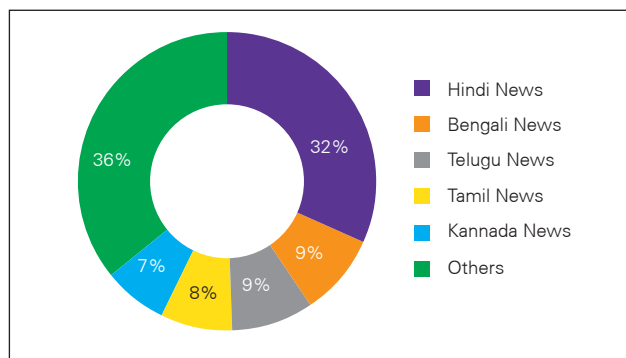
Source: EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into Consumer

Figure 4. Genre Wise Share of AD Volumes



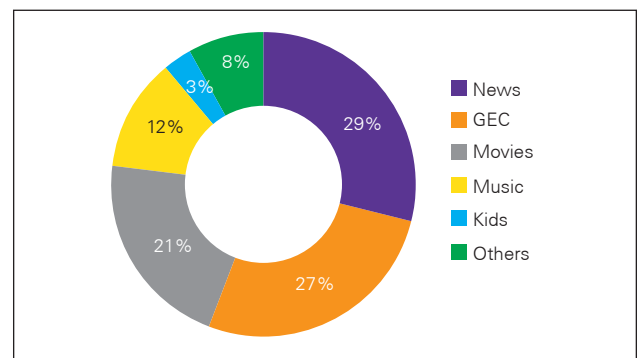
Source: EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into consumer
/Figures expressed in Percentage

Figure 5. Sub Genre Wise Share of Ad Volumes 2021



Source: TAM AdEx – Mirroring Y 2021 for Advertising in News Genre

Figure 6. Genre Wise Share of Ad Volumes for Jan-March'2022



Source: TAM AdEx-Television Quarterly Advertising Report for Jan-March 2022

⁶EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into Consumer, March 2022, page 13

⁷EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into Consumer, March 2022, page 37

⁸TAM AdEx – Mirroring Y 2021 for Advertising in News Genre < <https://www.tamindia.com/tam-adex-mirroring-y-2021-for-advertising-in-news-genre/>>

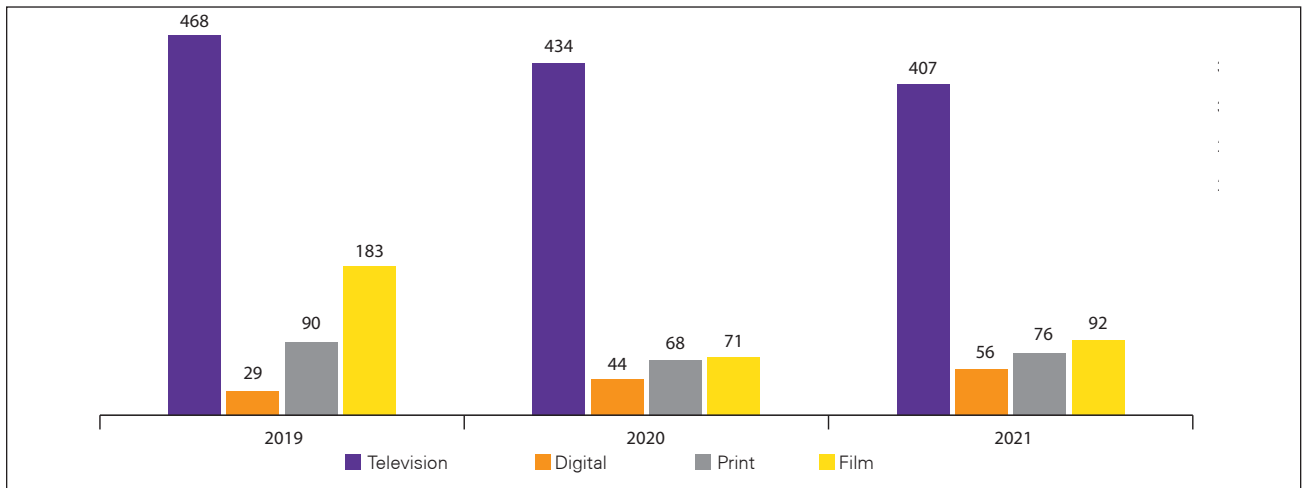
⁹TAM AdEx-Television Quarterly Advertising Report for the Jan-March 2022 < <https://www.tamindia.com/tam-adex-television-quarterly-advertising-report-jan-mar-22/>> page 10

Subscription revenues also grew by 2.4% largely due to growth in subscription revenues for digital, film and print segments. However, television segment continued to decline for the second consecutive year in a row and experienced a degrowth of 6.2% (Figure 7).¹⁰

Despite, the decline in subscription revenues, the number of pay channels increased from 36% in 2020 to 38.5% in 2021, while the number of Free-to-Air (FTA) channels declined from 64% in 2020 to 61.4% in 2021 (Figure 8). According to EY-FICCI M&E Report for 2021-2022, the increase in number of Pay TV channels reflected the broadcasters attempt to build stronger subscription revenue products through bouquets.¹¹

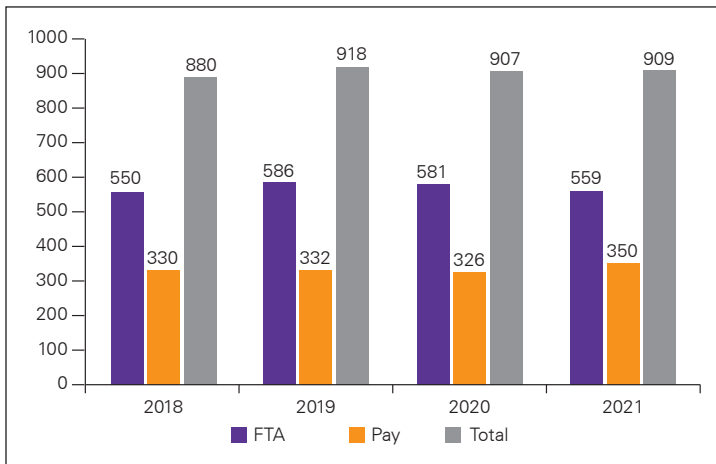
As the M&E sector became medium agnostic, reports indicate that subscription revenues for digital videos reached 54 billion rupees i.e., more than 50% of the broadcaster’s share of TV subscription revenues in 2021 and online news subscriptions generated a revenue of INR 0.9 billion (Figure 9).

Figure 7. Subscription Revenues



Source: EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into Consumer | INR billion (gross of taxes) | EY estimates

Figure 8. Television Channels



Source: TRAI Yearly Performance Indicators Indian Telecom Sector (Figures as on 31st December)

Figure 9. Digital Subscription

	2020	2021	2022E	2024E
Video	42.4	53.9	67.5	102
Audio	1.1	1.6	2.1	2.8
News	0.3	0.9	1.2	2.1
Total	43.8	56.4	69.6	106.9

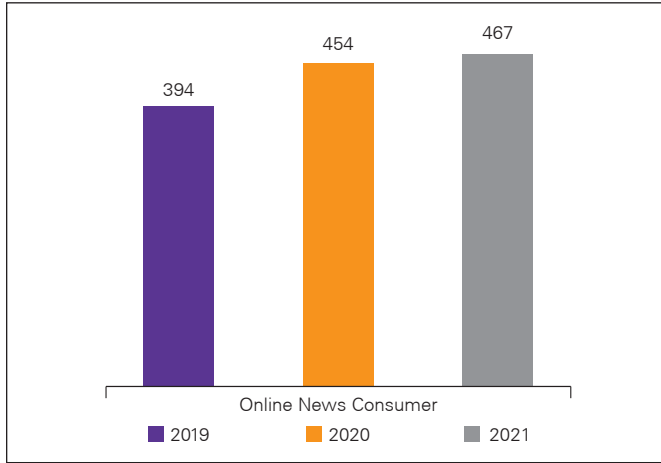
Source: EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into consumer | INR billion (gross of taxed) EY Estimates

¹⁰EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into Consumer, March 2022, page 12

¹¹EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into Consumer, March 2022, page 34

The number of online news subscribers also grew to 467 million i.e., nearly 56% of the internet users (Figure 10).¹²

Figure 10. Reach

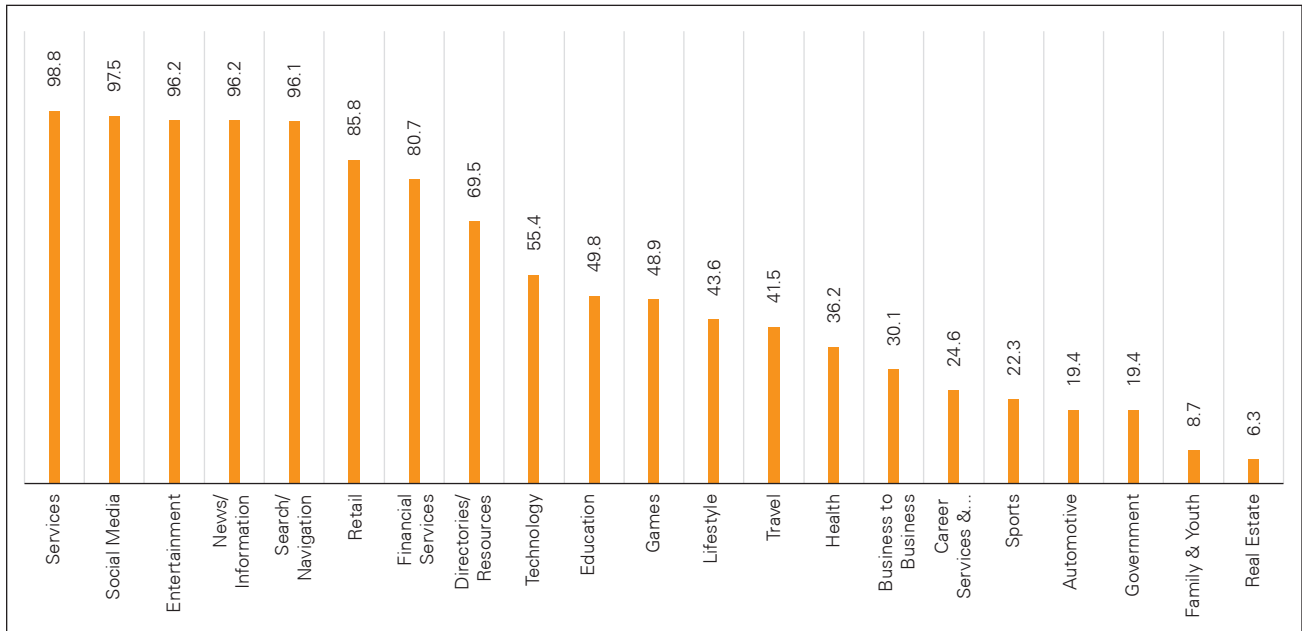


Source: EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into consumer [Figures expressed in millions]

Further, according to Comscore, consumption of online news ranked fourth in terms of reach (Figure 11)¹³ and news media sites like Times Internet, Zee Digital and Network 18 were the amongst top 10 publishers in December 2021.¹⁴ Even traditional news companies established a heavy monthly active user rate through their websites.

As digital media segment continues to gain momentum, with even traditional media pivoting to the digital and with increasing penetration of CTVs in the market, the future of M&E and in particular broadcasting would depend on hybrid model, which caters to the consumer by providing access to both linear TV and OTT content.¹⁵

Figure 11. Reach of Selected Content



Source: Comscore Snapshot India : Entertainment in 2022

¹²EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into Consumer, March 2022, page 56

¹³Comscore Snapshot India : Entertainment in 2022

¹⁴EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into Consumer March 2022

¹⁵EY-FICCI M&E Report: Turning into consumer, March 2022

In the process of managing its policy environment, the Association draws constantly on the goodwill of the Government. During the year under review, the Association took up issues that concern news broadcasters with the government from time to time. President NBDA and the Board Members of NBDA also called on the Ministers and Officials.

Representations to the Government

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity)

Joint Parliamentary Committee Report on the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019

The Joint Parliamentary Committee on 16.12.2021, submitted its *Report on the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019* (Report), recommending substantial changes in the scope and nature of the proposed Bill.

NBDA represented on 9.5.2022 to the Minister of State, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity) that prior to finalization of the Bill, its suggestions should be considered and excluded for the reasons stated therein. NBDA submitted that it has actively engaged in the consultative process for the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. That a perusal of the Report reveals that amendments/changes suggested by NBDA in respect of the provisions/sections in the Bill which would impinge on the media's free speech rights have been completely disregarded by the Committee. Further, the Committee has made certain other recommendations which would adversely affect the media's rights as granted under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

NBDA highlighted the following concerns with respect to the Report:

1. Treatment of Media Companies as 'data fiduciary' and 'data processor'

NBDA sought specific exclusion of media companies and journalists from the definitions of '*data fiduciary*' and '*data processor*' under the Bill. In the amended Clause 3, it appears that the term '*data fiduciary*' and '*data processor*' applies to any person, including state, a company, a non-government organisation, a juristic entity or any individual. Therefore, NBDA stated that unless clarified, a media company and/or journalist could also be regarded as a *data fiduciary* and/or a *data processor* under the Bill and thereby be subjected to all provisions under the said Bill.

2. Disclosure of Sources

If media companies and/or journalists are not exempted from being regarded as "*data fiduciaries*" under the Bill, they can be required to disclose their 'source' of information, which is not desirable. In this regard, specific reference was invited to Section 7 of the Bill.

NBDA submitted that it is a widely accepted norm that journalists should not be required to disclose their sources unless absolutely necessary and in the public interest. NBDA reiterated that a media company/journalist should be excluded from the purview of the Bill.

3. The 'Right to be Forgotten'

NBDA had suggested that the 'Right to be Forgotten', may create tensions between an individual's right to privacy and the media's freedom of speech and expression. Rather, the Committee recommended that the applicability of the provision should be extended to apply to even processing of personal data, as in their view, "*the expression*" "*disclosure*" *alone cannot serve the purpose for which the right to be forgotten is conferred to the data principal.*" Therefore, to make this clause more comprehensive and meaningful, the Committee has recommended that the provision of '*Right to be Forgotten*' should be amended to include the processing of personal data.

In the redrafted provision, the discretion has been conferred on the Adjudicating Officer, who has the power to adjudicate, evaluate and balance the right of freedom of speech and expression of the media and the right to privacy of an individual, by taking into consideration certain factors provided in Clause 20 itself.

NBDA submitted that media companies/journalists would be at the mercy of the Adjudicating Officer, who will have the right to pass an order restraining disclosure or processing of data, if he/she thinks such disclosure or processing overrides the freedom of speech and the right to information of any other citizen or the right of the data fiduciary to retain, use and process such data in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder.

NBDA submitted that in effect, the *'Right to be Forgotten'* would amount to prior restraint, which would have serious consequences on the freedom of speech and expression of the media, particularly if the data principal is a government officer or bureaucrat, political leader, criminal, or a public servant/official/figure. The provision of *'Right to Be Forgotten'* can be gravely misused by such data principals to conceal or remove data relating to their activities, thereby restricting the reporting by media/press/ journalists. Reporting issues of public interest such as scams, wrong-doings, specifically by Government bodies and persons in Public Authority, strengthens democracy. NBDA reiterated that by permitting the inclusion of *'Right to Be Forgotten'* as a citizen's right under the Bill, and consequently restricting the availability or access to data for journalistic purpose, the Bill seriously threatens media's rights under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

4. Exemption to 'journalistic purpose' and 'self-regulation'

The other provisions of the Report which posed a problem for media companies and/or journalists relate to the exemptions granted for *'journalistic purpose'*. NBDA had suggested proposing a wider interpretation/import to be given to the term *'journalistic purpose'* to enable it to withstand any changes in the technology that may occur in the future.

In the Report, the Committee has observed that *"self-regulation by the media is insufficient, and there is a need for a comprehensive code and a unified entity for the regulation of media, in all its forms and iterations in the country," particularly in the absence of a "single unified agency that regulates the various forms of media, specifically news media, in the country." In the Committee's view, "the existing media regulators such as the Press Council of India are not appropriately equipped to regulate journalism sector that seeks to use modern methods of communication such as social media platforms or the internet at large."*

To fulfil the above-mentioned objectives, the Committee has recommended the establishment of a statutory body for media regulation and suggested that Clause 36(e) may be amended to empower a statutory media regulator (that the Government may create in the future) to regulate the processing of personal data.

The Committee had also recommended that a statutory media regulatory authority, along the lines of the Press Council of India, be set up for the regulation of the content on all such social media platforms irrespective of the platform where their content is published, whether online, print or otherwise.

NBDA submitted that the said Recommendation was beyond the remit of the Committee, and the Committee should limit its recommendations to the issues raised in Bill. The issue of establishing any *'statutory media regulatory organization'* to regulate or penalize the media /journalists, as suggested by the Committee, can only be done after consultation with all the stakeholders, as it will seriously impinge on the free speech rights of the media. The comment on self-regulatory bodies is also beyond the remit of the Committee and has no relation to the issues under consideration.

NBDA submitted that media organizations are adequately governed by several statutory provisions and statutory bodies which regulate the media like the Press Council of India, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting etc. apart from self-regulatory bodies.

NBDA submitted that it is also possible that the recommendation may result in the Government and the Data Protection Authority dictating the manner in which a journalist/media company can collect and process content/information. For media companies, such excessive regulations are regressive in nature, as this will not only create an atmosphere of fear which will deter journalists from publishing news/current affairs but will also create a “chilling effect” on the media which will impede its functioning.

5. Use of Vague Terms and Ambiguous Provisions

NBDA submitted that in the Report, the Committee objected to the negative connotation of Clause 4 and suggested that the clause be redrafted to read, “*The processing of personal data by any person shall be subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder.*” in the absence of the requirement for data processing to be for a ‘specific, clear and lawful purpose’, the proposed change has brought ambiguity in the application of the provision.

Additionally, the Committee made recommendations regarding the conditions under which sensitive personal data and critical personal data could be transferred outside India under Clause 34. The Committee recommended clarifying the definition of “*an act against public or state policy*” by adding an explanation at the end of Clause 34(1). The terms used by the recommendations above, such as ‘tendency to harm’ are vague and ambiguous and liable to be misused as these are against the principles laid down by the Supreme Court in “*Shreya Singhal Vs Union of India*” 2015 (5) SCC 1.

6. Penalties

NBDA had also previously commented on the fact that penalties proposed to be imposed under the Bill are harsh, burdensome & onerous and will have a detrimental effect on the business of the media companies, especially in the current environment in which news media companies operate, with high costs and lack of assured revenue streams. Such penalties will threaten their existence apart from creating an atmosphere resulting in the “chilling effect”.

The Government has withdrawn the Personal Data Protection Bill.

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting [Mol&B]

Central Media Accreditation Guidelines, 2022

The Central Media Accreditation Guidelines, 2022 was issued on 7.2.2022, which superseded the Central News Media Accreditation Guidelines, 1999, as amended on 13.9.2012.

NBDA in its representation dated 23.5.2022, apprised the Principal DG, PIB of its concerns about the Central Media Accreditation Guidelines, 2022. NBDA submitted that it is disappointed with the manner in which the Guidelines were issued without consultation with any stakeholders, including NBDA. NBDA conveyed its concerns regarding the modification and changes being implemented in the process of granting accreditation under the Guidelines.

NBDA submitted that the Guidelines seek to impose arbitrary, arduous and onerous conditions, which will have a “chilling effect” on the media’s freedom of speech. The Guidelines confer a wide range of powers upon the Government, which include *inter alia* the right to suspend or withdraw accreditation on unreasonable grounds, which tantamount to restriction on the freedom of speech and expression of journalists and their right to practice their profession under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution for the following reasons: -

1. Representation of only Government Officials in the Central Media Accreditation Committee (“Committee”)

Under Clause 5.1 of the Guidelines, a Central Media Accreditation Committee (previously known as Central Press Accreditation Committee) has been formed, whose primary role is to grant or reject accreditation to journalists. The Committee constituted under the Guidelines includes Principal DG, PIB and 25 other members nominated by the Government. This composition is in stark contrast to Clause 5.2 of the Guidelines, 1999.

NBDA requested that it should be clarified that the Committee will have adequate representation from associations/organizations of working journalists/media persons in the Committee. To assess whether accreditation should be granted or rejected, it is essential that media be represented on this Committee, as the Guidelines pertain only to journalists/media persons.

2. Vague and Arbitrary Grounds for Withdrawal/Suspension of Accreditation

Under the Guidelines, a new clause has been included under which the Committee has been granted the right to suspend and/or withdraw accreditation of journalists based on ten grounds mentioned in the Guidelines, which are extremely subjective in nature and are open to a variety of interpretations.

While the Government has the right to expand the grounds for suspension of accreditation, however, and in any event, it should not be done without consulting the stakeholders, particularly in respect of Clauses 6(a), (b) and (h) of the Guidelines for the reasons mentioned herein below:

Clause (a) uses the accreditation for “non-journalistic activities”

NBDA submitted that the term “*journalistic activities*” has not been defined in the Guidelines, and therefore the term “*non-journalistic activities*” is vague and subject to arbitrary interpretation. Therefore, to reject/suspend the accreditation of a journalist on the grounds of having indulged in “*non-journalistic activities*” is a violation of the free speech rights of a journalist.

Clause (b) has been charged with a serious cognizable offence

NBDA submitted that a wide degree of discretion is conferred on the Committee, who can withdraw/suspend the accreditation of a journalist merely on the filing of a “*charge sheet*” without waiting for a judicial determination in this regard. The Clause ignores the fundamental tenet of criminal jurisprudence that a person is innocent until proven guilty or convicted and in view of the said tenet, suspending the accreditation of a journalist on being charged with a “*serious cognizable offence*” is a violation of Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

In the event of that eventually the journalist is not convicted for the alleged serious cognizable offence, his/her accreditation would have been withdrawn erroneously, which would have long term impact on his/her professional career. NBDA suggested that until a journalist is convicted, his/her accreditation should remain unaffected.

NBDA also submitted that the term “*serious*” has not been defined in the above Clause and is therefore vague. Clause 6(b) is a serious infringement of journalists’ right to free speech and needs to be reconsidered as a ground for withdrawal and/or suspension of accreditation.

The Guidelines may tend to suppress dissent and criticism by a journalist of legislation and/or policies. Therefore, NBDA strongly recommended that Clause 6(h) should be modified in order to balance the free speech rights of a journalist and the violations committed by a journalist of the aforementioned restrictions imposed by Article 19(2) of the Constitution.

In cases where there is ambiguity as to whether there has been a violation of the above reasonable restrictions, the journalist's accreditation should not be suspended or withdrawn immediately without following due process and giving the journalist an opportunity of being heard.

3. Other Reasons

3.1 Absence of Review Mechanism

NBDA submitted that no reasons have been given for having abolished the review mechanism which existed under Guidelines, 1999, which review mechanism at least provided a possibility for denial of accreditation being reviewed.

3.2 Violation of Principles of Natural Justice

The criteria and grounds established for withdrawing/suspending accreditation under the Guidelines are arbitrary and violate the principles of natural justice. It allows the Committee to take away accreditation from a journalist without giving the journalist an opportunity of being heard or without assigning any reason. NBDA submitted that the principles of natural justice must be adhered to while withdrawing/suspending/rejecting the accreditation of journalists.

3.3 Inordinate Delays in granting accreditation

NBDA submitted that under Section 5.5. of the Guidelines, provision has also been made for the constitution of a Sub-Committee consisting of five members, nominated by the Committee and chaired by Principal DG, PIB, to consider and take decisions on accreditation cases of urgent nature referred under Section 8.2, during the interregnum of two meetings of the Committee. NBDA suggested that since accreditation is critical for journalists, the process should be streamlined to avoid any unnecessary delays in granting accreditation and, accreditation should be granted to journalists within one month from filing an application.

3.4 Grant of Accreditation to Editors

NBDA submitted that to give the complete authority to Principal DG, PIB under Clause 8.3(iv) to grant accreditation to Editors would amount to taking away the independence of the Editors and is not acceptable.

The issue of whether to accredit/ withdraw/suspend accreditation has to be decided by a Committee of which media persons are a part. The principle of natural justice should also be part of the Guidelines, which means that for granting, rejecting, withdrawing or suspending accreditation, the journalist/editors must be given an opportunity of being heard.

The Guidelines seriously impinge on the Article 19(1)(a) free speech rights of media and cannot be implemented in the manner as drafted. A free and independent media is the cornerstone of any democracy, which makes the Government accountable and transparent. Therefore, NBDA submitted that the Guidelines should be modified as suggested above in order that the media can exercise its free speech rights fearlessly and independently.

Journalist Welfare Scheme Guidelines

Mol&B constituted a Committee to review the existing guidelines of Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS) dated March 2019 to give support to journalists and their families in extreme hardship and to provide a one-time ex-gratia payment. Mol&B sought comments from NBDA and other stakeholders. The suggestions given by NBDA on 5.10.2021 are as follows:

1. Under the Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code) notified on 29.9.2020, the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Condition of Service) and Miscellaneous

Provisions Act, 1955, (said Act) has been repealed by Section 143 of the OSH Code. In view of the above, the definition of the “Working Journalist” under the said Act will not be relevant.

2. In light of the definition of a “Working Journalist” under Section 2(zzm) of the OSH Code, it appears that the definition of “Media Personnel” under Journalist Welfare Scheme (said Scheme) is not required.
3. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 does not define a “*working journalist/media personnel*”, therefore, reference to the above Rules in the present Terms of Reference is superfluous.
4. The quantum of ex-gratia payment provided in death as well as other cases under the said Scheme is increased.
5. “The Central News Media Accreditation Guidelines, 1999” (as amended on 13th September 2012) (said Guidelines) should be reviewed in view of substantial changes that have occurred in the landscape of the print, electronic, digital media and legislations since 2012.
6. The quantum of ex-gratia payment provided in death as well as other cases under the said Scheme is increased
7. Members of NBDA are 24x7 news broadcasters. There are several media personnel/working journalists who would not get accredited purely because of the Schedule of Quotas fixed for various Categories of Electronic Media under Schedule III of the said Guidelines. Therefore, the distinction between accredited and non-accredited journalists in the said Scheme is discriminatory and should not be made, failing which most journalists would fall outside the purview of the said Scheme and the objectives of the said Scheme would be defeated.
8. If a journalist fulfils the definition of a working journalist/ media personnel as proposed to be defined under the said Scheme, he/she should get the benefits of financial assistance irrespective of their age and accreditation status.
9. A journalist would not be able to avail benefits under the said Scheme if they are covered under CGHS, or any other insurance/departmental health schemes, etc. Therefore, maintaining such stringent distinctions would deny most journalists any benefit under the said Scheme. Journalists who qualify to apply for the benefit under the said Scheme would not have CGHS, or any other insurance/departmental health schemes, etc. The Committee should give reasons for rejecting an application under the said Scheme, particularly as the journalist would have no other recourse if he/ she suffers death or any other ailments as detailed under *Guideline 8- Assistance Available Under the Scheme*.

Telecast of advertisements interfering with the programmes in alleged violation of Rule 7(10) of Advertising Code 7[10] of Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994

In November 2019 Mol&B had issued notices to several news broadcasters stating that advertisements broadcast by news channels in the months of November and December, 2018 and January, February and March, 2019 were interfering with the programmes telecast and that this was a violation of Advertising Code-Rule 7[10] of Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 which provides that “*All advertisements should be clearly distinguishable from the programme and should not in any manner interfere with the programme viz, use of lower part of screen to carry captions static or moving alongside the programmes.*” NBDA had made independent submissions to the Mol&B in this regard vide letter dated 7.1.2020.

Under Secretary, Mol&B, vide letter dated 23.6.2021 had informed NBDA that the Inter-Ministerial Committee has recommended that both NBDA & IBDF be advised to formulate internal guidelines so as to comply with the provisions of Rule 7(10) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

NBDA in a detailed response dated 5.10.2021 to Secretary, Mol&B submitted that advertisements are a part of the programme as is evident by the definition of 'programme' given in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 in Section 2(g). Therefore, the question that an advertisement cannot be carried on the lower part of screen to carry captions, static or moving alongside the programme does not arise as it is a part of the 'programme'. In view of the submissions of NBDA, Mol&B should interpret Rule 7(10) of the Rules in a lenient manner, not prohibit the tickers, scrolls and other insertions on the news channels and instead attempt to balance the viewing experience of the viewer with the rights of the news channels.

Implementation of Accessibility Standards- Constitution of Core Committee

Mol&B has been mandated to formulate the Accessibility Standards for Television Programme for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) for notification under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017. For the purpose, Ministry, vide its order dated 18.10.2017 had constituted a sub- group, headed by DG, Doordarshan along with members from NBDA, IBDF and domain experts. Subsequently, the "Accessibility Standards for Television Programme for Hearing Impaired" were issued by Mol&B on 11.9.2019.

Mol&B on 4.3.2021, requested Prasar Bharati to constitute a Core Group under DG, Doordarshan and associated BECIL, NBDA, IBDF and domain experts to explore new ideas and technological developments for implementation of Accessibility Standards in TV programming and films for persons with disabilities. Mr Rajat Nigam, CTO, Network18 Media & Investments, represents NBDA in the Core Group.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) requested that the Accessibility Standards to be finalized in consultation with the Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities (CCPD), for due notification. The Core Group was accordingly requested to examine the comments received in consultation with Doordarshan, BECIL, NBDA, IBDF and domain experts and suggest any inclusion/ modifications that may be required in the formulated Accessibility Standards. NBDA submitted the draft modified version on 25.5.2022 to the Core Group.

Proposal for Grant of Infrastructure Status to Broadcasting Sector

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting [Mol&B] vide letter dated 29.10.2021 informed that it is in the process of formulating a fresh proposal for grant of infrastructure status to the "content distribution segment" of Broadcasting Sector for consideration by the concerned department i.e., Department of Economic Affairs and sought a note on the nature of concessions that may accrue to the broadcasting sector if the content distribution segment is given the infrastructure status.

NBDA in its submissions dated 2.12.2021 suggested that:

- A. It is not the content distribution segment of the broadcasting industry alone which needs conferment of "Infrastructure status" but the entire broadcasting industry which should be granted an "Infrastructure status"
- B. The broadcasting industry involves a value chain which includes content creation, technical setup for broadcasting, distribution of content through MSOs, LCOs, DTH, IPTV, HITs and by mobile to the audience. By granting Infrastructure status only to the "content distribution segment," on a standalone basis and not to the other components of the value chain i.e., content creation and broadcasting, would be detrimental for the entire broadcasting industry, would serve no purpose and be pointless.

The reasons for granting infrastructure status to the entire broadcasting industry were as follows:

1. News broadcasters pay huge amounts over and above the regulated price prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) as Carriage, Placement and Marketing fee to the content distribution segment.

In fact, even Prasar Bharti carriage fee payouts have only increased and added to the burden of news and current affairs broadcasters. The broadcasters have also not got any waiver of satellite or bandwidth charges.

2. In order to have a sustainable business model, the Government should facilitate and incentivize amalgamations leading to enhanced growth of the sector.
3. It will have a positive impact on the industry as it would attract higher investments, introduce quality content and technology, and create additional businesses and employment opportunities.
4. The broadcasting industry be included under the definition of “industrial undertaking” [proposals made under Section 72(A) of the Income Tax Act].
5. It would make capital borrowing easier as it would facilitate long term financing at lower rates from NBFCs, Pension funds, Insurance funds etc.
6. It would help in availing easier loans/credit facilities on long term basis at reasonable rates which is essential to keep the industry afloat as it is struggling with cash flow/short working capital issues.
7. It would enhance savings in terms of foreign exchange as it would encourage several entrepreneurs to set up businesses for production of equipment/ services which are being imported at present. This would attract foreign investments in the future.
8. It would give the industry certain tax advantages which would result in corresponding increase in the taxes for the exchequer. In turn there would be certain benefits under the IT Act for carrying forward the losses etc.
9. It would also help in setting up production facilities for the broadcasters as various state governments offer concessions and incentives for setting up infrastructure industries.
10. It is likely to reduce the cost of service of the broadcasting industry and therefore, it would be able to compete with emerging technologies, apart from enhancing adaptability of new technology especially in a global digital world.
11. Telecom sector is already treated as Infrastructure Services. Since there is lot of convergence amongst Telecom, IT and broadcasting, grant of infrastructure status will ensure a level playing field among the similarly placed services.

Review of Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India

Mol&B vide letter dated 2.11.2021 had informed NBDA that the Ministry is in the process to review/ revisit the “Policy guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India” dated 16.1.2014 for technological up-gradation, increased sampling, strengthening of transparency etc. if so required. Mol&B sought comments/views/ suggestions in respect of both TRAI recommendations and TRP Committee Report. NBDA submitted detailed comments/submissions vide letter dated 4.12.2021 on both the TRAI recommendations and TRP Committee Report.

Review of Television Audience Measurement and Rating System in India dated 28.4.2020

NBDA made the following suggestions to bring transparency and credibility to the rating system:

a. Sample Size

- i. The sample size to figure out television ratings must be increased from the existing 44,000, which would make it difficult for anyone to tamper with viewership. If the sample size is increased, the data received would be more reliable, credible and reasonably accurate measurement in a country as diverse and heterogeneous as India. Therefore, BARC should devise a concrete plan to further increase the sample panel size and achieve the targeted figures of household samples at the earliest.

- ii. In order to bring complete transparency to the TV rating system, BARC must share the market sample size with the broadcasters, and the sample panels should be replaced regularly to avoid tampering/ manipulation.
- iii. Niche channels should be adequately represented in order that they are compared with only those channels which fall under the category of niche channels for analysing their viewership/ audience measurement.

b. Transparency

- i. BARC should address anomalies in rating for some channels, especially during the late night time bands, in a satisfactory manner.
- ii. BARC must also focus on enhancing the quality of viewership measurement and take initiatives to prevent tampering at the ground level.
- iii. BARC should provide raw level masked data when sought by the broadcasters, as it would help in determining any changes made to weightage.
- iv. BARC needs to be completely transparent with respect to its Outlier Policy. The Outlier Policy should only be driven to check only statistical outliers which have arisen due to technical issues such as meters getting jammed etc. The Outlier Policy should also check for panel tampering where viewing habits are not in line with the household or market profile and there is an evidence of panel tampering on the basis of internal investigations and raw data analysis. Application of the Outlier Policy should be algorithmically driven and no human intervention should be allowed in any manner. This will ensure credibility of BARC's data.
- v. The selection of the members of the Technical Committee of BARC must be more transparent.
- vi. NBDA supported the constitution of an Audit Committee. However, it stated that a member of IBDF should head the Internal Audit Committee, and NBDA should be represented in the Committee.
- vii. Further, there should be a clear demarcation of the roles between the data collection agency and the data processing/publishing agency. The entire process of measurement should be carried out independently to ensure inherent checks in data inconsistency. It is also suggested that the Meterology Data Pvt Ltd. (MDPL) governance and the relationship between BARC and MDPL be audited.

c. Composition of BARC Board

- i. BARC should modify its system to make it more transparent by bringing in Independent Directors and changing the management from time to time. However, there should be no Government Representatives on the BARC Board.

d. Tampering

- i. Channels found guilty of manipulation/tampering should be suspended, and stringent penal actions should be taken against such channels for any violations.
- ii. Usually tampering in respect of ratings done by DPOs is in collusion with the channels. However, such matters could not be brought before any forum as BARC doesn't have any control on the DPOs.

e. Proposal for Oversight Committee

- i. NBDA submitted that since BARC is an industry body, it should be left to make modifications within itself, whether to its management or otherwise to make the systems more transparent and credible. There is no requirement of an Oversight Committee to guide BARC or be responsible for nomination/ appointment of the independent members on the Board or to give policy directions to BARC.

f. Multiple Data Collection Agencies

- i. The proposal to create Multiple Rating Agencies has drawbacks as it will create confusion and indecisiveness as to which rating agency/body is to be followed, as similar problems were faced in the past when TAM and aMAP co-existed. Having Multiple Rating Agencies may be counterproductive as it is time consuming and costly to establish an audience measurement system.

g. Framework for grievance redressal

NBDA submitted that it supports establishing a grievance redressal mechanism for dispute resolution for stakeholders in BARC. Such grievance redressal mechanism must be akin to the self-regulatory bodies such as NBDSA and BCCC. However, there should be no interference from the Government, nor should any representative of the Government be on the grievance redressal mechanism/the self-regulatory body.

Report to Review the Guidelines on TV Ratings Agencies in India dated 4.1.2021

NBDA submitted its suggestions/comments on the Report as under:

1. Strengthening Corporate Governance of BARC India & Bolstering Technical Oversight of BARC India

NBDA agreed with the recommendation that there is a need for strong corporate governance required at the level of the Board of BARC. NBDA submitted that the Technical and Oversight Committees in BARC should not only consist of independent members but should also include members from all stakeholders as stakeholders are equally concerned with transparency and data sanctity relating to BARC. Independent members should be taken from outside the media industry, including market research experts, measurement technology experts, statisticians of national repute and representatives from the fields of economics, law or consumer protection. Further, the Chairperson of BARC should be a person who is absolutely independent and has no conflict of interest in any manner whatsoever.

2. Representation of NBDA on the Board of BARC

It is crucial and necessary that an organisation like BARC, which has the sole responsibility of measuring the audience ratings, should be democratic and inclusive. Since 'News' is a very important genre, NBDA must get representation on the Board to enable it to give critical inputs to BARC on any issues relating to the ratings of news channels.

3. Return Path Data

NBDA in principle supported the recommendations which mandate the use of Return Path Data (RPD) process, however, it expressed its apprehension about how RPD would be implemented. NBDA suggested that RPD should not be plainly extrapolating the panel data riddled with anomalies. Two independent streams should be generated instead and RPD should take over in due time. NBDA also suggested that a pattern recognition for Landing user behaviour and Dual LCN behaviour should also be added.

4. Crowdsourcing Viewership Data

NBDA was of the view that unless research design is simplified, crowdsourcing of viewership data will suffer from the same problems as the RPD process in terms of cost, inaccuracy, the possibility of manipulation of data and concerns around data privacy. Therefore, for an audience viewership system to work, the primary focus should be on research design and collection of input level data.

5. Unhealthy business practices

NBDA agreed with the suggestion that the unhealthy business practices should be disincentivised by removing all artificially created spikes, including landing pages and Dual LCN. NBDA submitted that since the frequency of data reporting only mutes the output, it would like to know how data science and technology

advances are helping BARC remove all such incentives and what is the pattern recognition of a landing user behaviour. Further, it suggested that BARC should develop a mechanism to remove spikes created by undue means like Dual LCN, landing page or any kind of tampering.

6. Technology Innovation in Audience Measurement

BARC investments should go beyond Watermark excuses and attempt to actually find the Dual and Landing feed as there is a need to incentivize such innovation and nurture start-ups in this space.

7. Open Data Ecosystem

NBDA submitted that it is imperative to adopt an open data ecosystem approach, wherein both rating algorithms and raw data sets are openly available to academics and independent researchers to analyse, validate and enrich. NBDA suggested that this could be set up as a regular academic exercise to evaluate and enrich the data system by BARC as it thinks appropriate to make the ratings system more transparent.

8. Multiple Ratings Agencies

There is no requirement for multiple agencies to measure ratings. There should be no regulator for rating agencies as it will eventually stifle innovation therefore, a light touch approach is required. With effective oversight and technical committees, there should be no requirement for a regulator.

9. Hybrid Measurement –TV + Digital

NBDA suggested that before embarking on a TV plus Digital Fused measurement system, the TV measurement should be put in order. Further, measuring linear television viewing through the use of crowdsourcing and smartphones may have some limitations, which should be studied before taking any decision.

Increasing Sample Size

The sample size to figure out television ratings must be increased from the existing 44,000 as it would make the data received more reliable and credible.

10. Need to address on ground manipulation

NBDA stated that the said Report had not addressed issues at the ground level as to how the collection of data, panel tampering, and increasing the panel size would be done in a manner that is cost-effective, easily achievable, effective and is time sensitive.

11. Additional Recommendations

- a. BARC needs to be completely transparent with respect to its Outlier Policy.
- b. Any form of data smoothening should not be permissible:-
 - i. Reduction in data variability by reporting data at monthly level rolling averages, broader target group and market cuts like 2+, 15+, only town class data etc. should not be encouraged as these measures do not remove anomalies but smoothen anomalies over longer periods and in fact make them harder to detect even when they exist.
 - ii. It is imperative that data is available at the same granular level for news channels as it is available for all other genres. Otherwise, news channels have a distinct disadvantage from a media planning perspective.
 - iii. It is imperative that booster samples should be increased for niche channels to represent their correct viewership.

- c. BARC should provide raw level masked data when sought by the broadcasters as it would help in determining any changes made to weightage. BARC should endeavour to give separate data of DTH to check if there is major difference between the data gathered from cable operators and DTH.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

Consultation Paper dated 20.7.2022 on issues relating to the Renewal of Multi-System Operators (MSOs) Registration

NBDA submitted its detailed comments on 24.8.2022 to TRAI on the above Consultation Paper suggesting that the procedure for renewal of registration be streamlined and structured from the perspective of “Ease of Doing Business” and to ensure a hassle-free extension/renewal, registration of MSOs. NBDA submitted that registration of MSOs can be extended or renewed for a period of 5 years. However, the same should be subject to the MSOs submitting an annual compliance report concerning compliance with the provision of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules, 1994 and the extant regulatory framework, identified as key regulatory provisions under Annexure III of the Consultation Paper, failing which registration of MSOs may be cancelled. NBDA also suggested that a one-time renewal fee could be levied on the MSOs at the time of extension/renewal of their registration, however, the quantum of the same should be decided by TRAI and should be at par with industry standards. The extension/renewal procedure should start at least 6 (six) months prior to the date of expiry of the existing registration and should conclude 30 (thirty) days before the date of such expiry of registration. NBDA was of the view that in case the MSOs fail to obtain renewal or extension of their registration within the timeline stipulated above, then they must inform the consumers of the possible discontinuation of services by running a scroll to that effect.

Apart from the requirements already laid down by TRAI in the Consultation Paper for renewal of registration, NBDA also suggested an exhaustive list of compliance requirements including, latest audit report of the digital addressable system, no dues certificate from the broadcasters, maintenance of minimum net worth and disclosure of information and details pertaining to cross-media ownership, if any, etc, which may be sought from the MSOs at the time of renewal/extension of their registration. NBDA suggested that MSOs should also furnish a certificate for Conditional Access System (CAS) and Subscriber Management System (SMS), deployed at each headend to ensure that the equipment’s deployed were in compliance with the extant Regulations. Further, at the time of renewing registration, MSOs must be under a mandate to develop a capacity of minimum of 500 channels.

Consultation Paper on Framework for Broadcasting & Cable Services dated 7.5.2022

The Consultation Paper primarily relates to discounts given in the formation of bouquet, the ceiling price of channels for inclusion in bouquet, and discounts offered by broadcasters to DPOs in addition to distribution fees.

NBDA submitted its response on 6.6.2022 and drew the attention of TRAI to certain concerns of member broadcasters, which are as follows:

The focus of TRAI has to be to ensure that all Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs) comply with applicable provisions of the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017 (“Interconnect Regulations”), Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Eighth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff Order, 2017 (“Tariff Order”) and Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Standards of Quality of Service and Subscriber Protection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017 (“QoS Regulations”) (hereinafter collectively, “New Regulatory Regime”).

NBDA submitted that a Committee was formed consisting of members from IBDF, AIDCF and DTH Associations, who had been given certain terms of reference. NBDA was not invited to be a part of the said Committee which

seems to be the reason why the concerns of news broadcasters have not been addressed in the current consultation process. NBDA opined that issues should not be taken up in isolation, and a comprehensive viewpoint must be taken from all stakeholders of the industry and all the concerns relating to the Regulations issued by TRAI in 2019 and 2020, which have an impact on different stakeholders, must be considered together, particularly in view of the fact that the media and in particular the 'News and Current Affairs' genre has the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1) (a) which can only be restricted by reasonable restrictions as stated in Article 19(2).

NBDA suggested that if the objective is to bring a paradigm shift to the Television (TV) distribution value chain, ensuring transparency and increasing revenues additional questions or a separate consultation process be initiated in order to address the concerns of the members of NBDA as the New Regulatory Framework has not been implemented in letter and spirit nor have the due benefits accrued to the news broadcasters.

The issues posed for consultation are only limited and confined to the issues that directly arose as a result of the challenge to NTO 1.0 & 2.0 and also the Interconnection Regulations dated 3.3.2017. It does not address or poses any questions on several other aspects which were also part and parcel of the very same Regulations and which essentially pertained to the issues faced by Free to Air (FTA)/Low priced channels and concerns of these broadcasters, especially the news broadcasters and their issues pertaining to "Carriage Fee", "Target Market" and the non-implementation of the TRAI Regulations dated 3.3.2017 and 1.1.2020.

TRAI introduced a new regulatory framework in the year 2017, which was implemented in the year 2019 ("NTO-1"), and subsequently, TRAI introduced amendments to the new regulatory framework in the year 2020 ("NTO-2"). NTO-1 made several modifications as it empowered the subscribers to exercise their choices when it came to the selection of channels and bouquets, broadcasters were allowed to determine the maximum retail price ("MRP") of their channels and bouquets, DPOs were mandated not to charge over and above MRP determined by broadcasters, provisions related to "must carry" of channels by DPOs as well as provisions related to audit through empaneled auditors were also introduced.

Implementation of certain issues pertaining to NTO-1 remained problematic and adversely impacted the subscribers, broadcasters and public exchequer.

NBDA suggested that for the smooth implementation of the New Regulatory Regime, TRAI must ensure that all DPOs comply with the existing provisions of the New Regulatory Regime, including:

- a. Submission of true and correct monthly subscriber reports by DPOs, which is one of the primary obligations of DPOs;
- b. The QoS Regulations stipulate that every DPO shall adopt subscriber friendly methods, including but not limited to maintaining a website and telephonic call centre, for requesting subscription of broadcasting services;
- c. DPOs are neither getting technical audits done nor are they getting subscription audits done in terms of clause 15.1 of the Interconnect Regulations;
- d. Implement the carriage fee regulations in letter and spirit.

The broadcasters invest heavily and incur huge recurring expenses *inter-alia* in content creation, content acquisition and content delivery services to compete with other broadcasters as well as online content providers. Any fluidity and uncertainty in the regulatory regime, coupled with unregulated costs (relating to content production, acquisition, and delivery) and issues such as evolving viewer preferences/demand for new and varied content, issues relating to content protection, piracy and under-declaration, raises serious concerns on the survivability of broadcasters. Therefore, the broadcasting sector is losing subscribers as well as revenue.

Flexibility in pricing and offering of channels is required, which would not be possible unless supported by a pragmatic light-touch regulatory framework.

NBDA also drew the attention of TRAI to the problems in the Consultation Paper, as follows:

- It is extremely important for clarification/correction to emerge on the misconception of “*perverse pricing*” of bouquets *vis-à-vis à-la-carte* prices.
- The nature and price of a channel depends on market forces, and the same principle holds good even in the case of pricing of bouquets. Discounting of bouquet rates that used to hover around 80-90% have fallen drastically post implementation of NTO-1. Therefore, no regulatory intervention or prescription is required.
- The formation of bouquets of TV channels, or bundling of channels (i.e., the practice of offering of channels in “package(s)” in addition to offering of channels on an *à-la-carte* basis), is neither unique nor limited to the Indian TV industry or to TV channel distribution as an industry and it is beneficial to the subscribers.
- Bundling becomes an issue from the perspective of competition policy only when one entity has strong market power or a monopoly on at least one component of the bundle. Therefore, bundling does not require any *ex-ante* or blanket regulation.
- Bundling of channels offers several advantages and is adversely affected by price ceilings. Bundling not only allows broadcasters to experiment by introducing new and niche content/channels but also allows subscribers to sample such content/channels. Opting for an *à-la-carte* system alone would not only result in complete market disruption as it would require a drastic change being imposed upon subscriber behaviour, but it will also result in higher prices for subscribers for the same level of programming diversity.
- Bundling of channels offers convenience to the subscribers as well as service providers in subscription management. Removing the ceiling on MRP of channels provided as part of bouquets will give broadcasters an opportunity to include more channels in the bouquet offerings, which will ultimately be beneficial to the subscriber. By displaying a channel’s tariff in the Electronic Programme Guide (EPG), the subscriber is transparently and conveniently made aware of the actual price of any TV channel.
- Directing the broadcasters to reduce the prices of channels would either result in the closure of business/channels or, at the very least, cause broadcasters to compromise on the quality of content being offered. This, in turn, will have a domino effect adversely impacting the overall ecosystem, including other stakeholders in the value chain and subscribers as well. Any further restrictions on the manner of offering would also drive out, especially niche/regional channels, which may otherwise be popular or appeal to a limited section of society/viewers. Bouquets are not anti-subscribers but are pro-subscribers since, in addition to making available a wide variety of channels to subscribers, they are also beneficial to the overall distribution ecosystem.
- TRAI’s assumption that choosing channels on an *à-la-carte* basis is the subscriber’s preferred route does not appear to be backed by any data since ground realities appear to indicate quite the opposite, and the subscribers themselves prefer bouquets of channels.
- The discounts offered by broadcasters/distributors are beneficial for the subscribers, who get to enjoy a greater diversity of content at lower prices. There is no reasonable justification for preventing discounts on bouquets.
- TRAI has, since the issuance of the tariff orders in 2004 and even thereafter on several occasions, recognized the importance of forbearance in the growth of the industry. TRAI’s intent, even for the broadcasting industry,

has always been to move towards price de-regulation once effective competition has been achieved in the industry. Since the number of broadcasters in the country has substantially increased, it is evident that effective competition exists in the industry for prices to be fairly determined by market forces.

- Having concluded that finding a uniform cost metric for any channel or program within the channel is virtually impossible, it only stands to reason that a uniform monetization model cannot be prescribed either. Therefore, TRAI should conclude that uniform pricing is not in the interest of the subscribers and the industry as a whole.
- The imposition of the price ceiling is an extremely restrictive measure and will have an adverse effect on the growth of the industry. The capping of prices at such a low rate may result in the closure of channels or degrade the quality of content as some channels may not be able to afford higher production costs to maintain themselves. Structural regulations indirectly trample upon the free speech right enjoyed by the media entities. This is despite the fact that the right to free speech of media entities has been affirmed by the Supreme Court in a number of judgments. Measures adopted by TRAI to restrict bundling of channels in 'bouquets' are not justifiable since there is a high degree of competition in the Indian television market, which is an effective check for fair or unreasonable pricing.
- Market forces of demand and supply are, therefore, the best parameters for determining the prices of channels. It will also ensure that these prices remain stable.
- In almost all other countries – and certainly, in all major TV markets – channel bundling is standard, widely accepted and regarded as generally beneficial to subscribers. Restrictions on bundling exist only in India. There is no precedent of prescriptive pricing in other countries.
- The rule of exercise of choice should only be made applicable in the case of a "Pay channel," and there should not be any requirement to do so in the case of "FTA channel" and the same must become and should be compulsorily made available as a part of the Network Capacity Fee (NCF) charged by the DPO to the subscriber. No Pay channel should be included in NCF as it is a violation of the TRAI Regulations, and if any Pay channel is found to be part of the NCF, the Multi-System Operator (MSO) and/or the Local Cable Operator (LCO) should be penalised for carrying the Pay channel.
- TRAI has addressed the aspects of cost of production and the revenue generated by the program in the nature of subscription as also the advertisements. Being a niche genre, news broadcasters are constrained to offer the channels as FTA or at negligible prices. Over and above the same, by creating its dependency on advertisement revenue alone, the news and current affairs channels are further constrained to incur the cost of carriage on any distribution network. TRAI must ensure strict implementation of the "Carriage Fee" regime and also revisit the provisions thereof in the light of changing market scenarios resulting from the pandemic, emerging technologies like OTTs, etc. News broadcasters deserve preferential treatment over other broadcasters and thus should be the beneficiaries of less or no carriage fee costs and must be treated at par with the notified Channels under Section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, which are to be mandatorily carried.
- There is no need for TRAI to intervene in the pricing structures adopted by broadcasters with respect to 'bouquets' and 'a-la-carte' pay channels since the market is highly competitive and pricing is heavily influenced by subscriber preference, i.e. convenience in channel selection.

NBDA submitted that the time is ripe for TRAI to implement a "forbearance model", at least vis-à-vis pricing and packaging of channels. Assuming that forbearance cannot be implemented immediately, at least the framework for sunset provisions relating to the price and packaging of channels should be identified and notified. That

there should be no restriction on the quantum of discounts/incentives to be offered on both *à-la-carte* and bouquet offerings, which are offered objective parameters and are available to all DPOs without discrimination. Discounts and commissions, too, should be eventually left to market forces to give complete flexibility to stakeholders to decide and manage their affairs.

NBDA submitted that:

- i. There is a need to increase the capacity offered in the NCF charged to the subscribers especially keeping in mind that there is no dearth of capacity in the modern age and networks to ensure that FTA channels and especially the news channels are compulsorily carried by the DPOs. The ceiling of INR 130/- the number of SD channels offered must be increased to 400 from the prevailing 200 channels.
- ii. All FTA channels catering the news & current affairs services must be made available “free of cost” or in the alternative “as a part of the NCF charged by the DPOs” from the subscriber. The news broadcasters should not have any burden to pay a “*Carriage Fee*” to the DPO since it has already benefitted by having charged the end subscriber the NCF. In other words, FTA news channels must be compulsorily carried, and it must apply with more emphasis in the case of a DPO who holds a majority market share in any particular State when it comes to carrying the channel of the regional broadcaster/regional news broadcaster.
- iii. The DPOs should also be mandated to publicly display and create awareness about the date from which the Logical Channel Number (LCN) is granted to any particular channel.
- iv. Regulations dated 1.1.2020 should be implemented in letter and spirit, particularly in respect of ‘*Target Market*’, ‘*Carriage Fee*’, requirements of EPG, including displaying of the Hindi genre State-wise, collating and combining all regional news channels at one place in the EPG, displaying the Active Subscriber Base publicly in a transparent manner by the DPOs on its website on a monthly basis and ‘*Placement Fee*’ charged by MSOs/LCOs which causes financial hardships to various channels, especially FTA channels where there is no possibility of setting off the heavy costs against subscription revenue.
- v. The broadcasting industry, which is a shining example of the liberalized economic era and built on the principles of “*Atmanirbharta*” will be pushed backwards and there will be no major capital investments by the companies. This may also deter foreign companies from investing in the broadcasting space, in spite of the fact that the Government wishes to attract more foreign capital in this sector and has recently permitted higher FDI in the broadcasting sector.
- vi. Frequent and numerous changes in the key regulatory provisions have far-reaching consequences., Therefore, when a Regulatory regime is adopted, it should be allowed to continue for some time without modifications.

TRAI should move towards light-touch regulations wherein it promotes healthy growth of the broadcasting industry and the subscribers are benefitted by the state-of-the-art technological offerings and innovations at affordable costs.

Consultation Paper on Issues relating to Media Ownership dated 12.4.2022

At the request of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, (“MOI&B”), TRAI initiated the consultation process to reconsider its recommendations on “*Issues Relating to Media Ownership dated 12.8.2014*,” particularly in view of the advent of new digital technologies and subsequent technological developments in the media industry.

It sought the views of the stakeholders on need, nature and levels of safeguards with respect to issues relating to media ownership, particularly cross-media ownership and vertical and horizontal integration in the media and entertainment sector.

NBDA in its response dated 24.6.2022 submitted that considerable time has elapsed on the subject, while a reassessment may be done on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper taking into account the rise of digital media, however, it is extremely important to assess the dominance of companies like Google and Facebook in the dissemination of news and the potential control exercised by them in the market, which may be detrimental to not only the media plurality but also to competition and survival of the news broadcasters.

In a democratic society, while the media has the right to disseminate information, individuals have the right to receive information to form their own viewpoints. This is a part of their fundamental rights granted to the media and to the viewers under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. As such, no measures ought to be considered/ recommended that may have an impact of restricting dissemination of content as a form of freedom of speech and expression and right to carry on trade or occupation under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution.

NBDA submitted that Article 14 of the Constitution underscores the fundamental doctrine of treating dissimilar entities differently. There are several services that enable content consumption through variety of mediums and in different formats/ stages. Further, each such service / medium has different capabilities to *inter-alia* make available content in differing manner, thereby providing differing consumer experiences. Considering that discrimination also occurs when persons who are in unequal position are being treated in the same (equal) way, therefore, any framework facilitating non-discrimination and enabling a level playing field to promote fair competition would necessarily need to identify all the relevant parameters and aspects for classification and categorisation as similar, or equal, or within the same relevant market. The possibility of concerns regarding competition, ownership, control, and plurality or lack thereof in one or more markets cannot be the cause for recommending regulation in any and all markets.

Any entity doing business in India should enjoy rights, privileges and functions as determined in the context of market conditions, without any restrictions and curbs on the ownership and/or market concentration. It is important that choice to consumer and sufficient competition should always remain a paramount consideration to maintain plurality as well as for growth of Media & Entertainment (“M&E”) sector and a light-touch regulatory approach should be followed in preference to any prescriptive measures or stipulations.

The impact of four segments of M&E sector (i.e., print, radio, television and internet) ought not to be looked into in isolation, and that it is imperative that an impact analysis of all other remaining segments of M&E sector is carried out along with impact analysis of non-M&E related aspects.

On the broader issues concerning media ownership and control NBDA submitted as follows:

Key Aspects

I. Constitutional Freedom:

Cross-Media restrictions sought to be imposed by TRAI would amount to imposition of an unreasonable restriction on the rights of the media to choose or seek an alternative medium for dissemination of information and therefore, these restrictions infringe the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. Allowing unrestricted access to a media entity to voice its views and permitting viewers to receive information/news on all available delivery platforms is, in fact, propagating media and viewpoint pluralism.

II. Convergence and Media:

1. With convergence becoming a reality, the term ‘*cross-media*’ is steadily losing its relevance. Convergence, Internet and Mobile telephony bring the newspaper, TV and radio channel on a single screen, thus making the very concept of specific media markets/geographies irrelevant. With multiple technological methods to disseminate information and consumption by consumers, there remains no virtual demarcation of a single medium. It is also not possible for a single entity to dominate any given market based on market share in

given geography within a media segment. Therefore, there is no reasonable basis to bring in any kind of cross media restrictions.

2. It is important to have a regime that is flexible to changing needs of the media space, and it appears that TRAI has not, in the present consultation, considered the impact of such convergence in media before making its recommendation on media ownership.

III. Media Ownership/Control: Is there a need?

The complex issue is to determine the need for control itself and if measures are undertaken to control ownership in media such regulation will not be in public interest and can become a means for the government to control the media.

Despite increase in literacy levels, television in India remains the cheapest and the most widely accessed mode of entertainment and information medium and hence attracts maximum eyeballs in the Indian M&E industry, even though there is no monopoly and there is an effective market competition amongst the media companies. The economic viability and the overall development of this sector must be safeguarded before any kind of restriction is imposed.

The restrictions in other countries would show that such curbs invariably relate to media entities diversifying only into terrestrial TV (which had limited channels) in view of its reach and not in satellite, cable and DTH services (which were not matured) and have scattered and fragmented viewership.

The regulator had taken the view in the past that there was enough competition and, therefore, plurality in the industry, and there was no need to regulate horizontal and vertical integration. From the industry perspective, the situation has actually worsened, and there is far more competition in each segment.

IV. Impact analysis of regulations

TRAI has proposed regulations that bring in sweeping changes in media ownership in India. As a general practice, in many international jurisdictions, a document known as the *Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA)* is created before any new government regulation is introduced. TRAI has not given any RIA on the proposed regulations nor has it mentioned anywhere in the Consultation Paper that such assessment or impact analysis was conducted in respect of the proposed regulations.

V. Media Plurality

With the kind of fragmentation seen in the Indian media industry and several players competing with one another, (over 1,40,000 publications, 900 TV channels, 200 private Radio stations and fast-growing Digital/OTT players), there is no threat whatsoever of dilution of plurality or dearth in diversity of opinions as regards any information presented to readers/viewers/listeners.

VI. Concurrent Laws- Competition law and TRAI's proposed regulations

India has a fairly robust competition law framework and a specialist body (i.e., "CCI") that is charged with competition law enforcement. TRAI's approach to the issues concerning competition in the media sector poses a significant problem of duplication of regulations and lack of synergy with the existing competition law framework in India.

VII. Consumer Impact

TRAI has also not undertaken any consumer study before undertaking this exercise. TRAI has proceeded with the same issues which were discussed in 2013 ignoring the fast changes in the technology and more importantly the consumer behaviour. It is very important that a comprehensive consumer study is done prior

to this consultation. TRAI has assumed that bouquet offerings are not beneficial to the consumers, whereas in reality 75% of the consumers still opt for bouquets in spite of having a clear choice of opting for *a-la-carte* channels. This cannot be blatantly termed as a “*forced choice*” by broadcasters and distributors but actual consumer behaviour study should be undertaken to know the consumer behaviour in Indian markets. Similarly, on the issue of “*plurality of views*” also, there should be a consumer study which should look specifically into this issue whether the consumers are facing issues due to the perceived “*lack of plurality*” in media.

Any attempt by the TRAI to formulate any kind of media ownership/control rules, specifically on cross media holdings in India has to consider the following:

1. Any restrictions on cross media holdings will hamper the tremendous growth potential for the Indian Media sector.
2. With over 900 TV channels, 1,40,000 registered publications and numerous digital platforms/publishers available in India as on date, there is no concern for lack of plurality in views and opinions.
3. The socio-economic-cultural conditions prevailing in the Indian media industry makes it a very different market as compared to other developed countries. With 22 official languages and 1500 dialects existing in India, it would be difficult to arrive at a ‘relevant market’ to measure dominance or concentration.
4. Restriction on investment (on the basis of equity holding threshold) in the Indian media sector will restrict companies from achieving technological developments at reasonable costs and deprive companies of optimum use of resources.
5. The presence of several players within and across all media segments in India signifies that there is no dearth for diverse opinions and views.
6. Restriction on entry of certain entities into the media sector is of utmost importance at present rather than devising rules to restrict cross media holdings.

NBDA also submitted its counter comments to TRAI on 12.7.2022.

Consultation Paper on Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector

TRAI *suo-moto* floated a Consultation Paper dated 8.12.2021 on “Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector” (EoDB) to identify various concerns in the existing processes and suggest measures for the reforms required in the regulatory processes, policies, practices and procedures in the telecom and broadcasting sector for creating a conducive business environment in India.

NBDA in its submissions dated 7.2.2022 stated that there are several complicated issues that continue to arise in the broadcasting sector in spite of the various suggestions given by the stakeholders, which relate to :

1. There are unpredictable delays in obtaining clearances from the concerned authorities, which act as a major bottleneck for carrying on business operations in an unhindered and smooth manner. And have also impacted contractual obligations with other stakeholders in the value chain.
2. The present policy framework involves multiple clearances at different levels within the same Ministry as well as between several Ministries within the Government. Be it security clearances or technical clearances, applicants have to approach several authorities before permissions or approvals are granted with respect to their TV channels.
3. There are considerable costs and expenses that are incurred by the broadcasters in keeping alive business interests while awaiting the statutory clearances.
4. There is the aspect of the burden of unwarranted satellite charges, which are levied on the broadcasters on account of delayed clearances.

5. Even after the grant of permission from the MoI&B, under the Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines, a broadcaster is required to take prior approval of MoI&B in relation to operational issues at every stage. For example, if a broadcaster wants to make any change in name, logo, category, satellite for uplink, teleport for uplink, etc., of a television channel, then prior permission from the MoI&B needs to be obtained. Such approval process results in substantial delays and often leads to the derailment of the purpose for which such permission was sought. All queries from MoI&B, NOCC etc. are still offline, and while the WPC online portal Saral Sanchar is in place for WPC, but for making online payments, the broadcasters have to use Bharatkosh and then upload the details in the Saral Sanchar portal.
6. The process for renewal of the ten-year permission for Uplinking and Downlinking is offline.
7. Presently, once an application is submitted with the MOI&B, it sometimes takes as long as 7-9 months for a final outcome due to the involvement of multiple agencies/government departments (such as MHA, DOT/WPC, NOCC and Department of Revenue – in case of only downlinking) to whom the application is sent for approval. This makes the entire process of obtaining approvals quite cumbersome, which certainly has a negative impact on the business and operating plans of a broadcaster. The intent and objective of companies to invest in television channel broadcasting sector gets defeated as they are unable to commence their operations for prolonged periods of time due to the pendency in the grant of permission from the MIB and other relevant agencies/government departments. The current approach being adopted by the government is not in sync with the government's overall policy objective of '*Minimum Government and Maximum Governance*'.
8. News channels are using mobile-based news gathering (Backpacks) extensively. Each Backpack transmitter uses multiple SIM cards for bandwidth aggregation. These SIM cards are not available to anyone for their personal use. As per TRAI guidelines, the KYC is demanded by the Telcos for these SIM cards. While the company is responsible for ensuring legitimate usage of these SIMs, however, the company is unable to ensure ownership of these cards to particular employees of the organization.
9. The slow pace of reforms in this sector will impede growth and act as an entry barrier for new investments, thereby reducing competition which will ultimately have an adverse impact on the choices available to the Indian viewers.

NBDA submitted that to fuel the next phase of growth in the broadcasting sector, policies need to be rationalized. Significant investments are required for viewers in India to receive content that is at par with content available in other parts of the world, especially in the developed nations. The current licensing framework for the satellite broadcast television industry needs to be simplified, made transparent and time-bound so as to attract more investments, which in turn will promote better delivery of services and make the broadcasting industry sustainable.

Suggestions given by NBDA

National Broadcast Policy: MOI&B needs to come out with the proposed National Broadcast Policy (NBP), which will cover all aspects of the broadcasting sector and which will act as a vision document for the sector. Under the NBP, various Guidelines and activity-specific Guidelines can operate.

Timebound Decisions: The processes of filing of applications, requisite documents, and grant of approvals/permissions should be carried out in a smooth, time-bound manner, should be paperless, and the process should be online end-to-end. An outer time limit is required to be prescribed in respect of approvals to be granted by MoI&B and other departments/agencies. There should be well-defined procedures with regard to the list of documents for grant of various permissions/ licenses / approvals etc. The timelines should cover all the authorities / agencies.

Online: There should be a mechanism to upload the documents online which will also result in faster processing and obviate the need for making multiple sets of applications meant for various authorities. Critical processes and clearances such as the MHA, WPC and NOCC permissions be automated and aligned through an online mechanism which will not only save considerable time but will also go a long way in improving efficiency in reviewing applications and granting the necessary approvals/clearances.

Broadcast Seva portal should be upgraded to make it an end-to-end platform for all kinds of processing. The same should be extended to facilitate online processing and approval of permissions across various Departments and Ministries.

An online mechanism will help make available such key information at the disposal of the concerned authorities and will ease the burden of repeated and lengthy information submission by stakeholders.

Online payment facility can be integrated into the overall system to ensure that there is no delay in making payments and, as such, approvals are not put on hold for such delays. All processes in the online system should be identified by an identification number, and a broadcaster should be able to know at which stage its application is pending. There should be minimal physical interface.

Use of digital technologies like Digi Locker agreements and contracts with digital signatures should be promoted to maximize the use of technology and technological instruments as far as possible.

- A. **Self-Certification-** A simple self-certification system will enable reduction in transaction costs, speed up information sharing, procedures, and formalities and, as a result, will significantly increase the rate of regulatory approvals.
- B. **Feedback:** The Mol&B should set up an intranet (involving the concerned Ministries) where documents can be scanned and uploaded to allow the respective Ministries and Departments to give their feedback within a prescribed timeline.
- C. **Prior Approval:** The government must consider a policy shift from the existing '*Prior Approval*' to the more practical '*Prior Intimation*' regime. Prior intimation may be filed with the Mol&B along with appropriate details / documents for records (with a copy of such intimation being sent to other agencies / government departments, such as DOS, MHA, DOT/WPC, NOCC). There may be a need for the Mol&B to consult with the other Ministries/Authorities at the time of grant of fresh license. Existing broadcasters applying for additional channel licenses within the validity period of ten years should not be referred to MHA or any other Ministry.
- D. **Letter of Intent (LOI):** The time period of nearly 30 days from the date of issuance of the LOI to the date of issuance of permission should be nullified so that the moment Mol&B receives clearance from MHA, the applicant company should be asked to furnish permission fee and a performance bank guarantee (PBG).
- E. **Single Window Clearance:** The licensing framework should facilitate a *Single Window* Clearance for new and currently operational channels through an online portal. Whenever a company applies for permission to uplink a television channel on satellite, which is already coordinated, there should not be a fresh requirement of satellite clearance from DOS, ISRO. Mol&B may send the application to DOS, ISRO for information / records only and if DOS, ISRO has any objection, they may intimate MIB about their objections. Ideally, DOS, ISRO should share the list of coordinated satellites with Mol&B so that it can check the list and process it accordingly.

The '*Broadcast Seva*' portal launched by Mol&B in 2017 has the ability to act as the '*Single Window*' interface whereby processes of applications for new channel license/amendment to an existing license or for temporary Uplinking permission for events can be made online on 24x7 basis, and the portal's scope of services can be scaled up, and provisions for broadcasters to track the status of their application from

Mol&B to WPC to NOCC can be added. Therefore, the required permissions from Mol&B, WPC and NOCC must be integrated with the portal which will then function as a 'Single Window' for obtaining clearances.

A *Single Window system*, with the desired target that the licenses should be issued expeditiously, within specified timeframes and the broadcaster should be able to synchronize their content-related expenses with the targeted launch date and the licensing process.

There should be seamless integration and approvals across various Ministries/Departments with the end-to-end online system. For a user, it should be a *Single Window*. The system should enable the various authorities/agencies to be connected through a secured path.

- F. **Queries:** The *Single Window* system may also be equipped with the latest technologies like a chatbox, automated call center, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) based tracking, analysis, and response systems.

Equipment: There needs to be a provision in the *Single Window* system to send the equipment to India for testing and return back through processes like RMA.

The details of equipment testing laboratories authorized by DoT in foreign countries, if any, need to be made available in the portal for applying online for ETA. There should be no mandatory registration of telecom equipment which are part of emerging technologies which are independently governed by DoT Guidelines.

- G. **Intimation:** Appointment of Directors should be by mere intimation in accordance with company law. If in case Mol&B receives adverse comments, then the company may be asked to take necessary action accordingly. An individual who is already security cleared and serving on the board of a company permitted to operate television channels / teleport, he/she should be allowed to be appointed on the board of another broadcasting entity. This should be by mere intimation.

Transfer of television channel permission from company 'A' to company 'B' should be allowed through mere intimation if company 'B' is already security cleared for operating in the same category of television channels, subject to an undertaking from company 'B' that it will fulfil all necessary criterion.

A mere change in name and logo of any channel should not require elaborate documentation as it is a time-consuming process. An intimation of the change/modification in name and logo with a processing fee of Rs 25,000 should be sufficient. Further, even a change in colour and style of name/logo involves a long-drawn process, and in such a case, intimation in case of any modification should suffice. Dual logos should be permitted.

For the launch of a new channel by an existing news network, no separate security clearance should be insisted upon as the company has already been cleared earlier and has a channel running. Similarly, security clearances of Directors should also not be a pre-condition.

- H. The approval of Mol&B on remittances of foreign exchange should be avoided.
- I. In case of refusal to grant permission, opportunity of being heard should be granted.
- J. There should be no imposition of penalties for procedural delays or non-compliance of trivial administrative compliances.
- K. **Forfeiture of Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) on non-operationalization of the channel:** In terms of the current policy framework, Mol&B has stipulated the roll-out obligation for operationalization of TV channels within a period of one year from the date of permission. PBG of Rs. 2 crores in case of news channels at the time of issuance of the final uplink/ downlink permission towards the roll out obligation. In the event of failure of the broadcaster to operationalize the channel within the period of one year, the

permission is immediately cancelled and the PBG is forfeited. This stipulation is a double whammy for the broadcaster. On the one hand, the broadcaster incurs huge financial losses due to the failure to launch the TV channel as projected and on the other hand the permission granted subject to operationalization is cancelled without any opportunity whatsoever for the broadcaster to seek redressal or extension of time for the same even after penalty is levied.

NBDA submitted that to encourage EoDB in this sector, the scare of financial loss such as forfeiture of PBG, must be looked into to make it more stakeholder friendly. The window to operationalize a television channel from the time of obtaining MoI&B's permission should be increased from 1 year to at least 3 years, subject to validity of PBG and payment of permission fee.

A 6-month extension should be granted to broadcasters who fail to operationalize the channel within the stipulated period of 3 years, subject to the payment of a nominal penalty. The forfeiture of the PBG may be invoked in the event the broadcaster fails to launch the channel even after the extended period of 6 months without affording any further opportunity.

- L. **Offences & Penalties-** The current policies that govern satellite TV channels and their related license conditions prescribe penalties that are far too stringent and not always commensurate with the offences committed. For instance, ban of a TV channel for a fixed period of time, if found to be violative of the prescribed guidelines is a very harsh stipulation and will have an adverse impact on the business operations of the channel. The graded penalties for the offences committed as laid down in the policy guidelines that govern the uplink and downlink permissions granted to broadcasters does not clarify any mitigating circumstances or the process that would be followed before the penalty of revocation of license is levied on the channel. It is also not clear how the instances of violation will be considered or how the nature of offence will qualify as a violation.

NBDA suggested that these provisions on offences and penalties be reviewed afresh and greater emphasis is laid on self-regulation. It is well known that the broadcasting sector, whether the news or the non-news genre has adhered to self-regulation guidelines laid down by bodies such as NBDSA, BCCC and ASCI and the framework has found favour with the MoI&B on many occasions. As a step, all instances of violation, specifically related to content carried on TV channels must be referred to the independent redressal bodies set up under the aegis of the NBDA, IBDF and ASCI.

- M. **Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A)-** Presently, the extant guidelines that govern the broadcasting sector do not encourage corporate actions such as mergers and acquisitions, specifically within the sector. Corporate actions such as M&A are essential for the growth and expansion of businesses and must be permitted even within the broadcasting space. The Indian competition law framework is already equipped to deal with issues affecting competition across sectors, including the media and entertainment sector. Therefore, concerns of consolidation, dominance or monopoly that may arise as a result of such mergers can be adequately addressed under the existing competition law framework.

The intent of the existing policy guidelines aims to permit only those transactions that are approved under the Companies Act through a court approved process and are affected between group or associate companies. This stipulation effectively discourages M&A within the sector i.e. between non-related or non-group entities in the broadcasting sector. NBDA submitted that M&A deals are integral to any business restructuring exercise, whether in media or other sectors. M&A allows businesses to expand their business and augment capabilities to deliver a wider range of products and services. Business integration also gives fair value for players who wish to realize or opt out of competition. TRAI should review the existing policy guidelines from this perspective and bring out modifications that encourage and promote M&A within the broadcasting sector.

- N. **Annual Renewal of Permission:** The process of Annual Renewal of Permission has to be simplified. Vide notification dated November 11, 2016, the MoI&B has in fact done away with the annual renewal of permission. However, MoI&B has also discontinued the issuance of Renewal Certificates. It is important that the Renewal Certificates are continued to be issued by the MoI&B along with the receipt of payment giving details of the channel and the period for which the fee is paid. This process can be facilitated through the 'Broadcast Seva' portal as part of the overall online automation process.

Recommendations of TRAI on Auction of Spectrum in Frequency Bands Identified for IMT/ 5G

TRAI released the recommendations for the Auction of 5G spectrum, which inter-alia contains recommendations for the auction of the 3300-3670 MHz band which are as follows:

- a. *As the IMT emissions in the 3300-3670 MHz may saturate the Low Noise Block (LNB) of the FSS earth station which traditionally operates in the 3400-4200 MHz, there is a need to make use of high-quality bandpass filters operating in 3700-4200 MHz range. Therefore, DoT should ask the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) to take appropriate action and sensitize the MSOs, DTH operators, and other users to ensure the use of high-quality bandpass filters operating in 3700-4200 MHz range to avoid interference from IMT stations.*
- b. *In order to avoid unwanted out of band emissions of the IMT stations falling within the FSS operating band 3700-4200 MHz, DoT should prescribe for having a sharp Spectrum Mask for IMT transmitters with an out-of-band PFD limit.*

In the recommendations, TRAI has recognized the following:

- i. That there will be interference in the Bands of 3700-4200 MHz
- ii. That there are issues of LNB overdrive
- iii. There is need to use filters with sharp cut off in Head ends
- iv. MIB needs to sensitize MSOs, DTH Operators and Other users

Interferences on issues arising in DTH/HITS/MSOs etc. due to 5G Trial Services and installation of Band Pass Filters- Regarding

MOI&B issued an Advisory dated 18.5.2022 to all DTH/HITS/MSOs etc. to install band pass filters and LNBS so that their systems do not suffer interference from 5G IMT systems, as follows:

1. *This Ministry has been informed that Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is planning to auction spectrum for 5G IMT services in frequency band 3300-3670 MHz. In the ongoing 5G trials, some interference has been observed in the operations of DTH/HITS/MSOs etc. as these systems are using wideband filters/receivers from 3400 to 4200 MHz.*
2. *In this regard, DoT has conveyed that in order to ensure Broadcast services in 3700-4200 MHz range and 5G IMT in 3300-3670 MHz range can co-exist without harmful interference, the operators of DTH/HITS/MSOs etc. are required to install band pass filters and LNBS with narrow band filters to restrict their reception within 3700-4200 MHz range.*
3. *All DTH/HITS/MSOs etc. are, therefore, advised to install band pass filters and LNBS as specified above so that their systems do not suffer interference from 5G IMT systems.*

System Requirement for Digital Rights Management [DRM]- Constitution of Committee

TRAI notified the Telecommunication (Broadcasting & Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable System) Regulation, 2017 on 3.3.2017 and its subsequent amendments on 30.10.2019 and 1.1.2020. TRAI informed NBDA vide letter dated 11.11.2021 that it has initiated a process for framing regulations on the issue related to “System Requirement for Digital Right Management [DRM]” and has also decided to form a Committee consisting of representatives of various stakeholders. TRAI requested for representation of NBDA on the said Committee. NBDA nominated Associate Vice President – Legal & Regulatory, Times Network, to the Committee. Vide letter dated 17.12.2021 TRAI constituted the Committee. Various e-meetings of the said Committee were held. The final report has been released by TRAI.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

Section 31D of the Copyright Act, 1957 should include within its purview ‘Internet and Digital Broadcasters’

DPIIT, vide Notice dated 23.8.2021, solicited suggestions and comments in respect of the “Intellectual Property Rights Regime in India Report” issued by the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on the issue as to whether Section 31D of the Copyright Act, 1957 should include within its purview ‘Internet and Digital Broadcasters’.

NBDA submitted that it supports the proposition that the benefit of statutory licensing should be equally applicable to all upcoming mediums like internet/digital mediums and should not be limited and confined to television and radio modes of broadcast. NBDA, however highlighted several issues that need to be resolved while amending Section 31D of the Act, which are as follows:

1. The language of Sections 31D (1) and 31D (2) of the Act do not seem to specifically exclude non-radio and non-television broadcasting organisations. However, the use of the expressions “radio broadcasting” and “television broadcasting” in Section 31D (3) read with Rules 29, 30 and 31 of the Copyright Rules, 2013 (“Copyright Rules”) create an impression that the scope/ambit of provisions of Section 31D of the Act is limited to radio and television broadcasts. Consequently, an amendment needs to be made to Section 31D of the Act to include internet broadcasting and also necessary amendments must be made to the relevant Copyright Rules to give effect to the same.
2. While all entities which are broadcasting organisations can invoke Section 31D of the Act for grant of a license in accordance with the provisions of the said Section, as the language of Section 31D (1) does not seem to specifically exclude non-radio and non-television broadcasting organisations. However, the term ‘broadcasting organisation’ has not been specifically defined under the Act, which lacuna has led to several disputes and litigation, which are currently pending adjudication.
3. In the absence of an express statutory license right in favour of internet broadcasting organisations, they have to undergo lengthy and protracted negotiations with copyright/content owners and are exploited owing to the monopolistic practices of content owners. Music labels and owners of sound recordings and literary works have confined the licensing rights only for the purpose of linear broadcast, and the digital rights are either not being made available or are offered at an unaffordable and/or unrealistic price. The absence of such mechanism is putting the music labels in a dominant position without any checks and balances. Consequently, this has led to an increase in license fee, which is sometimes in the range of 50% to 100% within a year itself.
4. Since music labels, in many instances, while negotiating and bargaining the price for licensing music rights, do not include digital rights, it has been a common practice for the linear feed, which is made available on

digital mediums, to be subjected to copyright strikes. Alternatively, with respect to news and current affairs content containing minuscule or negligible amounts of literary, musical, and sound recording works, the revenues earned are kept by the music labels.

5. In the existing arrangement, it is extremely difficult with a high-cost implication to get a copyright license for use on internet and digital platforms, which also severely impacts the business interest of the broadcasters.
6. The present requirement of applying for a statutory licensing in advance makes it cumbersome for anyone other than radio broadcasters (who play songs back-to-back, i.e., songs being a form of evergreen content), to use the tool of statutory licensing since, news programs /shows are created on a daily basis and the time to decide which music to be used in which news program/shows is a window of not more than 15 hours to 24 hours. The statutory licensing provisions presently are not equipped to address such requirements of the industry. There are several instances where during the broadcast of a live show, an actor or a participant may sing a song for which a license may not have been taken by the broadcaster. This may expose the broadcaster to harassment and huge claims for damages / compensation.
7. Rule 29 of the Copyright Rules prescribes requirements that are onerous, impracticable, and militate against the very objective behind the enactment of Section 31D of the Act. This is because the contents of such an advance notice, *inter alia*, setting out the details of each work proposed to be used is unworkable in the internet and digital space. Further, the internet and digital media works on a pull mechanism, and it is impossible to know in advance the sound recordings, literary, and/or musical works' usage/consumption, as the same is dependent on the user/subscriber. Consequently, it will be impossible to gauge the usage by a consumer and thereby give an advance notice of such anticipated/estimated usage.
8. The application of Section 31D (5) of the Act in the current form by radio broadcasters has resulted in practical difficulties in terms of making announcement of names of authors and principal performers of works at the time of such broadcast.

The ground reality faced by news broadcasting organizations is that firstly they are forced to purchase music rights even in the eventuality of its usage, which may qualify as "*fair dealing*" under Section 52 of the Act. Secondly, the music labels are hesitant to license these rights for the purpose of monetization on the digital medium.

NBDA submitted that:

1. Given the increasing penetration and importance of the digital mediums, it is only logical that internet and digital broadcasters should also be covered by the statutory protections for compulsory licensing. Ambiguity in the provisions could be avoided if all modes of broadcasting were to be included under the purview of statutory license, and importantly, necessary language and safeguards are added under the Act with an aim to protect the interests of all stakeholders and to avoid any misuse of statutory licensing provisions by unscrupulous platforms/ entities.
2. The current statutory licensing regime provided under Section 31D of the Act can be utilised not only in the absence of a voluntary license with the copyright/content owner but also to avoid unilateral terms and monopolistic practices of the copyright owners.
3. The language in Section 31D of the Act and Rules 29, 30 and 31 of the Copyright Rules requires amendment/ clarification so that the same are not read to limit the scope of Section 31D of the Act only to radio and television broadcasts.
4. There needs to be an amendment to the definition of "*communication to public*" so as to clearly include internet broadcasting, as also the inclusion of new age technologies like all modes of broadcast, streaming, offline availability, etc. Permitting broadcasting of content that is only in line with old technologies of consumption of content will make Section 31D of the Act obsolete and without teeth.

5. Section 31D of the Act should also cover the use of literary and musical works and sound recordings as part of various programmes through sync of sound recordings, performance of lyrics and musical compositions, and the communication of such programmes to the public through various platforms, including broadcasting and internet.
6. Amending Section 31D of the Act will establish a level playing field between different mediums since there is a lot of ambiguity in the current prevailing market practices. The digital and internet news mediums are being unfairly disadvantaged while negotiating music and sound recording rights with music labels.
7. There ought to be a robust statutory licensing regime which protects broadcasters, particularly internet and digital mediums and enables them to use sound recordings and literary and musical works in different programmes at reasonable and commercially viable rates.
8. While granting music rights for radio and television which are linear transmission of content/signals, if the same content is transmitted on the digital/internet platforms of the news broadcaster, it should not suffer any additional charge or be subject to any copyright strike. Further, in most cases, any curated content hosted on the digital platforms of broadcasters is also in the nature of news and current affairs programming and thus, the music rights should be given at minimal rates.
9. While determining the rates of royalties for digital/internet mediums, the rates must have a clear and direct nexus with the revenue earned by the usage of such music content in any particular programming, and it should be a certain percentage of the same.
10. In respect of broadcasters, the provisions of Section 31D of the Act may be amended in such a manner that instead of applying for a statutory license in advance, the broadcasters may be allowed to periodically report the usage of the works and simultaneously pay license fees. Permitting this will allow the broadcasters to use songs on an impromptu basis and thereby not hamper creativity in any manner. The royalty rates can be paid appropriately at a later stage as per applicable provisions of the Act and Copyright Rules. The tariff for such usage should be set up at the earliest after consultation with the stakeholders.
11. The aforesaid clarifications give effect to the statutory mandate, which does not impose a pre-condition that the notice can be given only after fixation of the royalty rate. It requires the broadcaster to pay royalties in the manner and at the rate fixed by the commercial courts. The discretionary power to call for advance payment of royalty also lies with the commercial courts itself under Section 31D (4) of the Act. The Act requires the broadcaster to maintain prescribed records and books of account and render to the owners of rights such reports and accounts. Therefore, it cannot be said that Section 31D of the Act requires as a prerequisite fixation of royalty rates by the commercial courts prior to giving notice to owner for communication to the public of literary and musical works and sound recordings. Since the necessary records to compute the payments due to the rights holders would be maintained, the payments due for their usage can be computed even if the rates are determined after the statutory license under Section 31D of the Act has been invoked. It is important to note that the decision of the commercial courts may take years and thus waiting for a rate to be fixed by the commercial courts and then invoking a right of statutory license would render Section 31D of the Act infructuous. Compulsory license and statutory license will have no difference as virtually the broadcaster would not be able to play music without waiting for the commercial court's decision.
12. In consultation with all stakeholders, sufficient safeguards can be built in to ensure that there is no misuse of such statutory licensing provisions by unscrupulous platforms / entities. These safeguards will *inter-alia* give some sort of security to the copyright owner when the statutory license is invoked. Hence, a safety mechanism could be added within the rules that work towards that end, for example deposits with copyright owner or a corporate assurance can be given along with the statutory license notice which can be adjusted once the commercial courts fix a rate. There is already a requirement to maintain records under Sub-Section (7) of Section 31 of the Act, and hence, there is transparency as to the usage of the copyright owner's repertoire.

13. The revenue model of the broadcaster would be a key factor to be considered by the commercial courts while determining the royalty rate. Hence, based on the type of revenue model, different rates would need to be determined by the Copyright Board to account for the exploitation of the works in connection to radio, television and internet broadcasting.
14. Statutory Licensing would also enable the content rights to be used by internet and digital news providers on standard tariffs fixed by the Commercial Courts and would eliminate any instance / incidence of discrimination or deprivation of these rights to internet and digital mediums.
15. To make Rule 29(4) of the Copyright Rules workable, the legislature may clarify that the details as sought to be mentioned in the notice to be issued under Section 31D of the Act read with the Rule 29 of the Copyright Rules is merely directory and not mandatory, as to provide such details is a cumbersome task.
16. Due to the unworkability of Section 31D (5) of the Act, the following modifications to the Section maybe considered “the names of authors and principal performers of the work may, *to the extent possible and practicable* be announced with the broadcast, except where the broadcasting organisation is communicating the work by way of performance.”
17. In view of the increased demand and consumption of copyrighted audio and/or visual content on such digital platforms, amending Section 31D of the Act to include its application to internet broadcasting organisations would be in public interest.
18. The trend of bringing a level playing field and parity between the internet and other traditional mediums is also a common trend in some other recent legislations, including the Act itself. Even otherwise, consumers are consuming content on the move and therefore, to have different and discriminatory content licensing conditions would adversely affect the ‘convergence of technologies.
19. Provisions similar to the Music Modernization Act of 2018 (*Orrin G. Hatch–Bob Goodlatte Music Modernization Act*), passed in the United States of America, be considered to frame the statutory licensing provisions under Section 31D of the Act. The said provisions provide for the establishment of “*mechanical licensing collective*” (MLC) to administer the blanket license and coordinate the activities of the owners of the music.
20. The inclusion of internet or digital broadcasters will further the objective behind introduction of the right under Section 31D of the Act, as captured by the 227th Parliamentary Standing Committee in its Report on the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2010.
21. The inclusion of internet broadcasting organisations under Section 31D will truly bring the provisions of the Act in conformity with the international treaties such as World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Internet Treaties, namely, WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT), 1996 and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), 1996. Further, the Proposed Amendment is also in conformity with the statutory rights provided to internet broadcasters in other jurisdictions.

NBDA recommended that:

- i. Definition of the term “broadcast” covered under Section 2(dd) of the Act should be amended to cover “all modes of broadcast”, which automatically covers Internet/ Digital Platforms, including all future platforms and modes of broadcast.
- ii. Definition of the term “communication to public” covered under Section 2(ff) of the Act should be amended in order to be applicable to all modes of broadcast.
- iii. Section 31D of the Act should explicitly extend to all types of broadcasts, including online/OTT platforms and channel websites.

Revised draft text for the WIPO Broadcasting Organizations Treaty

The Copyrights Section, DPIIT, on 22.4.2022 sought comments of NBDA on the 'Revised Draft Text for the WIPO Broadcasting Organizations Treaty' prepared by the SCCR Acting Chairs. NBDA in its comments dated 2.5.2022 submitted that:

The Draft Treaty should be framed in a technologically neutral language and should effectively protect the broadcasting organizations irrespective of their platform(s) for dissemination of signals. This submission is based on the fact that delivery of programmes-carrying signals to the public is a common feature for all mediums and platforms of transmission, whether through conventional analog signal, cable, satellite or the internet. The absence of an effective Broadcasting Treaty will affect investments in the broadcasting industry if it does not adequately capture the convergence of new information and communication technologies, address signal piracy and grant the broadcasters post-fixation rights.

Issue 1: The concept of "Broadcasting" is proposed to be Technologically Neutral in this Treaty but the definition of "Broadcasting Organization" excludes carrying Signal exclusively by means of Computer Network.

NBDA submitted that the definitions in the Draft Treaty must factor in all technological changes (unless they have become obsolete) and must also try to capture future technologies that may evolve. The definition of broadcasting organization should include "*entities that deliver their programme-carrying signal exclusively by means of a computer network*" for the following reasons:

1. The definition of a broadcasting organization under Article 2(d) constricts the scope of the Draft Treaty by explicitly excluding "*entities that deliver their programme-carrying signal exclusively by means of a computer network,*" i.e., entities that seek to carry signals via the internet from benefiting from the protection under the Draft Treaty.
2. The definition excludes those entities that take the initiative and have editorial responsibility for broadcasting, assembling and scheduling the programme-carrying signals from being regarded as a broadcasting organization merely because they transmit the programme via the internet as opposed to through traditional methods, i.e., cable or satellite. The definition defeats the very concept of being technologically neutral.
3. Although the definition of "broadcasting" in the Draft Treaty is technologically neutral and covers "*all transmissions, including by cable, satellite, computer networks and by any other means*", the exclusion of entities that deliver their programme-carrying signal exclusively by means of a computer network from the definition of a "broadcasting organization" makes the definition of "broadcasting organization" outdated. Technological neutrality should not be compromised by limiting the definitions but should extend to all platforms or mediums whose signals may be subject to piracy.
4. The convergence of technology has blurred the boundaries between the wire and wireless transmission. Broadcasting, which was earlier possible only through conventional analog signals, is now possible through the internet. The internet has become an essential part of the transmission infrastructure of most broadcasting operations. Therefore, to be effective in future, the scope of the Draft Treaty should not depend on the means of transmission; rather, it should be able to adapt to the rapid changes in communication technology. The focus of the treaty should be on the "intended activity" undertaken by the organization, i.e., procuring, assembling, scheduling and transmitting the programme carrying signals and not on the mode by which the signal is transmitted. Further, if online signals are not protected adequately, it will create problems with regard to offline signals.

Proliferation of technology and penetration of the internet has also led to migration of viewers to online services and resulted in creation of different technological platforms. Today broadcasters operate in a highly competitive environment as viewers have multiple options for consuming content. On-demand

consumption of programming through online signals is becoming increasingly popular, especially amongst the younger audience who consume content in a device-agnostic manner. Further, it is probable that all linear television screens may be replaced with hybrid TV, i.e., those which are connected to the internet and allow online and over-the-top (OTT) delivery of programming, such as Smart TVs. Therefore, it becomes extremely crucial to extend protection to online signals, which should be treated at par with offline signals under the Draft Treaty.

The protection conferred under the Draft Treaty should apply to offline as well as online methods of transmission, and the legislation should not favor a particular technology over the other. This approach would be consistent with the preamble of the Draft Treaty, which underscores the impact of the development and convergence of new information and communication technologies.

5. The Draft Treaty should be drafted in consonance with the existing provisions of law. The Copyright Act 1957, as amended in 2012, does not provide any definition for broadcasting or broadcasting organization. However, from the definition of broadcast under Section 2(dd) of the Copyright Act, 1957, any organization which provides services of broadcast can be considered to be a broadcasting organization. Further, broadcasting is considered to be a specie of communication to the public, which has been defined under Section 2(ff) of the Copyright Act, 1957. From the definition in the Copyright Act, 1957 and the definition of "Broadcasting" under the Draft Treaty, it is clear that "broadcast" intends and purports to include broadcast by way of the internet as well.
6. NBDA submitted the term broadcasting organization under the Draft Treaty should include organizations that disseminate programme-carrying signals via the internet within its ambit.

Issue 2: Whether the definition of "Broadcasting" shall include "Re-broadcasting" too?

The definition of broadcasting under the Draft Treaty should include re-broadcasting, re-transmission and re-telecast of programme carrying signals by a broadcasting organization, including entity licensed for the above purpose, irrespective of the method, mode, manner, medium and technology by which the signal is carried.

1. Under the Draft Treaty, the term broadcasting does not include "rebroadcasting". However, Article 2(e) of the Draft Treaty defines "retransmission" as *"the simultaneous transmission for the reception by the public by any means of a programme-carrying signal by any other third party than the original broadcasting organization"*.
2. Under Section 2(dd) of the Copyright Act 1957 (as amended in the year 2012) "broadcast" has been defined to *include re-broadcast*".
3. Section 37 of the Copyright Act, 1957, which deals with the Broadcast Reproduction Rights, does not specify the rights of a broadcasting organisation. However, it provides what the other entity cannot do in relation to the work of a broadcasting organisation without a license. Thus, the rights of a broadcasting organisation are: to re-broadcast the broadcast, i.e. once a broadcasting organisation has broadcast the work, it is the only organisation that has the right to re-broadcast. The broadcasting organisation can make a sound recording or visual recording of the broadcast. Reproduction of a broadcast involves making copies of the work or copies of the fixation of the broadcast, whereas re-broadcast is strictly limited to simultaneous broadcasting of a signal belonging to another broadcasting organization.
4. NBDA submitted that it is critical to clarify the definition of *"retransmission"* or *"rebroadcasting"* because of the rights it goes on to establish in the Draft Treaty. To prevent unauthorized retransmission (near-simultaneous, simultaneous, and deferred) of a broadcast signal over any medium, the definition of *"retransmission"* or *"rebroadcasting"* must be included within the definition of "broadcasting".

Issue 3: Whether the definition of “near simultaneous transmission,” “deferred transmission,” or “equivalent transmission” should be included in the draft treaty?

NBDA submitted that the definition of “*near simultaneous transmission*,” “*deferred transmission*,” or “*equivalent transmission*” should be included in the Draft Treaty.

1. Restriction of retransmission to strictly simultaneous retransmission is based on the Rome Convention, under which the definition of rebroadcasting was strictly limited to simultaneous or equivalent retransmission; it excluded deferred (pre-recorded) rebroadcasting, that is, rebroadcasting at a later time than the original broadcast (offered at a time and place chosen by the viewer, and near-simultaneous transmissions).
2. At the time when the Convention was drafted, there were hardly any technologies that allowed for fixation or reproduction. The Rome Convention, therefore, did not recognize the right of deferred broadcasting or near-simultaneous broadcasting, but only that of simultaneous or equivalent rebroadcasting.
3. There is a critical need for “near simultaneous transmission,” “deferred transmission,” “equivalent deferred transmission,” or “simultaneous transmission” to be specifically and separately defined, otherwise, it may lead to considerable confusion.

NBDA submitted that changes in technology and media platforms for broadcasts to the public have significantly impacted the broadcasting industry. Adopting a technology specific approach under the Draft Treaty would render it obsolete like the Rome Convention, which confined protection only to wireless terrestrial signal transmission. Consequently, adopting a technology-neutral approach under the proposed law would enable the legislation to effectively and adequately protect “signals” independent of specific technologies. This approach would extend protection to all existing platforms, i.e., terrestrial, satellite, cable, wired, internet or any other computer networks, and all future platforms by which a broadcasting organization may communicate the work to the public. NBDA submitted the definition of broadcasting organization needs to be broadened as suggested hereinabove and the other definitions in the Draft Treaty should be modified accordingly, particularly the definition of “*programme-carrying signal*” and “*retransmission*”.

Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications

Applicability Waiver of NOCC Charges for Space Segment for Satellite/TV Broadcasters

On coming to know of DoT Order dated 6.5.2022, regarding NOCC charges for use of space segments, NBDA wrote to Director (Satellite), Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, that since Satellite/Space segment is used by Communications and Satellite Broadcasting players alike, NBDA believes that the said Order would essentially require to include Satellite TV/Broadcasters within its ambit. It was pointed out that DoT had earlier issued a letter in this regard (dated 29.10.2003), which had included users of INSAT/ Foreign Satellites in its scope – both from the communications as well as the (Satellite) broadcasting sectors. It was also requested to consider waiving off the NOCC charges for use of space segment on foreign satellites as well as Indian Satellites by the broadcasters as this has been granted to Telecom Operators to include all NOCC charges, Indian and Foreign.

Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)

BARC had voluntarily decided to cease the news genre ratings in October 2020 after allegations that the news channel ratings were being manipulated and influenced by a few broadcasters.

Post the suspension of BARC ratings, Board members held discussions at various levels with BARC, IBDF, ISA & AAI representatives regarding resumption of BARC ratings for the news genre as there was pressure from channels which are not members of NBDA. It was conveyed in the meetings that the reforms suggested by NBDA have not been implemented by BARC. Until such time, there cannot be resumption of BARC ratings.

NBDA Board had in all its discussions insisted that the news genre data should be robust, with no possibility of corruption of data and tampering of Bar-o-Meters.

Resumption of Television Audience Measurement Ratings for 'News Genre' on 17.3.2022

In the light of the communication sent out by BARC regarding resumption of ratings, Members were of the view that BARC's decision to release data without further consultation with NBDA is unilateral and unacceptable; as it was still not clear about the actions taken by BARC to make the ratings strong, robust and free of manipulation; there was no mention of increasing the meters, which is the main reason for manipulation of data and the skewed ratings of the English news genre, neither is the costing given for installation of additional metres; there is no reference of the action it proposes to take against the erring broadcaster who in connivance with BARC officials manipulated the data; the presentation made by CEO, BARC was the same as what the previous CEO had presented.

During the period of suspension, BARC confirmed that it had overhauled its systems and methodologies for the news genre. Accordingly, the BARC team, along with BARC Tech Comm, drew up the "*Policy for Augmented Data Reporting Standards for news and special interest genres effective 17th March, 2022*". As per these revised standards, along with other changes, every week the audience estimates for news genres will only be released based on a 4-week rolling average.

Press Note released by Press Information Bureau (PIB) on 12.1.2022

On the resumption of Television Audience Measurement Ratings for 'News Genre' by BARC, PIB issued a Press Note. It stated that in the spirit of the TRP Committee Report and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI's) recommendation dated 28.4.2020, BARC undertook revision in its processes, protocols, oversight mechanism and initiated changes in governance structure etc. The reconstitution of the Board and the Technical Committee to allow for the induction of Independent Members have also been initiated by BARC. A permanent Oversight Committee has also been formed. The access protocols for data have been revamped and tightened. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting therefore asked BARC to release the news ratings with immediate effect and also to release the last three months data, for the genre in a monthly format, for fair and equitable representation of true trends. As per the revised system, the reporting of News and Niche Genres shall be on a *'four week rolling average concept'*.

Setting up of 'Working Group'

Mol&B also set up a 'Working Group' under the Chairmanship of the former CEO, Prasar Bharti, for *the consideration of leveraging the Return Path Data (RPD) capabilities for the use of TRP services*, as also recommended by TRAI and the TRP Committee Report. It is understood that the Committee has recently submitted its Report to the Mol&B.

In view of the decision taken by Mol&B to release the ratings on 17.3.2022, NBDA Board held an urgent meeting on 13.1.2022. Board members expressed their displeasure over the unilateral manner in which Mol&B hastily acted by announcing immediate release of ratings without consulting a critical stakeholder like NBDA and decided to convey the same to the Mol&B. Board expressed the view that NBDA was never against not having ratings. The ratings were suspended by BARC in view of the serious complaints relating to data tampering etc. It was decided that an urgent meeting be convened with Minister, and Secretary Mol&B and also with CEO BARC to ascertain the reforms implemented by BARC and the time required to implement the balance reforms before the data are released in March 2022.

NBDA also issued a press release welcoming the decision and the reforms that were being undertaken by BARC, to make the processes, protocols and oversight mechanism at BARC more robust.

The individual channel level data for the news genre was released on March 17, 2022 after a gap of 17 months.

After the resumption of ratings on 17.3.2022, NBDA Board had an urgent meeting with CEO BARC on 2.4.2022. In the meeting the irregularities in the viewership ratings of individual news channels were pointed out. In the presentation, NBDA raised concerns about the sanctity of data that revealed a sudden spike in ratings of two channels in the Hindi genre both in reach and unusually high time spend when compared to others in the genre. Spike in other languages were also brought to his notice.

Since the launch of ratings in March 2022, NBDA and its members are working closely with BARC for transparency, accuracy and robustness of BARC data.

Meeting with Joint Secretary, (Broadcasting), Mol&B

On a request made by NBDA for a meeting of Board members with Secretary, Mol&B, to discuss issues related to TRP measurement system, Mol&B informed NBDA that a preliminary meeting with Joint Secretary (Broadcasting), and NBDA representative(s) be held to understand the concerns of NBDA and to put up the matter for seeking a convenient appointment from Secretary, Mol&B. A meeting was convened with Joint Secretary, Broadcasting through video conferencing on 5.4.2022. The meeting was led by Mr. Avinash Pandey, Board member and CEO, ABP Network Pvt. Ltd. and attended by the Marketing/ Research Heads. A detailed presentation was made to the Joint Secretary, (Broadcasting), Mol&B.

Corporate Matters

Membership Norms

NBDA Board approved the membership norms of both TV Broadcasters and digital media broadcasters which have been drawn up in accordance with the amendments made to the Articles of Association and also the redrafted the membership application forms to be submitted by each category of broadcasters i.e. Members and Associate Members.

Annual Membership Subscription

NBDA Board approved the Annual Membership Subscription of Associate Members (Digital), which are independent entities and operate digital news media. Also, small/medium sized digital news media platforms whose gross turnover is up to Rs. 30 lakhs or less per annum will be charged a reduced Annual Membership Subscription fee.

Annual Additional Subscription for NBDSA

Board also decided that since NBDSA would be looking into the complaints of Digital News Media Platforms of television news broadcasters, an Additional Subscription for NBDSA will be charged from Members and Associate Members over and above the existing fees paid for NBDSA.

Compliances post change in name of the Association

1. Intimation of change of name of News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA) and Approval of amendment to Memorandum and Articles of Association ('MOA' & 'AOA') Under Section 12A the Income Tax Act, 1961 ('Act')

The Commissioner of Income Tax (Exemptions) vide letter dated 15.9.2021 was informed to take the letter on record and the assessee undertook to submit the Form10AB online once the Income-Tax web portal is functioning and has received its UIN. Audit Report & Income Tax return was uploaded and accepted in the new name. The Income Tax return filing has also been acknowledged in the new name.

2. Re-registration in Form 10 A for allotment of the UIN required for all charitable organisations under Section 12 A and 80G

Vide Finance Act, 2020, the Government of India promulgated mandatory reregistration /re-approval for those fund(s), trust(s), universities, hospitals and institutions etc. which were earlier registered under sections 12AA/12A, 10(23C), 35 and 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961 ("Act"). Income Tax Department vide order dated 23.9.2021 issued Form No 10 AC, whereby NBDA has been granted registration under Section 12 A and 80G subject to certain conditions with effect from assessment year 2022-23 to 2026-2027, for a period of five years.

3. TAN Number

The Income Tax Department vide Ref. No.: 64737470000722/TAN/CR/NOR dated 27.4.2022 has confirmed the change/correction submitted by NBDA.

4. PAN Number

PAN card has been issued in the new name.

5. GST

New name has been approved by the GST authorities of both Noida & Delhi.

6. PF

The change of information of the new name has been made online.

7. Website of NBDA

To reflect the change in the name of the Association from News Broadcasters Association (NBA) to News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA) and News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) to News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA), changes have been carried out in the contents on the website. The domain name of the website has been changed to <http://www.nbdanewdelhi.com>.

Constitution of Internal Complaints Committee and NBDA Policy as per the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013

The Policy of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, have been circulated to the Internal Complaints Committee Members, employees of NBDA, the Members of NBDA and also uploaded on the NBDA website. The Internal Complaints Committee has the following persons as its members:

1. Presiding Officer – NBDA Representative: Mrs. Anuradha Prasad Shukla
2. Member-NBDA Representative: Ms. Kshipra Jatana
3. Member-NBDA Representative: Mr. M. N. Nasser Kabir
4. External Member: Ms. Nisha Bhambhani

Election Data for Assembly Elections

For the counting day election data for the Assembly Elections held in 2021 several members and non-member broadcasters subscribed to the data, which was sourced by NBDA on behalf of the members from Datanet India.

The support given by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the State Election Commissions for issuing passes on counting day needs special mention, which facilitated relay of accurate data to the broadcasters for their election programmes.

NBDA is also pursuing with the Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding the feasibility of ECI giving election data to the news broadcasters.

Vaccination to media personnel and their family members

The second dose of vaccination for media personnel and their families on the request of President NBDA was again facilitated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Approximately 7500 - 8000 media persons and their families have been vaccinated in both phases of vaccination.

Office Bearers of NBDA 2021-2022

In terms of Article 26 of the Articles of Association, the following Directors were elected Office Bearers of the Association for the year 2021-2022:

President – Mr. Rajat Sharma (Independent News Service Pvt. Ltd.)

Vice President – Mr. Avinash Pandey (ABP Network Pvt. Ltd.)

Honorary Treasurer – Mr. M.K. Anand (Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd.)

Membership

In the year 2021-2022 the following entities have become Associate Members of NBDA:

1. Indiadotcom Digital Pvt. Ltd.
2. Asianet News Media & Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.
3. NDTV Convergence Ltd.

The details of Members/Associate Members of the Association during the year are annexed at **Annexure-1**.

News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA)

Policy for Appointment of Members in the Editors Category on NBDSA

NBDA Board approved the Policy for appointment of Editor Members on NBDSA. It was decided that the Composition of Members in the Editor category on NBDSA would be as follows:

1. Two Editor Members representing Board Members (Representing linear & digital platforms)
2. Two Editor Members representing the General Membership including Associate Members (Linear & Digital).

The tenure of Editors on NBDSA would be two years. Accordingly, Regulation 3.1 of the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations was amended.

Chairperson NBDSA

In view of completion of three-year term of Chairperson in May 2022, the Board extended the term for another two years, which has been accepted by the Chairperson.

Appointment of Editor Members of NBDSA

Mr. Suman De, Senior Vice President - News & Programming & Editor of ABP Ananda and Mr. Rajnish Ahuja, Editor of Zee News were appointed by the Board as Editor Members on the NBDSA in place of Mr. Prasanth P. R., Senior Coordinating Editor, Asianet News and Mr. Brajesh Kumar Singh, Managing Editor, News18 Gujarat & Bihar/Jharkhand whose terms as Editor Members had ended.

Legal Matters Pending in Courts

Supreme Court of India

S. No	Title	Details
1.	People's Union for Civil Liberties and Anr. Vs The State of Maharashtra and Ors.: Criminal Appeal No. 1255 of 1999	The appeal arises from an Order passed by the Bombay High Court in W.P.(Crl.) No. 1146/ 1997 in relation to alleged fake encounter killings. On the question of media briefing by the police, the Court heard the submissions made by the amicus curiae, NBA, NHRC & Dr Surat Singh. The matter has not come up for hearing yet.
2.	Dr. Surat Singh Vs Union of India and Ors.: W.P. (C) No. 316 of 2008	A writ petition had been filed under Article 32 of the Constitution for ensuring effective enforcement of fundamental right of citizens (in this case Dr. Rajesh Talwar) in relation to police and media handling of the Aarushi murder case. NBA had filed an Intervention Application. The matter has not come up for hearing yet.
3.	Act Now for Harmony and Democracy (ANHAD) and Anr. Vs Union of India and Ors.: T.C. (C) No. 27 of 2011	The case arises from a Writ Petition filed before the Delhi High Court seeking a judicial inquiry into the encounter killings at Batla House, New Delhi and for laying down guidelines for the police and the media regarding the publication of information obtained/claimed to be obtained during investigation. NBA has intervened in the case and filed draft/ suggested Guidelines for Media Briefing by Police, which were to be considered by the Court along with the guidelines suggested by the Petitioner. The matter has not come up for hearing yet.
4.	M/s News Broadcasters Association and Anr. Vs Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and Ors.: Civil Appeal No. 1525 of 2013 & Indus Ind Media and Communications Limited and Anr. Vs Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and Ors. (TRAI): Civil Appeal No. D3009 of 2013.	The civil appeals had been filed against judgment dated 19.10.2012 passed by the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, New Delhi in Appeal No. 5(C) of 2012 titled "Indus Ind Media Communication Ltd. vs. TRAI and Anr." NBA has filed its counter affidavit and moved an application in the matter bringing to the notice of the Hon'ble Court that this appeal is covered by the BSNL judgment and therefore the Court may dispose of the matter on the basis of the said judgment. The matter has been tagged with the Petition Nos. 1409-1410/2014 which seeks review of the BSNL judgment.
5.	Nivedita Jha Vs State of Bihar & Ors: SLP(C) No.24978 of 2018	An SLP was filed by Nivedita Jha praying inter-alia that an ad interim ex-parte order be passed staying the operation of the interim order dated 23.8.2018 passed by the Patna High Court in CWJC 12845/2018, which imposed a blanket ban on the print and electronic media while reporting on the happenings in Muzaffarpur, Bihar shelter homes. Meanwhile, since the electronic media had reported on the "Rewari Rape case" and identified the victim, the Hon'ble Court by Order dated 20.9.2018 issued notice to NBSA, IBF, PCI and Editors Guild to assist the Court in respect of the mechanism for enforcement and implementation of the statutory provisions and guidelines. NBSA has filed its affidavit and documents as directed by the Hon'ble Court. The matter has not come up for hearing after 23.03.2022.

S. No	Title	Details
6.	G.S. Mani & Anr Vs Union of India & Ors.: W.P. (CRL) No. 348 of 2019	<p>On 12.12.2019, an Inquiry Commission was constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to inquire into the death of four accused persons who were killed in Hyderabad on 6.12.2019 when they were in police custody. The accused were allegedly involved in the rape and murder of a young veterinarian. An Intervention Application was filed by NBA in the matter.</p> <p>During the hearing, it was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Supreme Court that a PIL regarding the same matter is pending before the High Court of Telangana. However, because of the pendency of the present petition, no orders were passed by the Hon'ble High Court. In view of the fact that the Commission had already completed the inquiry and filed the Report, the Hon'ble Supreme Court was of the opinion that it would be expedient for the same to be taken up by the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana in the PIL pending before it. Accordingly, the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the Registry to immediately transfer the entire material forwarded by the Inquiry Commission, including the Report to the Hon'ble High Court. Accordingly, the writ petition was disposed of on 20.5.2022.</p>
7.	Jamait-Ulama-I Hind & Anr. Vs Union of India & Anr: W.P. (C) No. 787 of 2020. Abdul Kudoos Laskar Vs Union of India & Ors: W.P. (C) No. 789 of 2020 D. J. Halli Federation of Masjid Madrasas & Wakf Institutions, Bangalore (North) Trust (Guidance) Under Mahakama Shariya Jamait Ulama-E-Hind Vs Union of India & Ors W.P. (C) No. 788 of 2020. Peace Party Vs Union of India & Ors: W.P. (C) No. 477 of 2020.	<p>The Petitioners have filed the aforementioned writ petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution in the nature of a Public Interest Litigation seeking directions to prevent the communalization of the Nizamuddin Markaz issue by certain sections of the print, electronic and social media. Vide order dated 27.5.2020, NBDA was impleaded in the above matter to represent electronic media. NBDA filed its counter affidavit in the matter and apprised the Court of the pendency of similar complaints on the issue before NBDSA. The matter came up for hearing on several days. On 2.9.2021, the Petitioner in W.P. (C) No. 787 of 2020 prayed for permission to amend the prayers in the writ petition which was allowed by the Hon'ble and the counter affidavits were directed to be filed within 4 weeks. NBDA has filed its counter affidavit in the matter. During the hearings on 9.5.2022 and 19.5.2022, the Hon'ble Supreme Court clubbed the matter with W.P.(C) No. 956 of 2020 and other matters as petitions relating to Hate Speech. Further, at the hearing on 21.7.2022, the Hon'ble Supreme Court requested the Secretary, Home Affairs, Government of India to collate relevant information regarding compliance by respective States/Union Territories with the directions issued by it in Shakti Vahini Vs. Union of India & Ors., Tehseen S. Poonawalla Vs. Union of India & Ors. and Kodungallur Film Society and Anr. Vs. Union of India & Ors.</p>
8.	Firoz Iqbal Khan Vs Union Of India & Ors. W.P.(C) No. 956 of 2020	<p>A PIL was filed by the petitioner seeking issuance of directions to the Central Government and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to issue necessary guidelines/instructions to restrain the media channels, both print and electronic as well as social media networks as well as Respondent No.5, Sudarshan News from broadcasting or reporting any news relating to religion or which creates any communal disharmony. NBDA has filed its affidavit in the matter. During the hearings on 9.5.2022 and 19.5.2022, the Hon'ble Supreme Court clubbed the matter with W.P. (C) No. 787 of 2020 and other matters as petitions relating to Hate Speech. Further, at the hearing on 21.7.2022, the Hon'ble Supreme Court requested the Secretary, Home Affairs, Government of India to collate relevant information regarding compliance by respective States/</p>

S. No	Title	Details
		Union Territories with the directions issued by it in Shakti Vahini Vs. Union of India & Ors., Tehseen S. Poonawalla Vs. Union of India & Ors. and Kodungallur Film Society and Anr. Vs. Union of India & Ors.
9.	Union of India & Anr. Vs NBA & Ors. SLP (Civil) No. 11566 of 2021	Union of India (UOI) has filed a Special Leave Petition impugning the interim order dated 9.7.2021 passed by the Hon'ble Kerala High Court in News Broadcasters Association Vs. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology W.P. (C) No. 13675/2021. In the matter, UOI has prayed inter alia for an interim relief that the Hon'ble Court pass an order granting stay of effect and operation of the impugned interim order dated 9.7.2021 passed by the Hon'ble High Court. NBDA has filed its counter affidavit in the matter.
10.	Union of India & Anr. Vs Sayanti Sengupta & Ors. TP (C) No. 1248-1252 of 2021	UOI has filed a Transfer Petition under Article 139(A)(1) of the Constitution seeking transfer inter alia, of News Broadcasters Association and Ors Vs. UOI and Ors. W.P. (C) No. 13675/2021. NBA has filed a caveat in the matter.
11.	Union of India Vs News Broadcasters Association SLP (Civil) No. 13661 of 2021	Union of India has filed an SLP against the Order of the Kerala High Court dated 16.7.2021 in the matter of "News Broadcasters Association & Ors Vs Union of India Through Ministry of Information and Broadcasting" [WP(C) 14239 of 2021]. In the matter UOI has prayed inter alia for an interim relief that the Hon'ble Court pass an order granting stay of effect and operation of the impugned interim order dated 16.7.2021 passed by the Hon'ble High Court. NBDA has filed its counter affidavit in the matter.
12.	National Alliance of Journalists & Ors. Vs Union of India & Ors. W.P. (C) No 928 of 2020, Diary No.- 10948 - 2020	The writ petition relates to retrenchment of employees in the print media and digital media organizations. NBA has been made a Respondent in the matter/ However, there is no reference of any broadcaster member/s of the NBA in the petition.
13.	Reepak Kansal Vs Union of India: W.P. (C) No. 762 of 2020, Diary No.- 11236 – 2020	A writ petition was filed praying inter alia, that the Hon'ble Court issue an appropriate writ, order or direction in the nature of Mandamus directing the Central Government / Respondent No. 1 to constitute an independent authority to be known as the Broadcast Regulatory Authority of India for the purpose of regulating and facilitating development of broadcasting services in India. NBA and NBSA are Respondents in the matter and have filed their counter affidavit.
14.	Nilesh Navlakha & Anr. Vs Union of India & Ors. W.P. (C) No. 1316 of 2020	A writ petition has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India praying inter alia, that the Hon'ble Court issue an appropriate writ, order or direction for setting up of an Independent High Powered Committee to scrutinize and review the entire legal framework related to the Media Business regulation, to recommend appropriate guidelines to be laid down by the Hon'ble Court and for creation of a Media Tribunal, to adjudicate upon the complaints against the Media/Broadcasting Channels/Networks. Both NBA and NBSA have been made Respondents in the matter.
15.	NBA Vs Nilesh Navlakha & Ors. Diary No. 10801 of 2021	An appeal was filed by NBA against the judgment of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in the matter of Nilesh Navlakha & Ors. Vs Union of India & Ors. (2021 SCC Online Bom 56).

High Courts

A. Allahabad High Court – Lucknow Bench

S. No	Title	Details
1.	Dr. Nutan Thakur Vs Union of India Writ Petition No. 9976 of 2013 (M/B)	Aggrieved by the impugned order dated 16.10.2013, passed by the NBSA, Dr. Nutan Thakur filed the said writ petition. The Court has opined that prima facie the impugned order seems to be cryptic and non-speaking and the material submitted by the petitioner seems neither considered nor reason has been assigned. The Court expressed the view that prima facie a writ petition against the decision taken by a non-statutory body (namely NBSA/NBA) seems to be not maintainable; but that keeping in view the public importance of the question raised by the petitioner for creation of some statutory forum where people may seek redressal of their grievances against electronic media (like the Press Council is for the print media), the writ petition is admitted. NBA has filed its counter affidavit and Dr. Nutan Thakur has filed her rejoinder.

B. Bombay High Court

S. No	Title	Details
1.	Lahu Chandu Chavan Vs State of Maharashtra & Ors. W.P. (CRL.) No. 1119 of 2021	NBA along with ABP Majha, IBN Lokmat and TV9 Marathi among others, have been named as Respondents in the matter. After hearing the submissions of the Petitioner on 4.3.2021, the Bombay High Court directed media organizations to scrupulously follow the guidelines issued in <i>Nilesh Navlakha Vs. Union of India (2021 SCC Online Bom 56)</i> and further to refrain from publishing or giving any unnecessary publicity to the incident of the death of the daughter X of the Petitioner and her alleged illicit relationship with Y.

C. Calcutta High Court

S. No	Title	Details
1.	Sri. Charles Nandi Vs Union of India & Ors. W.P. No. 5705 (W) of 2020 with CAN 3633 of 2020.	The petition has been filed by an employee who is associated with the Political & Business Daily and is not employed with the electronic media. The petition states that many media personnel in the State of West Bengal are finding it difficult to make both ends meet as they are not permanently employed by any electronic/ print media establishments and work on commission basis and the Respondent authorities should frame a scheme for providing financial assistance to all media personnel in the State of WB facing financial crisis during the pandemic. State Govt. of WB, INS, NBA, Bennett Coleman, ABP, Aajkaal and Trade Union Organizations of the print media have been made Respondents in the matter.

D. Delhi High Court

S. No	Title	Details
1.	M/s.News Broadcasters Association and Ors. Vs Telecom Regulatory Authority of India W.P.(C) No. 7989 Of 2013	A writ petition has been filed by the NBDA and its other members for quashing and setting aside the Standards of Quality of Service (Duration of Advertisements in Television Channels) (Amendment) Regulations, 2013, issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India vide Notification dated 22.3.2013. On 12.01.2021, the Hon'ble Court impleaded Union of India through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as Respondent No.2

S. No	Title	Details
		in the 9X Media Pvt. Ltd vs Union of India matter. Further, the Court also allowed Petitioner 9X Media Pvt. Ltd to amend its writ petition to include challenge to Rule 7(11) of the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994. Hearing in the matter started from 11.7.2022 onwards.
2.	NBA & Ors. Vs Union of India W.P. (C) No. 4307 of 2021	A Writ Petition was filed by NBDA challenging Rule 7(11) of the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 on the ground that it violates Article 19(1)(a) read with Article 19(2) of the Constitution. In the petition, NBDA has prayed inter alia, for the issuance of a writ of, or in the nature of, certiorari and/or any other appropriate writ, direction or order, declaring Impugned Rule 7(11) of the Cable TV Rules issued by the Respondent vide notification dated 31st July 2006 ultra vires Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution and that it is not a reasonable restriction under Article 19(2) of the Constitution. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has filed an Application for Intervention in the present petition. NBDA has filed its reply to the Intervention Application and has also filed its rejoinder in the matter. Hearing in the matter started from 11.7.2022 onwards.
3.	Sadhan Haldar Vs The State of NCT of Delhi and Ors: W.P.(CRL) No. 1560/2017	The Writ Petition has been filed by Mr. Haldar. On 22.1.2019 a detailed order was passed by the Hon'ble Court issuing directions to various agencies involved in the recovery and restoration of missing children in Delhi. Though NBDA is not a party to the writ, however the court observed that in the minutes of the meeting held on 18.2.2019, it was agreed that the three Municipal Corporations, New Delhi Municipal Council, Railways, DMRC and News Broadcasting Agency be directed to participate in the meetings of the Committee so as to ensure that steps are taken to upload the photographs of the missing children on display boards within the first 3/4 hours of their going missing. NBA has entered its appearance and no directions have been passed in respect of NBA.
4.	Yashdeep Chahal Vs. Union of India & Ors: W.P. (C) NO. 12787 of 2019	A PIL has been filed against the Union of India, State of Telangana, other state instrumentalities, print media and online media seeking, inter alia directions that the 63 Respondents take appropriate action against media houses and reported individuals for violating Section 228A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) by publishing the name, residential address and pictures of the victim in the Hyderabad rape case, thereby identifying the victim and violating the provisions of the IPC and the law as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in <i>Nipun Saxena & Anr. Vs. Union of India & Ors. 2018 SCC Online SC 2772</i> . NBDSA has filed an affidavit in the matter and made submissions before the Hon'ble Court that the Respondents in the matter were not members of NBDA and therefore did not come under the jurisdiction of NBDSA. In view of the above, NBDSA should be deleted as a Respondent.
5.	Disha Ravi Vs NCT of Delhi & Ors. WP (C) 2297 of 2021	A writ petition has been filed seeking inter alia the issuance of a writ of mandamus and/or writ of like nature directing NBDSA (Respondent No. 3) to take appropriate action against Respondent No. 4-6 (News18, Times Now and India Today) and other member private news broadcasting channels under its Guidelines for reporting on Disha Ravi in a manner that is violative of fair trial rights and right to privacy. NBDSA has filed its counter affidavit in the matter and has complied with the directions of the Hon'ble Court.

S. No	Title	Details
6.	Danish Hashim Vs Union of India & Ors. WP (C) 4451 of 2021	A writ petition has been filed seeking inter alia for the issuance of a writ of prohibition directing the Respondents to remove and not circulate, print, publish or display or air any news pertaining to the matrimonial family matters & disputes between the Petitioner and the private Respondents Nos. 17 to 19 as the subject matter is pending adjudication before the concerned court of ACMM, South East District, Saket Court, New Delhi. The Petitioner has also prayed for directions to be issued to Union of India to draft, formulate & implement rules, regulations/ guidelines through a competent law under Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India to impose reasonable restrictions on circulation and publication of news items pertaining to private disputes/ matrimonial matters which are sub-judice before concerned court of law. NBDA has been impleaded as a party and has filed a counter affidavit in the matter.
7.	Ms. CK Vs Commissioner of Police & Ors W.P.(C) 6415/2021	The writ petition has been preferred by a young woman who claims that she, out of her own free will and without any inducement or coercion, had converted to Islam on 12.10.2012 and has been practising the religion since then. The Petitioner's case is that after obtaining the certificate of conversion on 31.3.2021, in April 2021 she got the factum of her conversion published in newspaper advertisements on 6.4.2021 and 8.4.2021. She submitted that ever since then, she has been receiving threats from Respondents Nos.1 to 5 and that the Respondents Nos. 6 to 8 have been publishing malicious articles about her along with her photographs and her home address, therefore causing irreparable damage to her reputation and endangering her family and her. NBDSA is party Respondent No.8 but has not received any petition or documents.
8.	Arjun Jain Vs News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority and Ors. WP (C) 11484 of 2021	A writ petition has been filed seeking inter alia the issuance of a writ of mandamus and/or writ of like nature directing NBDSA / Respondent No.1 to create rules/a code and consequently an emergency efficacious grievance redressal system for reportage of criminal investigations and trials. NBDSA has filed its counter affidavit. The Petitioner has been granted 6 weeks' time to file rejoinders to the counter affidavits of the Respondents.
9.	Manjit Singh G.K Vs Aaj Tak & Ors: W.P. (C) No. 1260 of 2021 and Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa Vs Aaj Tak & Ors: W.P. (C) No. 1253 of 2021	Writ Petitions were filed challenging the vicious, unmitigated, abhorrent, and reprehensible actions of certain media houses which had unleashed an offensive and potentially communal attack on the "Sikh" community by continuous circulation and constant transmission of unverified videos through different platforms including their respective news channels and YouTube pursuant to the events that unfolded in New Delhi on the 72nd Republic Day of India on 26.1.2021. On 24.11.2021, the Petitioners withdrew the Petitions and the matters stand disposed.
10.	Rakul Preet Singh Vs. Union of India & Ors: W.P. (C) No. 6568 of 2020	A Writ Petition was filed seeking inter alia, the issuance of a writ of prohibition to the members of NBDA not to telecast, publish or circulate on the TV channels, cable, print or social media, any content in context of actress Rhea Chakraborty's narcotic drugs case that maligns or slanders the Petitioner or which contains anything defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths in respect of the Petitioner, or to use sensational headlines, photographs, video-footage or social media links which invade the privacy of the Petitioner. At the hearing on 4.8.2021, the Petitioner informed the Hon'ble Court that respondents have taken appropriate action against the TV channels qua whom the Petitioner had raised grievances. In view thereof, the petition was disposed of by the Hon'ble Court.

E. Karnataka High Court

S. No	Title	Details
1.	Peoples Movement Against Sexual Assault (PMASA) Vs Department Of Women and Child Department, State of Karnataka & Ors. W.P. No.6301 of 2017	A writ petition has been filed which seeks for that the Hon'ble Court to issue a Writ of Mandamus inter alia to Respondent No. 11, NBSA, (i) to strictly enforce the laws and self-regulatory norms formulated to preserve the confidentiality of the identity of the victims of sexual assault; (ii) to strictly enforce the laws and self-regulatory norms formulated for sensitive and non-sensational reportage of incidents of sexual assault; (iii) to formulate effective and accessible grievance redressal mechanisms against objectionable or offensive content in local languages.

F. Kerala High Court

S. No	Title	Details
1.	K. Biju Vs Union of India and Others. W.P.(C) No. 21336 of 2013	A Writ Petition has been filed seeking that the Hon'ble Court issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing Respondent Nos 1 and 2 i.e Union of India and the State of Kerala respectively to take effective steps to prevent violation of the Programme Code of the Cable Television Networks Act, 1995 and Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 by private news channels and to frame stringent statutory provisions for effectively preventing violation of the above Codes. NBA has filed a counter affidavit.
2.	News Broadcasters Association and Ors. Vs Union of India & Ors. W.P. (C) No. 13675 of 2021	A Writ Petition has been filed by NBA challenging the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines & Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 [IT Rules, 2021] on the grounds that the IT Rules, 2021 give the Government Authorities excessive powers to unreasonably and impermissibly restrict the freedom of speech and expression of the Media under Article 19(1)(a) are <i>ultra vires</i> the Information Technology Act, 2000 apart from being violative of Article 14 and Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution. On 8.7.2021, the Hon'ble Court passed an Interim Order in favour of NBA and its members directing Respondents to not take any coercive action against the Members of NBA for not implementing/ complying with "Part III Code of Ethics and Procedure and Safeguards in Relation to Digital Media of the IT Rules 2021". An SLP and a TP have been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
3.	News Broadcasters Association and Ors. Vs Ministry of Information and Broadcasting W.P. (C) No. 14239 of 2021	A Writ Petition has been filed by NBA challenging the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, [Cable TV Act], the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 [Cable TV Rules] and the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021 [Amendment Rules, 2021] on the grounds that the Cable TV Act, Cable TV Rules and the Amendment Rules, 2021 are violative of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution of India including Article 14, Article 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g). After hearing the Petitioners, the Hon'ble High Court passed an Interim Order directing the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to refrain from taking coercive action against the NBA and its members for not complying with the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021 pending disposal of the writ petition. An SLP has been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

G. Madhya Pradesh High Court**Indore Bench**

S. No	Title	Details
1.	Nyaaayi Through its Founder & Editor & Anr. Vs Arnab Goswami & Ors Writ Petition (P.I.L.) 14379/2020	The case has been filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur, Bench at Indore for taking action against Republic TV for violating the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. An amendment application was moved by the Petitioner, as a result of which NBA and NBSA have been made Respondents in the matter. NBA and NBSA have yet to receive the Original Writ Petition in the matter.

Jabalpur Bench

S. No	Title	Details
1.	Jalam Singh Patel Vs Union of India W.P. No. 3610 of 2022	The Petitioner has prayed that the Hon'ble Court grant a restraint order and direct the Respondents not to publish, print or telecast any material mentioning the name of the Petitioner regarding the private affairs of the son of the Petitioner and that the answering Respondents neither print nor publish any newspaper nor telecast any programme on a channel. NBDA has been impleaded as Respondent No. 2 and NBDSA is Respondent No. 3. NBDA and NBDSA have filed an application for deletion from the array of parties in light of the fact that the prayers do not apply to them and that NBDA and NBDSA neither print nor publish any newspaper nor telecast any programme on a channel.

H. Madras High Court**Madurai Bench**

S. NO	Title	Details
1.	Mohammed Razvi Vs Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) & Ors. W.P. (MD) NO. 4357 of 2019	The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court issued notices to the TRAI and the Secretary of the Ministry of Communication and on a plea seeking a ban on advertisements by private channels violating the TRAI's advertisement rules. The matter was posted for hearing on 19.03.2019 pending reply from the Centre. NBA had filed its Vakalatnama in the matter which however, was returned as NBA has not been impleaded as a party in the matter. Since the same matter is pending before the Delhi High Court, NBA Counsel opined that it would be advisable that NBA moves an application before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court seeking impleadment/intervention in the matter to bring to the Court's notice the fact that a matter with similar questions of law have been pending before the Delhi High Court
2.	J.Kirubha Priyadarshini Vs Union of India & Ors. Writ Petition (MD) No. 21429 of 2021	In the writ petition, the Petitioner has prayed, inter alia that the Hon'ble Court direct the Respondents to scrupulously execute the provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012 the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, The Press Council Act, 1978, India Penal Code, 1860 and the Information Technology Act, 2000 apart from adhering to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. NBDA, Respondent No. 3 has filed an application for deletion.

I. Telangana High Court

S. No	Title	Details
1.	V. Vijay Krishna Vs Union of India & Ors W.P. (P.I.L) No.182 of 2019	The petitioner had filed the writ petition as a public interest litigation, stating that respondent Nos.6 to 17 have published newspaper report in respect of an incident of rape disclosing the identity of the victim, contrary to the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Nupun Saxena and another vs. Union of India and others. The Hon'ble Court disposed the matter as criminal cases were registered against the respondents for offence under Section 228-A of I.P.C

District Courts - Delhi

S. No	Title	Details
1	Popular Front of India Vs Times Global Broadcasting Co. Ltd. & Ors. CS SCJ 17 of 2022	In the suit the only averments and prayer made in respect of Defendant No.3, NBDA is that it takes action against Defendants for the impugned broadcasts telecast by them. NBDA has filed its written statement in the aforementioned matter and has stated that it be removed from the array of parties inter alia for the reason that it is an association, not the independent self-regulatory body being NBDSA and it cannot adjudicate upon complaints filed by viewers.
2.	Popular Front of India Through Its Secretary Public Relations Mr. Salim Sheikh Vs Zee Media Corporation Ltd Through Its CEO CS SCJ 778 of 2021	In the suit the only averments and prayer made in respect of Defendant No.7, NBDA is that it takes action against Defendants for the impugned broadcasts made. NBDA had filed its written statement in the aforementioned matter and had stated that it be removed from the array of parties inter alia for the reason that it is an association, not the independent self-regulatory body being NBDSA and it cannot adjudicate upon complaints filed by viewers. In view of the above, on 18.2.2022 the Plaintiff itself stated that it will remove NBDA from the array of parties. The Court has asked the Plaintiff to move an application to that effect. NBDA will not need to appear in the matter. The matter has been disposed of vis-à-vis NBDA, Respondent No.7.
3.	Popular Front of India Vs Republic Media Network & Ors :CS SCJ 1300 of 2021	In the suit the only averments and prayer made in respect of Defendant No.4, NBDA is that it take action against Defendants in respect of the impugned broadcast telecast by them. NBDA had filed an Application seeking deletion of Defendant No.4, NBDA from the array of parties as Republic Media Network is not a member of NBDA and therefore NBDSA being the independent self-regulatory body can not take any action against the said entity or its channels. The matter has been disposed of vis-à-vis NBDA, Respondent No.4.

News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority

The actions taken by News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority during the year under report have been shown separately in the Annual report.

**By Order of the Board of Directors of
News Broadcasters & Digital Association**



Rajat Sharma
President

[DIN No.:00005373]

Place: New Delhi
Date : August 29, 2022

Annexure - 1

Members of News Broadcasters & Digital Association

Members

S. No.	Name of the Member	Channel(s)
1.	ABP Network Pvt. Ltd.	ABP News, ABP Majha, ABP Ananda, ABP Asmita, ABP Ganga, ABP Sanjha
2.	Asianet News Network Pvt. Ltd.	Asianet News, Asianet Suvarna News
3.	BBC Global News India Pvt. Ltd.	BBC World
4.	Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.	Times Now, ET Now, Mirror Now, Times Now World, Times Now Navbharat HD, ET Now Swadesh, Times Now Navbharat
5.	Eenadu Television Pvt. Ltd.	ETV-Andhrapradesh, ETV-Telangana
6.	Gujarat News Broadcasters Pvt. Ltd.	VTV News
7.	Independent News Services Pvt. Ltd.	India TV
8.	Mathrubhumi Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd.	Mathrubhumi News
9.	MMTV Ltd.	Manorama News Central
10.	New Delhi Television Ltd.	NDTV24x7, NDTV India
11.	New Generation Media Corporation Pvt. Ltd.	Puthiya Thalaimurai
12.	New24 Broadcast India Ltd.	News 24, News 24 Madhya Pradesh – Chhattisgarh
13.	Sobhagaya Media Pvt. Ltd.	APN
14.	SUN TV Network Ltd.	Sun News
15.	TV Today Network Ltd.	Aajtak, India Today, Good News Today, Aajtak HD
16.	TV18 Broadcast Ltd.	CNN NEWS18, News18 India, CNBC Bazaar, CNBC TV18, CNBC Awaaz, News18 Assam/North East, News18 Tamil Nadu, News18 Kerala, News18 Uttar Pradesh/Uttarakhand, News18 Rajasthan, News18 Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh, News18 Bihar/ Jharkhand, News18 Jammu/Kashmir/Ladakh/ Himachal, News18 Bangla, News18 Kannada, News18 Punjab/Haryana, News18 Gujarati, News18 Odia

S. No.	Name of the Member	Channel(s)
17.	Writemen Media Pvt. Ltd.	Public TV
18.	Zee Media Corporation Ltd.	Zee News, Zee Business, Zee 24 Taas, Zee Hindustan, Zee Delhi NCR Haryana, Zee Madhya Pradesh Chattisgarh, Zee Punjab Haryana Himachal, Zee Rajasthan, WION, Zee Salaam, Zee 24 Kalak, Zee Uttar Pradesh Uttarakhand, Zee Bihar Jharkhand

Associate Members

A. Broadcaster

19.	IBN Lokmat News Pvt. Ltd.	News18 Lokmat
20.	Indira Television Ltd.	Sakshi
21.	Malayalam Communications Ltd.	Kairali, Kairali News
22.	Total Telefilms Pvt. Ltd.	Total TV, Total Haryana

B. Digital

23.	Asianet News Media & Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.	Asianet News	www.asianetnews.com
		Asianet Suvarna News	https://kannada.asianetnews.com/
		Asianet News Tamil	https://tamil.asianetnews.com/
		Asianet News Telugu	https://telugu.asianetnews.com/
		Asianet News Bangla	https://bangla.asianetnews.com/
		Asianet News Hindi	https://hindi.asianetnews.com/
		Asianet News English	https://newsable.asianetnews.com
		Asianet News English [my nation]	https://www.mynation.com/
24.	Indiadotcom Digital Pvt. Ltd.	Zee News Hindi	https://zeenews.india.com/hindi
		Zee News MPCG	https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/india/madhya-pradesh-chhattisgarh
		Zee News UPUK	https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/india/up-uttarakhand

Zee News Hindustan	https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/zee-hindustan
Zee News Salaam	https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/zeesalaam
Zee News Bihar	https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/india/bihar-jharkhand
Zee News Rajasthan	https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/india/rajasthan
Zee News Odisha	https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/zeeodisha
Zee News PHH	https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/zeephh
Zee News English	https://zeenews.india.com
Zee News Marathi	https://zeenews.india.com/marathi
Zee News Bengali	https://zeenews.india.com/bengali
Zee News Gujarati	https://zeenews.india.com/gujarati
Zee News Kannada	https://zeenews.india.com/kannada
Zee News Tamil	https://zeenews.india.com/tamil
Zee News Malayalam	https://zeenews.india.com/malayalam
Zee News Telugu	https://zeenews.india.com/telugu
ZEE Biz	https://www.zeebiz.com
Zee Biz/Hindi	https://www.zeebiz.com/hindi
Zee Biz/English	https://www.zeebiz.com
Wion News	https://www.wionews.com
India.com	https://www.india.com
India.com/Hindi	https://www.india.com/hindi-news
India.com/English	https://www.india.com
India.com/Marathi	https://www.india.com/marathi
BollywoodLife.com	https://www.bollywoodlife.com
BollywoodLife.com/Hindi	https://www.bollywoodlife.com/hi

		BollywoodLife.com/English	https://www.bollywoodlife.com
		BGR	https://www.bgr.in
		BGR /Hindi	https://www.bgr.in/hi
		BGR /English	https://www.bgr.in
		TheHealthSite.com	https://www.thehealthsite.com
		TheHealthSite.com/Hindi	https://www.thehealthsite.com/hindi
		TheHealthSite.com/English	https://www.thehealthsite.com
		CricketCountry.com	https://www.cricketcountry.com
		CricketCountry.com/Hindi	https://www.cricketcountry.com/hi
25.	NDTV Convergence Ltd.		www.ndtv.com www.ndtv.in
26.	Quintillion Business Media Ltd.	Bloomberg Quint	www.bqprime.com

News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority

During the year under report, NBDSA met under the Chairmanship of Justice, A.K.Sikri, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India. Keeping in mind the restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, NBDSA convened its meetings virtually. NBDSA had six meetings during the year under report. NBDSA in these meetings considered, reviewed and decided 164 complaints (96th – 105th meetings), which included complaints directly received by the broadcasters and settled at the first level and complaints received at the second level i.e. NBDSA. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoI&B), the Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) and the Election Commission of India (ECI) also have been sending complaints/ petitions of Members to the NBDSA for its consideration. All complaints received by NBDSA were assessed and dispensed in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards and the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.

Given below are the edited text of the Decisions / Orders passed by NBDSA

The full text of the decisions is available on the website of NBDA and can be viewed on

<http://www.nbdanewdelhi.com/decisions>

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
1.	India Today, Aaj Tak, NDTV 24x7, NDTV India, Times Now, Zee News, Zee UP/UK, News18 India, News18UP/UK, ABP News & News Nation	Several Channels had telecast news reports from 29th September to 10th October, 2020 disclosing the identity of the Hathras victim/family members in violation of the Supreme Court Guidelines and the Programme Code.	NBSA noted that it has been alleged in the complaints received from MoI&B that it is the news channels who disclosed the identity of the victim/ names of relatives etc. However, the same has been denied by the broadcasters who stated that the identity of the victim was disclosed during interviews with the victim's family/other villagers. The broadcasters submitted that the interviews occurred during "live" reporting, when the channels were not in a position to anticipate what a person is going to state in response to a question or situation and it is not possible for the broadcaster to edit the same as the feed was being transmitted live. It was brought to the notice of NBSA, that anchors/reporters of several news channels had explicitly stated during the broadcasts that disclosure of the identity of a rape victim was a punishable offence and not permitted under law. Upon going through the complaints and the response given by each of the broadcasters, NBSA noted the investigative news report was being covered in public interest, during live broadcasts, it was the victim's family/ villagers/ relatives who had willingly and voluntarily disclosed the identity of the victim.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
			In view of the explanations and reasons given by the broadcasters and the circumstances under which the name of the rape victim came to be revealed during live reporting by the family member/s and others, NBSA decided to close the complaints with the above observations.
2.	ABP News	The broadcaster had in the telecast aired on 30.4.2021 broadcast incorrect spelling of "Maharashtra"	In view of the corrective action taken by the broadcaster, no further action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaint.
3.	NDTV India	In the programme "Prime Time with Ravish Kumar" aired on 14.1.2021, the broadcaster had while referring to a Government infographic regarding paddy procurement falsely claimed that the data shared by the Government was wrong.	NBSA held that in view of the corrective action taken by the broadcaster, no further action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaint.
4.	Aaj Tak	During the programme 'Dangal' aired on 18.1.2021, one of the guests present on the show used the profane word "Bhadve" on live TV.	NBSA noted that in view of the immediate remedial actions taken by the anchor during the live programme in compliance with NBSA Regulations, no further action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaint.
5.	NDTV India	The complainant alleged that the broadcaster had falsely reported that China had entered the Indian borders and constructed a new village.	NBSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards or the NBSA Guidelines in the broadcast and decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaint.
6.	ABP Anando	The broadcaster had on 17.9.2020, while telecasting news about the murder of a TMC worker in Mathabhanga village of Cooch Behar shown the dead body without blur in violation of the Programme Code.	NBSA noted that in view of the action taken by the broadcaster of having aired an apology and also having removed the links pertaining to the impugned news clip from digital platforms, no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaint.
7.	Times Now	The complaint relates to a broadcast regarding the alleged information leaked by PMO to Mr. Arnab Goswami relating to the Balakot Airstrikes conducted by the IAF on 26.2.2019.	NBSA noted that in the absence of the date and time of the alleged broadcast, it was not possible for NBSA to proceed with the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaint.
8.	Aaj Tak	The complaint was regarding the usage of the name Aurangzeb Road instead of Abdul Kalam Road by the journalist while reporting the bomb blast at the Israeli Embassy in New Delhi.	NBSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards or the NBSA Guidelines in the broadcast and decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaint.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
9.	India Today	The complainant alleged that the anchor in the broadcast aired on 26.1.2021 falsely claimed that a youth named 'Navneet' who was protesting at the borders of New Delhi for new Farm Laws had been shot dead by the Delhi Police.	NBSA noted that the story with regard to the farmer's protest at ITO was an evolving story and was being broadcast "live". The broadcaster was continuously updating the news and had also broadcast the police version in its broadcasts at different points of time as the story was developing. In view of the above, NBSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards or the NBSA Guidelines in the said broadcast. NBSA decided to close the complaint.
10.	Manorama News & Reporter TV	<p>The complaint was regarding the manner in which the broadcaster had reported the farmers protest.</p> <p>The complainant alleged that the journalist called the hoisting of religious flag in Red Fort after the attack on security forces as "capture of Delhi" and glorified the incident by describing it as a symbol of Nation to be brave and valiant. He also justified the incident as a rightful reaction to the atrocities committed against the farmers by the Government.</p> <p>Further, he also falsely reported that one of the agitators was shot by the police on head and had expired on the spot while riding the tractor rally during the protest.</p>	NBSA found that Manorama News had reported the incidents relating to the Republic Day and the Farmer's protest as the story evolved and developed. The broadcaster reported the version of both the deceased farmer's brother's version as well as the police's version of the incident. In view of the above, NBSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards or the NBSA Guidelines in the broadcast and decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaint. NBSA could not consider the complaint relating to Reporter TV as it is not a member of NBDA.
11.	Mirror Now, ABP News & News Nation	Mol&B forwarded a footage containing recordings of news content carried by 'Mirror Now on 13.10.2020, News Nation on 14.10.2020 and ABP News on 12.10.2020, in which the word "Dalit" and "Mahadalit" was used in violation of Rule 6 (1)(a), Rule 6(1)(c) and Rule 6(1)(i) of the Programme Code of Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, and Advisory dated 7.8.2018 issued by the Ministry.	<p>NBSA noted that ABP News had attached the advisory of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting stating that media may refrain from using the nomenclature "Dalit" while referring to members belonging to Scheduled Caste in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court and the Constitutional term 'Scheduled Caste' in English, and its appropriate translation in other national languages should alone be used for all official transaction, matters, dealings, certificates etc. for denoting the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes notified in the Presidential Orders issued under Article 341 of the Constitution of India.</p> <p>NBSA observed that the Advisory stated that media may refrain from using the nomenclature "Dalit" while referring to members belonging to Scheduled Caste.</p>

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
			In view of the above, NBSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards or the NBSA Guidelines in the broadcasts and decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaints.
12.	ABP News	The complainant stated that the broadcaster had falsely reported that the Khalistani Flag was waved at Red Fort.	<p>NBSA noted that in absence of sufficient details in the grievance petition, particularly with respect to the date and time of the alleged broadcast, it would not be possible for NBSA to proceed further with the complaint.</p> <p>However, while considering the complaint, NBSA observed that many broadcasters during the coverage of the farmer's protest at Red Fort on January 26, 2021 had inadvertently identified the Nishan Sahib Flag (Khalsa Flag) as the National Flag. In this regard, NBSA noted that the broadcasters should exercise due care and caution while reporting any news pertaining to any religious symbol/ flag and follow the Fundamental Principles of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards which states that <i>"All news channels will keeping with the principle of due accuracy and impartiality, ensure that significant mistakes made in the course of broadcast are acknowledged and corrected on air immediately."</i> NBSA decided to close the complaint.</p>
13.	Zee News	The complaint was regarding a broadcast aired on 6.2.2021, in which classified information relating to the CATS warrior was broadcast.	NBSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards or NBSA Guidelines in the broadcast and decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaint.
14.	NDTV India	The complaint was regarding a debate programme aired on 30.3.2021 in which a casteist and abusive phrase <i>"Chori Chamari"</i> was used by a panellist.	NBSA observed that from the context of the programme it is clear that the panellist wanted to say <i>"chori chakari"</i> however maybe by slip of tongue used the expression <i>"chori chamari"</i> . NBSA noted that no apparent offense was intended to the SC/ST community in the context of the broadcast as the expression was used inadvertently. Further since the expression was used by the panellist on the programme and not by the channel or the anchor, no fault could be attributed to the broadcaster. The Authority also noted that the broadcaster had on realization of the error on the part of the panellist immediately deleted the offensive expression from the video of the impugned programme. In view of the corrective action taken by the broadcaster, NBSA decided that no further action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaint.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
15.	News18 India	Mol&B requested the Authority to examine complaints forwarded by it regarding insult of Hazrat Khawaja Syed Moinuddin Chisti by Mr. Amish Devgan during the debate on "Aar Paar" aired on News18 India on 15.6.2020.	NBSA noted that the broadcaster vide email dated 13.7.2021 had informed it that pursuant to the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 7.12.2020 in the matter <i>Amish Devgan vs. Union of India & Ors. [WP (Crl.) No. 160/2020]</i> , the matter is now pending investigation before IO and the Ajmer Court. NBSA observed that since the matter is sub judice under Regulation 7.2 read with Regulation 8.4.3 of the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations, it is not permissible or appropriate for NBSA to take up the matter. NBSA therefore, treated the matter as closed.
16.	Zee News	The complaint was filed against a programme titled "Daily News and Analysis," Jammu में ज़मीन के (इस्लामीकरण) का DNA टेस्ट aired by Zee News on 11.3.2020.	NBDSA decided that since the complainant vide email dated 23.9.2021 had informed the Authority that he did not wish to proceed further with the complaint, the complaint was closed.
17.	Sun News, Puthiya Thalaimurai	The complainant alleged that several news channels including Sun News, and Puthiya Thalaimurai were repeatedly broadcasting news related to a lock-up death in Satankulam with the intention of stimulating violence in Tamil Nadu.	NBDSA found that the broadcast was only a factual narration of events related to the incident of the lock-up death in Satankulam and the broadcast was in public interest. NBDSA noted that as required by the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards, the broadcaster had verified the reports prior to the broadcasts. Therefore, there was no violation of any Standards or Guidelines in the broadcasts. NBDSA decided that no action was called for on the complaint and decided to close the complaint.
18.	NDTV India	The complaint was regarding a programme aired on 22.3.2021, in which a panellist on the occasion of Karva Chauth allegedly made derogatory remarks against men of the Hindu samaj.	NBDSA noted that the subject matter of the programme was different from what was being stated by the complainant. The programme was essentially based on the statements made by Mr. Tirath Singh Rawat, former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand in respect of "women are setting a 'bad example' for society by wearing ripped jeans" and on "Karwa Chauth" and the reactions/ replies of the panellists to the same. Since, the programme was a debate and the opinions of the panellist was in respect of the statements made by the former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, and this debate as well as opinions did not transgress the boundaries of objectivity and fairness, NBDSA is of the opinion that there was no violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast. NBDSA decided that no action was called for on the complaint and decided to close the complaint.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
19.	Asianet News	The complainant alleged that the news channel was spreading fake news that all States in India are facing vaccine scarcity.	NBDSA found that the broadcast related to the vaccine shortage in India, the apprehension that the rich and developed nations were hoarding the vaccines and the demand and supply of vaccines could be met if the technology is shared by the pharma companies as several organizations have the capability to produce the vaccines. The reporting was about the alleged nexus between pharma companies with the rich and developed nations. In view of the above, NBDSA noted that the news report did not violate the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards or Guidelines. NBDSA decided that no action was called for on the complaint and decided to close the complaint.
20.	NDTV India	The complaint was regarding the broadcasters' use of the term "Indian variant" to describe B.1.617 of Covid.	NBDSA noted that the complaint was regarding the use of the nomenclature "Indian variant" in the broadcast and observed that that these nomenclatures are commonly used. In view of the above, NBDSA noted there was no violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBDSA decided to close the complaint.
21.	NDTV India	The complaint was regarding a programme, aired on 1.2.2022 during which the anchor made an malicious and unsubstantiated statement that "80% लोगों के पास खाने के लिए भोजन नहीं है।" in reference to the Union Budget 2022-2023 presented by the Union Government.	NBDSA noted that the content of the broadcast fell within the realm of editorial discretion and it found no violation of its Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards and/or Guidelines in the said broadcast. NBDSA decided that no action was called for on the complaint.
22.	TV Today Network Ltd.	The Joint Director, ECI, vide letter dated 17.2.2022 drew the attention of NBDSA to a video of Shri. T Raja, MLA, wherein he could be seen threatening voters to vote in favour of a particular candidate, which was being broadcast on various news channels.	NBDSA noted that since the broadcaster had taken corrective action by complying with the direction of the ECI and removed the videos of the broadcast from TVTN platforms upon it being brought to its notice, no further action was required on the complaint. NBDSA decided to close the complaint.
23.	India TV	The complainant alleged that on 28.10.2020, the broadcaster shared false news stating that Parliamentarians in Pakistan were chanting "Modi-Modi" when in reality, the Parliamentarians were chanting "voting-voting."	NBDSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBDSA decided to close the complaint.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
24.	ABP News	The complaint relates to a news report aired by ABP Majha on 28.9.2020, about an IPS Officer from Madhya Pradesh, who physically assaulted his wife at a private residence.	NBSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA, decided to close the complaint.
25.	AajTak	The complaint was regarding the broadcast of Soo Sorry or Case Deban Na Please cartoon of the Prime Minister of India.	NBSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA, decided to close the complaint.
26.	Aaj Tak	The complaint was against a news programme titled "Dangal: बिहार के चुनाव में जिन्ना का जिन्न". In the programme, it was falsely claimed that "मशकूर उस्मानी ने AMU अध्यक्ष रहते जिन्ना की तस्वीर लगाई थी" and "2018 में AMU में जिन्ना की तस्वीर लगाने पर हुआ था बड़ा विवाद" despite the fact that picture of Jinnah had been hanging in AMUSU hall since 1938 and was not hung by Mashkur Usmani. Further, during the broadcast, the panellists present on the show used words such as "देशद्रोही" & "आतंकवादी" for Mashkoor.	NBSA noted that the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in the matter of <i>Nilesh Navalakha & Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors. (2021) SCC Online BOM 56</i> had laid down guidelines pertaining to the role of anchor in a news programme in particular their duty to prevent the programme from drifting beyond permissible limits. Since the present complaint raised similar grievances against the anchor, NBSA decided that the guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Court should be circulated to the broadcaster to ensure compliance. NBSA further observed that the editorial team and the anchor must be careful in inviting panelists who habitually makes inflammatory remarks during news programme and should keep in mind the guidelines of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court. NBSA decided to close the complaint with the aforesaid observations.
27.	News18 Bihar/ Jharkhand	The complaint was in respect of a news programme called "Vote Prapanch: कांग्रेस का 'हाथ' जिन्ना प्रेमी के साथ?" aired on 16.10.2021. During the broadcast it was falsely claimed that "साल 2018 यूनिवर्सिटी में जिन्ना की तस्वीर लगाने की वकालत" and "मशकूर के अध्यक्ष रहते AMU के छात्रसंघ हॉल में लगी जिन्ना की तस्वीर" despite the fact that picture of Jinnah had been hanging in AMUSU hall since 1938 and was not hung by Mr Usmani.	In view of the fact that the broadcaster had aired the version of Mr. Usmani, NBSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA, decided to close the complaint.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
28.	Times Now	The complaint was regarding the coverage of the farmer's protest on 11.12.2020, in which the broadcaster had claimed that farmers protests had been hijacked by left-wing extremists.	NBSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA, decided to close the complaint.
29.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of the show titled ' <i>Taal Thok Ke</i> ' aired on 4.1.2021 concerning the arrest of Munawar Faruqi.	NBSA noted that the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in the matter of <i>Nilesh Navalakha & Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors. (2021) SCC Online BOM 56</i> had laid down guidelines pertaining to the role of anchor in a news programme in particular their duty to prevent the programme from drifting beyond permissible limits. Since the present complaint raised similar grievances against the anchor, NBSA decided that the guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Court should be circulated to the broadcaster to ensure compliance. NBSA further observed that the editorial team and the anchor must be careful in inviting panelists who habitually make inflammatory remarks during news programme and should keep in mind the guidelines of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court. NBSA decided to close the complaint with the aforesaid observations.
30.	News Nation	The complaint was in respect of two news programmes titled " <i>Special Biggest Disclosure on Killing of Sadhus in Palghar</i> " and " <i>Demand for CBI investigation in Palghar Murder Case</i> " aired on 23.4.2020 about the lynching of three persons in Palghar district on 16.4.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
31.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of a news programme titled " <i>Gangs of Palghar: Ground Report</i> " which was aired on 24.4.2020 regarding the lynching of three persons in Palghar district on 16.4.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
32.	Times Now	The complaint was filed against the anchor of the show " <i>The Newshour</i> " for four programmes aired between 22.5.2020 and 10.6.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
33.	Times Now	The complaint was filed against the anchor of the Times Now primetime show <i>"India Upfront"</i> titled <i>"Delhi Riots conspirators tracked, Centre stands vindicated but Lobby silence?"</i> aired on 22.5.2020 and <i>"Safoora Zargar Granted bail after NDA's nod, Lutyens duplicity Exposed?"</i> aired on 23.6.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
34.	Times Now	The complaint was filed against the anchor of Times Now primetime show <i>"The Newshour"</i> and the Times Now News Network for violating the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards and Specific Guidelines for Reporting Court Proceedings in the broadcast aired on 23.6.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
35.	Times Now	The complaint was filed against the anchor of Times Now primetime show <i>"India Upfront"</i> titled <i>"Farooq -AAP link exposes over Delhi riots, what will lobby say now?"</i> aired on 13.7.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
36.	Times Now	The complaint was against the anchor of the Times Now primetime show <i>"India Upfront"</i> titled <i>"Delhi riots key witness intimidated, threat linked to kingpin?"</i> aired on 23.7.2020	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
37.	Times Now	The complaint was filed against the anchor of Times Now primetime show the Newshour titled <i>"Umar Khalid's arrest irks communal brawl; should cases be decided on religion?"</i> aired on 14.9.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
38.	Times Now	The complaint was filed against the anchor of Times Now primetime show the Newshour Agenda titled <i>"Delhi riots' planning confirmed; can objectors deny this conspiracy?"</i> aired on 22.9.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
39.	Zee News	The complaint was filed in respect of a news programme titled "DNA: तबलीगी जमात का देश से 'विश्वासघात'?" with Sudhir Chaudhary" aired on 31.3.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
40.	Zee News	The complainant filed a consolidate complaint against two news reports titled "Hindustan में अब 'Hindu' लिखने पर भी सज़ा मिलेगी?" and "Jharkhand main fal vikareta par karwayi, banner par hindu likhna kya gunaha hai" which were aired in the programmes Taal Thok Ke and 9 Sunday Prime Time respectively by the broadcaster on 26.4.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
41.	Zee News	The complaint relates to a news programme titled "Taal Thok Ke: Triple Talaq से आजादी, फतवों से कब? West Bengal Fatwa Murshidabad" which was aired by the broadcaster on 21.8.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
42.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of a news programme titled "DNA: Love Jihad का एक 'कारण' Haryana का Mewat भी? Nikita Tomar Ballabhgarh Student Murder Case" aired on 27.10.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
43.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of a news programme titled "DNA: China के शोषित Uyghur Muslims का दर्द Xinjiang Chinese Autonomous Region" aired on 3.11.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under Proviso 1 & 2 to Regulation 8.1.6 of the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
44.	News18 India	The complaint was in respect of an episode of the primetime show Aar Paar titled "Amish Devgan: Azadi Ke Naam Par Desh Jalao Brigade Kaam Par, Desh Virodhi Soch Se Hamdardi Kyun?" aired on 19.9.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under Proviso 1 & 2 to Regulation 8.1.6 of the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
45.	Times Now	The complaint was in respect to an episode of the programme "The Newshour Debate," aired on 16.10.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under Proviso 1 & 2 to Regulation 8.1.6 of the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
46.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect to the show " <i>Taal Thok Ke: सख्त कानून से ही बेटियां सुरक्षित?</i> ," which was aired on 25.11.2020.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under Proviso 1 & 2 to Regulation 8.1.6 of the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
47.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of a news segment in the show Daily News & Analysis aired on 10.9.2020 at 21:00PM.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under Proviso 1 & 2 to Regulation 8.1.6 of the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
48.	OTV	The complaint was in respect of a programme Sakalara Khabara aired on 31.12.2020.	NBSA noted that since OTV is not a member of NBA, it cannot proceed under its regulations. NBSA decided to close the complaint.
49.	NDTV 24x7	The complaint was in respect of debate programme " <i>Trending Tonight Gag on The Gig: What Comedian Think of Stand-Up Comic's Arrest</i> " aired on 4.1.2021. The complainant alleged that in the debate, the anchor and some panellists i.e., whole NDTV were supporting abusive remarks against Lord Ram and Sita.	NBSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards or NBSA Guidelines in the broadcast and decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the complaint.
50.	ABP Majha	The complaint was regarding a news report aired on 13.2.2021, about an unfortunate incident of physical violence at an educational institution in Satara district of Maharashtra involving female students.	NBSA observed that the impugned news report offended the standards of good taste and decency. Further, the taglines " <i>WWF of Satara Girls</i> " and " <i>WWF Champions</i> ," and the commentary of the anchor who stated " <i>girls from one college making chutney out of the girls of the other college</i> " indicated a gender bias in the reporting of the incident. NBSA therefore, decided to issue a warning to the broadcaster to be more careful in future. NBSA, directed that the video of the said broadcast, if still available on the website of the channel, or YouTube, or any other links, should be removed immediately, and the same should be confirmed to NBSA in writing within 7 days. NBSA decided to close the complaint with the above observations.
51.	Zee News & Zee Hindustan	The complainant had filed a complaint in respect of 12 different programmes that were aired on Zee News and 4 programmes that were aired on Zee Hindustan regarding the Disha Ravi case.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint regarding 11 programmes aired on Zee News and 4 programmes aired on Zee Hindustan between 4.2.2021 and 19.02.2021 as they were barred by limitation under Proviso 1 & 2 to Regulation 8.1.6 of the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
			However, in respect of complaint dated 28.2.2021 against programme dated 23.2.2021 aired on Zee News which was filed within the time period, NBDSA decided to direct the complainant to submit his specific grievances in respect of programme dated 23.2.2021, since no specific grievances were made against the impugned programme in the complaint.
52.	ABP News	The complaint was in respect to an IGTV video which was posted on ABP News's official Instagram Account, in which actress Kangana Ranaut inaccurately claimed that the Khalistan flag was raised at the Red Fort in Delhi on Republic Day, 2021.	NBSA noted that the complaint is regarding a video posted on ABP News's Instagram account. NBSA held that under NBSA Regulations, the Authority does not have jurisdiction over content posted by the broadcaster on its social media platforms. NBSA decided to close the complaint.
53.	Times Now	The complaint was in respect of the programme titled <i>"Is Disha Ravi connected to pro-Khalistan groups? The Newshour Debate"</i> aired on 15.2.2021.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
54.	Times Now	The complaint was in respect of a news programme titled <i>"Farmers Reach Red Fort; Tricolor flag taken down; Police resorts to lathi charge"</i> aired on 26.1.2021.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
55.	Times Now	The complaint was in respect of a news programme titled <i>"Farmers' Tractor Rally: Clashes continue between Delhi Police & Kisan, Many Cops Injured"</i> aired on 26.1.2021.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
56.	Zee News	The complaint was regarding an article published on website of the broadcaster	NBSA noted that the complaint appears to be regarding a news article posted on Zee News Website. NBSA held that under the NBSA Regulations, the Authority does not have jurisdiction to consider content posted by the broadcaster on its social media platforms including on its website. NBSA therefore decided to close the complaint.
57.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of a news programme titled <i>"Rinku Sharma के घर से Taal Thok Ke LIVE Mangolpuri Murder का सच क्या? TTK Delhi"</i> aired on 12.2.2021.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
58.	Asianet Suvarna News	The complaint was filed against Asianet Suvarna News for the "Mahaexclusive and Cover Story" comprising of four programmes aired on 5th March 2021.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
59.	Aaj Tak	The complaint was in respect of programme titled "नहीं रहे AajTak के वरिष्ठ पत्रकार Rohit Sardana, हृदय गति रुकने से निधन" which was broadcast on 30.4.2021.	NBSA held that there was no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards or NBSA Guidelines in the broadcast and decided that no further action was called for on the complaint. NBSA, decided to close the complaint
60.	ABP News	The complaint was in respect of a show titled "Sansani :Rohtak murder case actual reason behind the brutal murders" aired on 6.9. 2021.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
61.	Zee News	The complaint was filed in respect of the news programmes "Taal Thok Ke LIVE: न्यूयॉर्क टाइम्स को 'गोदी' पत्रकार चाहिए" and "DNA: New York Times की जॉब वैकेंसी का विश्लेषण" aired on 2.7.2021.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
62.	Zee Hindustan	The complaint was filed in respect of two news programmes aired on 26.5.2021 and 28.5.2021, in which a conspiracy on part of the farmers protest to spread coronavirus was alleged by the broadcaster.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.
63.	Times Now World	The complaint was regarding Mr. Shehzad Poonawala rather belatedly being introduced as a Times Now Contributor during the News Hour programme on 7.7.2021.	NBDSA was of the view that it was the editorial discretion of the broadcaster as to which guest/ panellists/contributors it invited to the programme on its channel and in the given circumstances this act of discretion was not found lacking bona fide or objectivity. In view of the above, NBDSA found no violations of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines and decided to close the complaint.
64.	TV9 Bharatvarsh	The complaint was regarding the shows aired on TV9 Bharatvarsh about a "Maha Maanav" and a "5000 year old plane" which was claimed to have been found by the US security forces in a cave in Afghanistan.	After considering the broadcast in its entirety, NBDSA decided to advise the broadcaster that in future before airing such programmes, it should prominently state that the contents shown in the programme are unverified and a work of imagination. NBDSA decided to close the complaint with the above observation.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
65.	ABP Majha	The complaint was regarding an article uploaded on ABP Majha's website and social media inaccurately stating in the headline / social media caption that <i>"the Delhi High Court has said that same sex marriage do not have legal standing even though performing same sex marriages is not illegal."</i>	NBDSA noted that since the broadcaster had taken corrective action by removing the social media posts containing false information and by updating the article which contained the false headline, no further action was required on the complaint. NBDSA decided to close the complaint.
66.	NDTV India	The complaint was in respect of a prime time show aired on 5.11.2021, during which the anchor made a statement <i>"लोकतंत्र ऐसे यहीं नहीं बर्बाद होता।"</i> insinuating that people who were supporting or giving excuses in support of price rise were actually destroying democracy.	NBDSA took serious objection to the tone, tenor and language of the complaints which was deplorable and unacceptable. NBDSA decided to inform the complainant that irrespective of disagreement, he should exercise restraint and decorum in any discourse. In future if any such complaints are received which are derogatory, the complaint(s) will not be considered. NBDSA considered the complaints and the response dated 26.11.2021 of the broadcaster. In respect of the complaints dated 9.11.2021 and 13.11.2021, NBDSA noted since there was no reference to any specific violation in the broadcast and only allegations had been levelled in the complaint, therefore, no action was required to be taken on the complaint. In respect of the complaint dated 26.11.2021, NBDSA noted that there was no date of broadcast mentioned by the complainant in the complaint and therefore NBDSA could not consider the complaint. NBDSA decided to close the complaints.
67.	Times Now World	The complaint was regarding the reporting of the exit polls of the assembly election in Bengal on 29.4.2021.	NBDSA decided that there was no merit in the complaint and, therefore, decided to reject the application seeking condonation of delay. NBDSA decided to close the complaint.
68.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of a programme titled <i>"TaalThok Ke LIVE: Terrorism के कितने 'वकील'? Al-Qaeda Terrorists/Umar-Al-Mandi Ulema-e-Hind"</i> aired on 15.07.2021.	NBDSA rejected the complainant's application seeking condonation of delay at the second level of redressal and therefore dismissed the complaint as being time barred.
69.	Zee News	The complainant alleged that the broadcaster had while reporting about Taliban's capture in Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan on September 6th, showed visuals of air-strikes, falsely claiming that these were Pakistani Airforce attacks.	NBDSA rejected the complainant's application seeking condonation of delay at the second level of redressal and therefore dismissed the complaint as being time barred.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Decision
70.	Times Now	The complainant requested the Authority to take suo- motu action in respect of debate and discussion on Hijab controversy.	NBDSA considered the complaint and decided that if the complainant is able to submit the date and time of the broadcast along with the video of the programme, it may be able to consider the complaint under the Regulations subject to the complaint being filed within the time prescribed under Regulation 8.1.6.
71.	News18 Tamil Nadu	The complaint relates to the debate programme "Kaalathin Kural" aired on 21.12.2021 at 7 PM, regarding a legislation proposing linking of Aadhar with the Voter Id.	NBDSA noted that both BJP & AIDMK had announced that their representatives would not participate in any debate shows organized by the television channels. The broadcaster therefore, invited other well-known persons, including the former Election Commissioner and a retired judge, to the debate on the latest legislation linking Aadhar with the Voter Id. NBDSA noted that the debate was conducted in a balanced manner with well-known persons on the panel. Therefore, NBDSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards or the Guidelines in the broadcast. NBDSA decided to close the complaint.
72.	Aaj Tak	The complaint was regarding a programme aired on 26.4.2022, in which a panellist made a transphobic slur to insult members of the Congress Party.	The Authority noted that there were several panelists whom the broadcaster had invited for the debate and that the comments made by one of the panelists, Mr. Sambit Patra, related to a quote by Mr. Bal Thackeray. Furthermore, time was given by the anchor to the other panelists to express or counter the views of Mr. Patra. In view of the above, NBDSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast. NBDSA, therefore, decided to close the complaint.
73.	News18 India	The complaint was against a broadcast titled "Desh Nahin Jhukne Denge" aired on 18.1.2022 .	NBDSA rejected the complainant's application seeking condonation of delay at the second level of redressal and therefore dismissed the complaint as being time barred.
74.	News18 India	The complaint was in respect of primetime show titled "Desh Nahin Jhukne Denge कश्मीर का सच बताया, 'गद्दार गैंग' घबराया?" aired on 16.3.2022.	NBSA decided to dismiss the complaint as it was barred by limitation under the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations.

Hearing of Complaints

The full text of the Orders is available on the website of NBDA at <http://www.nbdanewdelhi.com/decisions/orders>.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
1.	Times Now	The complainant alleged that the channel was running a smear campaign with the intention of maligning the reputation and image of Ms. Teesta Setalvad as a human rights defender. To fuel jingoism and to create a negative image, the channel had resorted to inordinate and unwarranted labelling of Ms. Setalvad as a "Modi Baiter" and in the programmes utterly baseless and false claims that "Teesta 'tuition' scuttles talks"; "Teesta Setalvad Coaches Shaheen Bagh Protestors," "she deputed people to talk to protestors"; "the incident amounts to 'contempt of court'". etc. were broadcast in complete disregard of journalistic ethics.	Order No. 110 dt. 3.11.2021 NBDSA found violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
2.	Zee News	The complaint was filed in respect of a programme titled "Daily News and Analysis, Jammu में ज़मीन के इस्लामीकरण का DNA टेस्ट" aired on 11.3.2020.	Order No.111.dt. 13.11.2021. NBDSA dismissed the complaint as it was time barred.
3.	Zee News	The complaint was against two programmes titled "PETA ke nishane par Rakshabandhan" and "Taal Thok Ke: Special Edition" aired on 17.7.2020 on Zee News at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM, respectively. The complainant alleged that the broadcaster had maliciously misrepresented PETA's campaign to encourage empathy for cows on the occasion of Rakshabandhan, by inexplicably characterising it as being communal and disrespectful to Hindu sentiments. Through the programmes, the broadcaster had launched a defamatory and malicious campaign against it by alleging that PETA was selectively targeting Hindu festivals, perpetuating a conspiracy against Hindus in the guise of protecting the environment and that it had fallen prey to an anti-Hindu 'sankraman/infection'.	Order No.112. dt. 13.11.2021 NBDSA found violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
4.	News Nation	The complaint was against a news programme titled 'Dharmantar Jihad', aired on 6.11.2020, regarding one Memchand and his family from Mewat, Rajasthan, who were allegedly forced to convert their religion, consume cow meat and threatened by the members of Tablighi Jamaat. In the impugned programme, there was an assertion that "Conversion Jihad" was taking place in the country, and the narrative kept questioning the ulterior motive of Jamaat members who were allegedly trying to forcefully convert non-Muslim members. Further captions like "Memchand zinda hai Jamaat sharminda hai," "500-Hindu kaise banaye Muslim?" and "Kya Mewat Pakistan ban gaya?" were broadcast throughout the show and the gestures, language and tone of the anchor was also provocative. The anchor spoke over panellists who represented the minority community and provided other panellists with a platform to air their provocative views and Islamophobic ideas.	Order No.113 dt.13.11.2021 NBDSA found violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
5.	ABP Majha	The complainant alleged that on 29.11.2020 at 12:15 AM, a news report was aired which showed a video of a minor losing his life in an elevator accident. The complaint stated that by airing the video without the consent of the parents / legal guardians of the minors, the broadcaster had intruded upon their privacy and potentially violated the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards.	Order No.114.dt. 13.11.2021 NBDSA found violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
6.	Zee News	The complaint was regarding a news programme titled “DNA Live देखिए DNA, Sudhir Chaudhary के साथ” broadcast on 31.8.2020. The complainant stated that the broadcaster had, while reporting on the riots that erupted in Sweden after a copy of the Holy Quran was burnt, targeted Islam and the Muslim community in particular. During the broadcast, provocative statements were made to target a specific religion, and the videos of a woman desecrating idols of Lord Ganesha in Bahrain and of a woman who was arrested in Prayagraj for using profane and abusive words about Hindu deities was aired to disturb the communal harmony and promote social unrest and enmity between different religions in the country.	Order No.115.dt.13.11.2021 NBDSA found violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
7.	Zee News	The complaint was filed against Zee News in respect of the programme titled “DNA Live Sudhir Chaudhary के साथ देखिए DNA Sudhir Chaudhary Show Ask Greta Why DNA Today” aired on 16.2.2021 about the arrest of climate activist Disha Ravi & the “conspiracy to defame India.” In the programme, false and insinuating statements were made and a media trial was conducted by the anchor. Further, grandstanding claims that Zee News was the first to have “exposed the conspiracy against India hatched by Disha Ravi and Greta Thunberg to defame India” were also aired during the broadcast.	Order No.116 dt.13.11.2021. NBDSA found violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
8.	Times Now	The complainant submitted that the broadcaster had aired nearly 15 primetime debates on the Delhi riots investigation, including the impugned broadcasts, highlighting specific Police charges or Court observations which prima facie projected guilt upon the anti-CAA protestors and then proceeded to pass judgment on the veracity of the charges. The coverage was largely prejudicial and the targeted nature of the reporting was clear from the broadcast “Shocking Secret admission out in Umar’s arrest, Does left lobby know the truth” aired on 14.09.2020, in which the anchor repeatedly misinformed the viewers about the nature of the webinar organized by Pedestrian Pictures by projecting it as a “Secret meeting between leftists,” in which the aforesaid “shocking secret admission,” was revealed.	Order No.117 dt. 19.11.2021 NBDSA found violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
		The second broadcast, titled “Delhi riots: plot to kill cops and kafirs exposed; peaceful protest a facade?” aired on 23.09.2020, was in respect of certain eyewitness testimony and evidence which were presented in the Court in the Delhi Riots investigation. In the impugned programme also, the broadcaster followed its pattern of using charges and judicial observations to establish a false narrative about how the investigation into the Delhi riots was progressing in Court and to prima facie project guilt upon the anti-CAA protestors. In the impugned broadcasts, one side of a debate was promoted as the broadcaster failed to report a number of Court observations that were critical of the Delhi Police’s investigation into the riots.	
9.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of the programme titled “TaalThok ke (Special Edition) Live: छिपे चेहरे के पीछे आतंक? / TTK Live Burqa Ban Switzerland” aired on 8.3.2021. In the impugned programme, the broadcaster targeted the Muslim community in India by misrepresenting burqa, which is part of the Islamic dress code. Several statements were made by the anchor juxtaposing the objective behind the ban on face coverings in Sweden with the situation in India, including “आप को ये समझना है के खबर सिर्फ इतनी नहीं है. ये नकाब या बुरखे पर लगा हुआ बैन हो ऐसा नहीं है. इस खबर के मायने कही और ज्यादा है. वो भी ये देखते हुए के यूरोप के ज्यादा तर देश आप ने बीते दिनों में देखा होगा कि फ्रांस में किस तरह इस्लामिक कट्टरता के खिलाफ कानून बनाया है। फिर यूरोप के कई देश एक के बाद एक बड़े और कड़े फैसले ले रहे हैं चेहरा ढकने पर पाबंदी की असली वजह आतंकी हमले की आशंका है. इन तस्वीरों को भारत के संदर्भ में सोचे जरा, भारत में भी आपने ऐसी तस्वीरें देखी होगी जहा चेहरा ढककर पत्थरबाजी की जाती है तो कभी CAA के खिलाफ प्रदर्शन के नाम पर नकाब पोश लोग आप को दिखाई देते हैं. इन सब का मतलब होता है हिंसा फैलाना आतंक फैलाना इसीलिए ताल ठोक के इस स्पेशल एडिशन में स्विजरलैंड के रिफरेंडम है लेकिन भारत के नजरिये से इस पर डिबेट करना ज़रूरी है. बड़ा सवाल यही है के छिपे चेहरे के पीछे आतंक पनप रहा है. नकाब बैन करने के बहाने इस्लामिक कट्टरता पर चोट की गई है. यूरोप का बड़ा प्रहार इसे कहा जा रहा है. और अगर भारत इस तरह के वार के लिए तैयार है और अगर है तो फिर कितना तैयार है कब तैयार है और कैसे तैयार है”.	Order No.118 dt.19.11.2021 NBDSA found violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
10.	Zee News	The complainant was in respect of a programme titled “Taal Thok Ke LIVE: ‘गला काट कट्टरता’ से आजादी कब?” broadcast on 13.4.2021. In the impugned broadcast, the broadcaster, while reporting on the “Sar tan se juda” poster allegedly put up by AIMIM in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, targeted Islam, and the Muslim community in particular. Further, inflammatory and provocative headlines, taglines and statement such as	Order No.119 dt.19.11.2021 NBDSA found no violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
		<p>“मुँह में संविधान दिल में कत्लेआम”; “देश संविधान से चलेगा या शरिया से”; “गला काट कट्टरता से आजादी कब”; “हिंदुस्तान में तालिबानी फतवे की” (मुस्लिम समाज के भीड़ पर हेडलाइंस); “कट्टरपंथ का कमलेश मॉडल कब तक”; and “व हिंदुस्तान में ये ISIS वाली गला काट कट्टरता कहां से आ गयी ??? “अगर धार्मिक भावनाये आहत होती है.” “इस्लाम इजाजत देता है गला काटने की?” “संविधान के वजह से हाथ बंधे हैं, वरना इस्लाम इजाजत देता है गला काटने की धार्मिक भावनाए आहत होने पर. मुझे क्लैरिफिकेशन चाहिए, मुझे नहीं पता है.”; “आप इसी लिए गला काटने जा रहे हैं ताकि हिन्दू राष्ट्र ना बने. कमलेश तिवारी का इस लिए गाला काटा था.”; “आप बोल नहीं सकते इस चीज को क्यों के आप लोगों के मुँह पर संविधान होता है और दिल में तालिबान होता है.” were aired during the broadcast to incite violence, spread hatred against the Muslim community and disturb the communal harmony in the country.</p>	
11.	Zee News	<p>The complaint was regarding a programme aired on 2.11.2020, concerning the Open Letter sent by Constitutional Conduct Group (CCG), urging advertisers to stop funding channels that spread hatred and communal disharmony. During the impugned programme, the anchor called the Group a “Gang”, claimed that the international media loved this “gang” and alleged that the gang had cunningly used the word “Constitutional” in its name. Further, he inaccurately reported that “opposing extremism that has spread in Islam is seen by the CCG as hatred towards the Muslim community” and questioned the credibility of the members of CCG while they were holding roles in public offices by accusing them of being “one-sided”. Furthermore, the anchor speculated that the CCG’s letters were, in fact, written by political parties and asked the viewers to guess who these writers were. By airing the impugned programme, the broadcaster not only defamed members of CCG but also failed to air information that was accurate, objective, impartial and neutral.</p>	<p>Order No.120 dt. 19.11.2021 NBDSA found violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.</p>
12.	Zee News	<p>The complaints were filed in respect of three programmes “Taal Thok Ke: Khalistan से कब सावधान होगा किसान?”, “Taal Thok Ke: नहीं माने किसान तो क्या Republic Day पर होगा गृहयुद्ध?” and “Farmer Protesters Violence: देश का झंडा हटाकर Red Fort पर प्रदर्शन कारियों ने अपना झंडा लहराया” aired on on 19.1.2021, 20.1.2021 and 26.1.2021 respectively concerning the farmers protest. In the programmes aired on 19.1.2021 and 20.1.2021, the complainant alleged that the broadcaster had aggressively attempted to link the farmer’s protest with the Khalistan movement. On multiple occasions during the broadcasts, unsubstantiated claims were made by the anchor, claiming that the farmer’s protest had been infiltrated by pro-Khalistan separatists and that the Singhu border had become a base for them. In the programme, aired on 26.1.2021, the broadcaster further falsely claimed that the protesting farmers had removed and thrown the National Flag of India from the Red Fort in Delhi and had hoisted the Khalsa flag in its place, thereby disrespecting the National Flag.</p>	<p>Order No.121 dt.19.11.2021. NBDSA found violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcasts.</p>

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
13.	Kairali News	The complaint was in respect of a programme aired live on Kairali News on 4.8.2020 at 14:00 PM. The impugned programme was based on revelations made by one P.K Chathu in an exclusive interview with the broadcaster's correspondent P.V. Kuttan on 1.8.2020, during which Mr. Chathu alleged that the complainant had threatened him with dire consequences if he proceeded with his complaint against Sri.V.Sasidharan, who is the Kannur Vibhag Saha Karyavahak of RSS regarding a property dispute between Chathu and George@ Thankachan, a crusher owner and present DCC secretary. Further, several defamatory allegations, including " <i>Chatu also said that another RSS activist P.P. Suresh babu has threatened to kill him if he revealed this issue</i> ," were aired during the programme without any evidence based solely on the revelations made by Mr.Chathu, a convicted prisoner who was on parole for committing the murder of his own cousin brother.	Order No.122 dt. 19.11.2021 NBDSA found no violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
14.	ABP News, India Today, Aaj Tak, India TV, News Nation, Times Now & Zee News	The complainant stated that since 14.06.2020, several prominent media channels had been conducting " <i>Media trials</i> ," " <i>Parallel proceedings investigation by conducting and broadcasting, holding debates, rendering opinion, exposing the material witnesses, examining and cross-examining the witnesses</i> "; " <i>reporting and chasing the officials of CBI who were investigating the death of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput</i> " and had already convicted the accused named in the FIR without completion of the investigation or probe in the matter. In various debates and discussions held, the news anchors/reporters examined and cross-examined all the proposed witnesses and exposed the probable evidence to the public, which can only be examined by the investigating agency or by the competent courts during the course of a trial. By airing the impugned broadcasts, the media houses were flouting the Orders dated 3.9.2020 and 10.9.2020 of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court.	Order No.123.dt. 27.1.2022
15.	Puthiya Thalaimurai	The complainant stated that he was a victim of an online scam for which he had filed a cybercrime complaint. After registering the complaint, on 7.9.2021, reporters from media and news channels, including the broadcaster, came to his home, asking him about the details of the scams and the amount lost therein. The complainant stated that he had shared the full details about the scam with the reporter of the broadcaster. However, when the reporter asked him for photographs relating to the scam, he shared only the screenshots of the scam site and refused to share his personal photos. Further, he even refused to give an interview, as he did not want to reveal his identity as an actor.	Order No.124. dt. 31.3.2022 NBDSA found violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcasts.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
		However, much to his dismay he became aware that the broadcaster had, in the broadcast aired on 8.9.2021, broadcast the complainant's WhatsApp and Facebook pictures without his knowledge.	
16.	ETV-Telangana	The complainant stated that on 28.11.2021 the broadcaster had aired a news report about a party that was raided by the Hyderabad Police. During the impugned broadcast, videos of private individuals were telecast without their consent. Further, the person being interviewed in the broadcast made unsubstantiated claims about the sexual orientation of the attendees of the party in violation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment in <i>KS Puttaswamy (Retd) vs. Union of India and Ors</i> WP (C) 494/2012 and in <i>Navtej Singh Johar & Ors. v. Union of India thr. Secretary Ministry of Law and Justice</i> 2018.	Order No.125 dt. 31.3.2022 NBDSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
17.	Sakshi	The complainant stated that on 29.11.2021 a news report about a party that was raided by the Hyderabad Police was aired. In the impugned broadcast, it was incorrectly reported that ganja was found and that Hijras present at the party were arrested. Further, the broadcaster also violated the privacy of several private individuals by broadcasting their video footage without their consent and by outing their sexual orientation on national TV in violation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment in <i>KS Puttaswamy (Retd) vs. Union of India and Ors</i> WP (C) 494/2012 and in <i>Navtej Singh Johar & Ors. v. Union of India thr. Secretary Ministry of Law and Justice</i> 2018.	Order No.126. dt. 31.3.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
18.	TV9 Telugu	The complainant stated that on 28.11.2021, a news report about a party that was raided by the Hyderabad Police was aired. In the impugned report, misinformation was broadcast claiming that the event was attended by members of the Hijra community. Moreover, the channel had shown images of private individuals present at the event and violated their privacy by making claims about their sexual orientation. Additionally, in the broadcast the reporter also spoke about condoms in a poor light as if possession of condoms was immoral, illegal or criminal act.	Order No.127 dt. 31.3.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
19.	Zee News	The complainant was in respect of a programme titled " <i>Taal Thok Ke LIVE मदरसों में बारूदी तालीम? TTK Live Madrasa Education Bihar Blast 8 Debate</i> " broadcast on 10.6.2021. In the broadcast, a communal angle was given to an explosion that took place in a Madrasa in the Banka District of Bihar. Further, provocative statements and questions such as "मदरसों में क्या बारूदी तालीम दी जाती है. ? मदरसे में आतंक का प्रैक्टिकल चल रहा था. ? मदरसों में जेहादी पढाई पढाही जा रही थी ? मदरसों में आतंकवाद की Phd चल रही थी क्या ? अगर होगी मस्जिद और मदरसों की जांच तो किसको ऑच ?"	Order No.128 dt. 31.3.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
		were raised by the broadcaster. The complainant alleged that the news appeared to be the broadcaster's communally hatched agenda and a criminal conspiracy to create disharmony in the state.	
20.	Zee News	The complainant was the subject of a news programme aired on 30.11.2020 at 11:00 PM. In the impugned programme, an interview of the complainant's biological father was aired, wherein the interviewee made wild allegations against the complainant, her sister and her mother imputing that the complainant was involved in funding terror and had crowd-sourced funds in the name of the Kathua rape victim. Even the anchor, without any proof or verification, claimed that the complainant had been involved in anti-national activities, including terror funding. Further, the broadcaster also reported that "anti-national" slogan "tukde tukde" was raised in JNU during her tenure as the "Students' Union Vice President"; without any evidence.	Order No.129 dt. 31.3.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
21.	India Today	The complaint was against a news programme titled "Madrasa Hotpots: India Today Investigation", aired on 10.5.2020. The complainant stated that it was concerned about the blatantly Islamophobic content and tonality of the programme, which was a sting operation conducted in a madrasa where minor children are housed. In the programme, a comparison was drawn with the much talked about Tablighi Jamaat case, and it was reported that despite concerns about the spread of Covid-19, there were children who were crammed up in rooms in the Madrasas. The complainant stated that its concern was limited to the selective targeting of the Muslim community in the broadcast as the broadcaster had failed to cover other private or state-run institutions that house children who were also violating the Covid norms.	Order No.130 dt. 31.3.2022 NBDSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
22.	Aaj Tak, India TV, Zee News & Zee Hindustan	A complaint dated 30.11.2020 was filed against India TV, Aaj Tak, Zee News and Zee Hindustan for the alleged media trial of Umar Khalid. The complainant stated that in the impugned broadcasts, allegations were portrayed as fact and charges as guilt and individuals involved were not provided equal opportunity to present their point of view. Further, the broadcasters had promoted or hindered one side of the controversial issue and failed to ensure that controversial subjects were fairly presented and adequate time was allocated fairly to each point of view. In view of the above violations, the complainant stated that by airing the impugned broadcasts, the broadcasters had violated not only the Code of Ethics but also the Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage.	Order No.131 dt. 13.6.2022 NBDSA found a violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcasts.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
23.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of a programme titled <i>"Jabran dharmantaran = Aatankwad?"</i> aired on 29.6.2021. In the impugned show, several questions with sensationalist and communal headlines, such as <i>"Dharmik jehadiyo ko bhi 'ghar me ghuskar'...?"</i> and <i>"Dharmantaran jehad par 'operation all out'?"</i> were raised. The complainant stated that seeking operation all out against the alleged perpetrators of forced religious conversion was dangerous and could result in giving way to communal fires and hatred against the entire Muslim community. Further, during the broadcast, the entire Muslim community was portrayed as being responsible for forced religious conversion.	Order No.132. dt. 13.6.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
24.	Zee News	Three complaints were filed against the show titled <i>"Kudrat bahana hain, Muslim abaadi badana hain?"</i> which was aired on 27.6.2021 . In the impugned show, five questions with sensationalist headlines stating, <i>"Nizaam-e-kudrat ya Hindustan pe aafat?"</i> ; <i>"Kudrat bahana hain, Muslim abaadi badana hain?"</i> ; <i>"Hum do-hamare do par majhabi rukawat kyo?"</i> ; <i>"UP me chunao, isiliye abaadi par tanao?"</i> and <i>"Ek desh toh ek jansankhya kanoon kyo nahi?"</i> were raised for projecting a particular community as being solely responsible for increasing population in India. The intention of the programme was to create a platform for communally charged opinions to be expressed and to cherry pick opinions of people with extreme religious views and have a debate on the same. The impugned programme was factually incorrect, spread bigotry and hatred against a minority community, sensationalized and twisted a statement made by a particular MP, stigmatized the entire Muslim community as the community responsible for population explosion as it portrayed Muslims as the ones bringing <i>"Hindustan pe aafat"</i> and spread communal colors by failing to ensure neutrality, impartiality and objectivity.	Order No.133 dt. 13.6.2022. NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
25.	Kairali News	The complainant stated that on 14.10.2021, a news item was aired, in which the broadcaster falsely claimed that she had been <i>"arrested"</i> in connection with a non-cognizable offence and later released on bail. In the broadcast, photographs of the complainant's daughter, who is a student at the University of Delhi and a complete stranger to the aforementioned case, were also aired. The complainant alleged that the impugned news coverage was inaccurate, prejudicial, sensational, offensive and violated her privacy and affected the dignity of the complainant and her family and also led to her and her family facing harassment, humiliation and hardships. Further, the broadcaster had not contacted the complainant or her family members to verify the news prior to airing the impugned broadcast.	Order No.134 dt. 13.6.2022. NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
26.	Zee Hindustan	The complaint was regarding a show titled “कट्टरपंथियों से सीधे सवाल करने वाला बहुत बड़ा खुलासा देश में कौन कर रहा है Vaccine वाला जिहाद?” aired on 30.5.2021. In the impugned show, a breaking news story about an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) called Niha Khan from Jamalpur Primary Health Centre in Aligarh, UP, who was booked for allegedly disposing of 29 syringes filled with COVID-19 vaccine without administering them to the beneficiaries was broadcast, and a video of a woman in a PPE kit who inserted a syringe into a man’s arms but did not administer the vaccine was aired. The complainant stated that this video had been fact-checked by Alt News, who had tracked the video all the way to Ecuador. The channel had not verified the origins of the said video and blatantly used it as video proof of Niha Khan indulging in malpractices. That while this video itself was a serious case of misinformation, however, the show and the hosts did not stop at that. Throughout the show, the text “Saazish ki sanak ya mazhabi junoon”; “Nurse ki toolkit me kitni jihadan?”; “Yogi ki UP me Vaccine Jihad”; “Kattarpanthiyo kab muh kohloge”; “Vaccine jihad case me karyawahi”; “Vaccine wala jihad kattarpathiyo ab muh khologe?” and “Nurse niha khan chahti thi ki corona faile aur halaat bigde” were repeatedly aired to give the alleged incident a communal angle. That while the news was that a nurse was suspended for allegedly wasting vaccines, the channel, had gone several steps further to allege a communal conspiracy and terrorist nexus while showing a misinformed and false video.	Order No.135 dt. 13.6.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
27.	News18 India	The complaint was filed against a programme titled “Desh Nahin Jhukne Denge with Aman Chopra। सड़क नमाज़ के लिए है?। News18 India Live Debate” aired on 29.10.2021. In the broadcast, it was falsely alleged that Namaz was being offered on roads when in reality, Namaz was being offered at a dedicated space given by the government. During the broadcast, following statements “आप लोगों ने सेक्युलरिज्म का साइनाइड फर्जी सेक्युलरिज्म का सायनाइड चाट लिया !! “जब मस्जिदों में पढ़नी ही नहीं थी नमाज तो क्यों इतने तिस हजार, हजारो मंदिर तोड़ कर मस्जिदे बनाई, जब पढ़नी ही नहीं थी नमाज तो क्यों इतने हजारो साल मंदिर तोड़ कर मस्जिदे बनई”, “मस्जिदों में जगह कम पड़ रही है मतलब जनसंख्या तेजी से बढ़ रही है. कंट्रोल करिये ना फिर” were made by the anchor to defame a minority community and to disturb the communal harmony in the country. Further, in the broadcast, inflammatory language was used, insinuating statements were made, and a communal conspiracy was hatched to create unrest in the country.	Order No.136 dt. 13.6.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
28.	News18 India	The complaint was received in respect of the programme titled "गुरुद्वारे में नमाज मिल गया इलाज" aired on 18.11.2021. In the impugned programme, the broadcaster had through the issue of "सड़क पर नमाज" targeted the Muslim community by airing provocative statements such as: "हिंदू अपने घरों पर पांच वक्त नमाज पढ़ने की अनुमति देते हैं"; "अयोध्या के मंदिर में प्रसाद के लड्डू से रोजा इप्तारी होती है."; "वैष्णोदेवी श्राइन बोर्ड भी रोजाना इप्तार का आयोजन करता है."; "ये है हिंदुत्व की असली तस्वीर सभी धर्मों का सम्मान, लेकिन डर जानते हो किस चीज का है, "डर इस तस्वीर के एकतरफा होने का है," लोग सवाल पूछ रहे हैं के सेकुलरिज्म की ये तस्वीर एकतरफा तो नहीं है, सोचिये गुरुद्वारे में नमाज हो रही है, मंदिर में इप्तारी हो रही है क्या ऐसे ही मस्जिदों में हवन या पूजा पाठ होना चाहिये?" क्या हो सकता है? अब सड़को पर जगराता होगा विरोध होगा क्यों कि भाई लाउड स्पीकर तो गलत है, सड़क पर नमाज गलत तो जगराता भी गलत, अब सड़क पर जगराता होगा तो उसका विरोध होगा तो क्या मस्जिद भी अपना दरवाजा खोलेगी, मस्जिद में भी माता रानी का जयकारा होगा। यही तो गंगा जमनी तहजीब होगी ना? क्या ये धर्मनिरपेक्षता एकतरफा है," अगर दोनों तरफ से ऐसा होगा तो धर्मनिर्पेक्षता का सेंसेक्स और ऊपर जाएगा'. The manner in which the impugned programme was broadcast appeared to be communally flavoured and as a result of the impugned broadcast communal tensions were being raised and communal disharmony was being spread in the country.	Order No.137 dt. 13.6.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
29.	Zee News, News18 Chhattisgarh and News18 Rajasthan	On 28.9.2021, a video snippet of the farmers' leader, Mr. Rakesh Tikait was aired by the channels, alleging that Mr. Tikait had threatened the media with destruction if they did not support the farmers. The reporting was inaccurate as Mr. Tikait had not threatened the media rather he said, "the main culprit is Dilli-wale (Centre), who have sold off half the country through its policies. Pay attention to what they do, too. They sold off the mandis of Madhya Pradesh. 182 mandis have been sold. Chhattisgarh will also not remain untouched. It is now time for everyone to join forces. Their next target is the media houses. If you want to survive, join us, or else you'll also be finished.". However, the channels had maliciously used only a part of the large video to falsely claim that Mr. Tikait was threatening to target and destroy media houses.	Order No.138 dt. 13.6.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcasts.
30.	News18 India	A complaint was filed against the show "Desh nahi zukne denge with Aman Chopra, Khane mein thukna, jihad ya jahalat?" aired on 16.11.2021. The complainant stated that the impugned programme was Islamophobic, and during the broadcast, several unverified visuals were aired to support the broadcaster's claim that people from the Muslim community were spitting in food,	Order No.139 dt. 13.6.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
		including two videos that were fact-checked by the broadcaster itself in 2020. In the programme, the anchor blatantly made hate speech against the Muslim community by saying that for Muslim people spitting in food is halal certification. He also made the following statements during the programme <i>"Have you been a victim of thook jihad? Look this, these visuals are horrifying. Is this a habit or a ritual or an ideology Look at this, he is spitting on fruits, he was caught. They have not spared anyone, they are spitting in the houses, they are spitting on fruits, vegetables, breads, water, food, naan, roti, biriyani. Is this thook jihad? Religion does not teach this, but how is it that everyone who is getting caught, their religion is the same? Is this a coincidence or a religious idea?"; "Will you eat thook naan, thook paratha, thook chicken, thook daal? You are saying this is not about religion.; "What is common between the following names: Naushad, Anwar, Khalid, Shahrukh, Irshad, Mohammad aur Abul Salaam? There are arrested. What is common between them? Their religion is common."; "Could it be that since dal and sabzi are yellow, they have urinated on them?"; "In western UP, 75 percent of the food, milk and vegetable market is controlled by this thooku gang. These are the people feeding us. If they mix some virus, the disease could spread widely."</i> Further, during the programme, Muslim panellists were treated as punching bags, and their statements were twisted and taken out of context by the anchor.	
31.	Zee News	The complaint was filed against a programme titled <i>"DNA Live"</i> aired on 14.10.2021. The complainant stated that the broadcaster had while reporting on the decision taken by the Authorities in the German city of Cologne to permit mosques to broadcast Friday prayers over Loudspeaker, targeted the minority community in India. The anchor while reporting about the funding received from Turkey stated <i>"मस्जिदों पर लगे लाउडस्पीकर से ज्यादा लोग इस बात से चिंतित है कि मस्जिदों में क्या हो रहा है."</i> Further, while remarking on secularism in Germany, the anchor stated that <i>"के एक दिन सेकुलरिज्म बहुत मंहगा पड़ेगा।"</i>	Order No.140 dt.13.6.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.
32.	Zee News	A complainant was filed in respect of a programme titled <i>"हिन्दू घरों पर मजहिबी कब्जा?/ 81 हिन्दू परिवारों का पलायन क्यों?"</i> aired on 3.8.2021. In the impugned programme, the broadcaster falsely reported that 81 Hindu families had decided to migrate from Shiv Colony, as people belonging to another religion, who had reportedly bought a house in that colony, were causing harassment to them. Further, words like <i>"Mazhabi"</i> and <i>"Jihadi"</i> alluding to Islamophobia, were used in the programme and the impugned news was repeated even the next morning despite the clarification by the Moradabad Police who denied the said incident.	Order No.141 dt.13.6.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the impugned broadcast.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
33.	Zee News	The complaint was against the news programme titled <i>"DNA Live Guru Tegh Bahadur ने दी थी शहादत 9th Sikh Guru Sudhir Chaudhary"</i> aired on 24.11.2020. In the programme, the complainant alleged that the broadcaster had while reporting on the martyrdom of the Late Guru Tegh Bahadur, targeted the minority Muslim community.	Order No.142 dt. 13.6.2022 NBDSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the broadcast.
34.	Asianet News	The complainant stated that on 6.5.2021, around 9.30 am, an Asianet reporter, along with his colleague, encroached into St. John's College of Nursing, Kattappana. Subsequently, a news programme was aired on Asianet news channel and on social media, in which her version was manipulated by the broadcaster through editing. In the impugned programme, false news was aired claiming that <i>"Students are compelled to do the RTPCR test 3 time:"</i> ; <i>"Students have protested against conducting the classes"</i> ; <i>"The complainant has threatened the students who have protested"</i> and <i>"Though the University is permitted to organize classes in small groups, college authorities have conducted offline classes for all batches of students."</i>	Order No.143 dt. 23.7.2022 NBDSA decided to defer the decision in the complaint until the matter is decided by the Court.
35.	Zee News	A complaint was filed in respect of a programme titled <i>"DNA: चुनावी नतीजे और द कश्मीर फाइल्स"</i> aired on 21.3.2022. In the programme, the anchor projected critique of the film as evidence that certain communities do not want the truth of the Kashmir Files to come out and labelled the critics of the movie as Pakistani sympathizers. The anchors coverage including the casual tone, tenor and the matter-of-fact manner in which the anchor attributed extremist thought to individuals and communities was alarming to say the least. His commentary crossed the boundaries of objectivity and a balanced analysis.	Order No.144 dt. 23.7.2022 NBDSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the broadcast.
36.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of a programme titled <i>"DNA: Birbhum files - नरसंहार पर चुप्पी क्यों है?"</i> aired on 23.3.2022. In the impugned programme, reporting of the violence in Birbhum had been done in a manner to hinder or discredit the protests against the specific instances of sectarian violence that had occurred in BJP-ruled states, such as the Hathras rape and other cases of Hindu Muslim violence. The anchor, made extreme generalizations regarding the alleged silence of those who protested against Hathras rape case on the Birbhum violence. The complainant stated that the impugned news was factually incorrect as several individuals who had protested against the Hathras rape case had, in fact, raised their voices against the violence in Birbhum. The anchor, however, made an explicit play to communalize and politicize the issue by stating that only if the incident had been between a Hindu and Muslim, then the issue would have been raised by those raising issues against crimes in BJP-ruled states,	Order No.145 dt. 23.7.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the broadcast.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
		particularly the Hathras case. The anchor's vocabulary, tone and tenor established that he was not simply calling out the political parties for their hypocrisies (as he should) but was painting entire communities, particularly those who have been critical of the BJP's regime, with malicious and communal motivations.	
37.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of the programme titled "DNA: Karnataka Hijab Row - कट्टरता की पढाई का मास्टर कौन?" aired on 8.2.2022. The complainant alleged that in the impugned programme, the broadcaster had while reporting on the issue of Hijab in Karnataka targeted a specific community. In the programme, the anchor made several derogatory and judgmental statements including "हम आप को अभी से बता देते हैं अब क्या होगा इसके बाद ये वायरल हो जायेगी जो की हो भी गया है. पाकिस्तान जैसे जो देश है और हमारे ही देश में जो पाकिस्तान के कट्टर समर्थक है ये आरोप लगाना शुरू करेंगे के इतने सारे मिलकर एक मुस्लिम लड़की को परेशान कर रहे हैं. इस के बाद पश्चिमी मीडिया यहाँ पर आएगा और फिर भारत की हवा को खराब किया जायेगा और कहा जाएगा कि भारत में मुस्लिम लड़कियां, मुस्लिम छात्रायें बिलकुल भी सुरक्षित नहीं हैं. देखिये उनके साथ क्या हो रहा है" and "हम आप को बता सकते हैं कि कोविड तो एक न एक दिन चला जाएग, कोविड की तो वैक्सीन आ गयी है. लेकिन येजो मुद्दा आज आया है ये कोविड से भी कही खतरनाक है. इस बीमारी की कोई वैक्सीन नहीं है. और ये बीमारी कोविड सेभी ज्यादा खतरनाक है और अब आप सोचिये हिजाब की वजह से कर्नाटक में स्कूल और कॉलेज बंद करने पड़ गये हैं इससे ज्यादा दभाग्य की बात क्या हो सकती है" etc during the programme, in violation of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards.	Order No.146. dt. 23.7.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the broadcast.
38.	Zee News	The complaint was in respect of the programme titled "DNA, Sudhir Chaudhary के साथ" aired on 9.2.2022. The broadcaster while reporting on the issue of Hijab in Karnataka targeted a specific community, which was clear from the statement made by the anchor in the impugned programme "जिस बड़े मुद्देपर आप सब को सोचना है वो ये है के अगर इन मुस्लिम छात्रों के हिजाब पहनने के मांग को मानलिया जाता है तो भविष्य में फिर और क्या क्या हो सकता है. इस के बाद स्कूलों में नमाज पढ़ने की मांग शुरू होजायेगी, आप को याद होगा कर्नाटक के कोलार में २१ जनवरी को कुछ मुस्लिम छात्रों ने नमाज भी पड़ी थी वो भी एक स्कूल में क्लास रूम में ब्लैक बोर्ड पीछे दिखाई देरहा है और ये छोटे छोटे बच्चे नमाज पढ़ रहे थे लेकिन बाद में जब इस पर विवाद हुआ तो फिर इस नमाज को बंद करवाया गया. लेकिन हमें लगता है के अगर स्कूलों में हिजाब पहनने की मांग को स्वीकार किया गया तो फिर अगली जो मांग होगी के स्कूलों में नमाज पढ़ने की भी इजाजत दीजिये।	Order No.147. dt. 23.7.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the broadcast.

S. No	Channel	Details of Complaint	Order
		<p>कल्पना कीजिये अगर इस मांग को भी मानलिया गया तो फिर क्या होगा तो फिर ये मुस्लिम छात्र स्कूलों में जगह देने की अलग मांग करेंगे और नमाज के दौरान क्लास और पढाई से छूट मांगी जायेगी. कहा जायेगा इस दौरान स्कूल को बंद किया जाए. अगर ये भी होगया तो फिर रविवार के जगह शुक्रवार को जुम्मे के दिन छुट्टी के लिए मोहिम चलायी जायेगी और कहा जाएगा के स्कूलों में फिर शनिवार और रविवार को ही छुट्टी क्यों ?शुक्रवार को होनी चाहिए और ये सिलसिला रुकेगा नहीं ऐसे ही चलता रहेगा स्कूलों में अप्रैल और मई के महीने की जगह रमजान के महीने में छुट्टिया देने के लिए शायद मांग उठने लगेगी। कॉलेज के कैंटीन्स में अलग से हलाल काउंटर लगाने की मांग होगी, पाठ्य क्रम से अलग अलग भगवानो के नाम हटाने की मांग होगी। और मुस्लिम छात्र ये कहेंगे के वो तो अल्लाह को मानते है फिर श्री राम श्रीकिशन के बारे में जिक्र नहीं होना चाहिये, इस्लाम में इनके बारे में पढ़ना भी मन है इस लिए ये मत सोचिये के ये मामला हिजाब के मांग को मानलेने से समाप्त हो जायेगा। वहा से तो ये मामला शुरू होगा, इस लिए हम कह रहे है ये तो शुरुआत है आगे आगे देखो क्या होता है". The impugned programme was communal in nature and violated the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards.</p>	
39.	News18 India	<p>The complaint was regarding the show titled "toh hijab ke liye bam barsenge? / Danke ki chot par" aired on 15.02.2022. The complainant alleged that the impugned broadcast was aired with the intention of misinforming the viewers, spreading hatred and giving a communal angle to the incident that occurred in Murshidabad. In the broadcast, the anchor asked polarizing questions and falsely claimed that bombs were hurtled at a school in Murshidabad, when in reality no such incident had occurred. The content of the show including the usage of words like 'hijab brigade', 'saazish', 'shiksha mei shariyat', 'dangayiyao' etc. was downright offensive and aimed at ridiculing one particular community, which amounted to hate speech and could instigate communal violence.</p>	<p>Order No.148. dt. 23.7.2022 NBDSA found violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the broadcast.</p>
40.	Zee News	<p>The complaint was in respect of a programme "Taal/Thok Ke Live: 'नरसंहार' पर हिंदू-मुसलमान?" aired on 18.3.2022. The complaint was regarding the manner in which the anchor had only focused on the politicization of the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits by the political opposition or by the dissidents of the present political executive in the impugned programme.</p>	<p>Order No.149 dt. 30.7.2022 NBDSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the broadcast.</p>
41.	News18 Rajasthan	<p>The Election Commission of India [ECI], vide letter dated 15.3.2022, forwarded a report dated 26.4.2019 of confirmed cases of paid news related to electronic media mentioned at Sl. No. 8 News18 Rajasthan regarding General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2019 in Rajasthan and all the supporting documents, as received from the CEO, Rajasthan vide letter dated 18.2.2022, for further necessary action.</p>	<p>Order No. 150 dt. 30.7.2022 NBDSA found no violation of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards & Guidelines in the broadcast.</p>

News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority

Chairperson & Members



Justice A. K. Sikri
[Former Judge of Supreme Court of India]
Chairperson

Independent Members



Nasim Zaidi



Navtej Sarna

Editor Members



Sandeep Chaudhary



Vishal Pant



Suman De



Rajnish Ahuja



NEWS BROADCASTERS & DIGITAL ASSOCIATION

NEWS BROADCASTERS & DIGITAL ASSOCIATION

Registered Office:

FF-42, Omaxe Square,

Commercial Centre, Jasola, New Delhi – 110 025

Corporate Office:

Mantec House, 2nd Floor, C- 56/5 Sector 62,

Noida – 201 301, Tele/Fax : 0120-4129712

Email: nba@nbanewdelhi.com

Website: www.nbdanewdelhi.com