

## **News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority**

**Common Order No 169 (2023)**

**Complainants: Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade & Mr. Matin Mujaawar**

**Programmes: Sawal Public Ka गरबा बहाना हिंदू बेटियाँ निशाना; Love Jihad News'**

**Broadcaster: Times Now Navbharat**

**Date of Broadcast: 29.9.2022**

Since the complainants did not receive any response from the broadcaster within the time stipulated under the News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Regulation, on 14.10.2022 and 16.10.2022, the complaints were escalated to the second level of redressal, i.e., NBDSA.

### **1. Complaint dated 4.10.2022 of Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade**

The complainant stated that the impugned programme, which was a news report about a Muslim man being physically assaulted by Bajrang Dal members at a Garba event violated the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards relating to accuracy, impartiality, neutrality, objectivity, and glorification of crime, apart from the Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage relating to Racial and Religious Harmony.

During the programme, tickers such as “बहुरूपी भाईजान गरबे में क्या काम”; “गरबे का मैदान क्यों आए भाईजान” and “गरबा का बहाना हिंदू बेटियाँ निशाना” were broadcast. Further, the anchor failed to condemn the violence meted out by Bajrang Dal. She claimed that such incidents were happening every year without giving any evidence in support of her claim. She also stated that one cannot look at an ID card and peep into someone’s heart. Meanwhile, she assumed Hindu men’s hearts are as pure as Ganga Jal, as she did not raise the same concerns for Hindu men.

During the programme, the anchor also stated, "*why Muslim people don't attend Ganpati celebrations, Janmashtami, and why do they only love Garba? Come to Ganesh celebrations also*"; "*they don't come to say Ganpati Bappa Morya. But they surely come to dance at Garba between bahu-betiyan*"; "*why do you want to celebrate Garba together but not come for Durga Puja, Janmashtami, Or Ganesh utsav?*" and then stated that since "*Islam bans singing and dancing then why do they want to come for Garba?*". The anchor also falsely claimed that a Muslim panellist on the show did not feel any pain about the videos of Hindu women being made and asked why the panellist did not participate in Holi celebrations.

Therefore, the complainant requested that the broadcaster issue a public apology and remove all copies of the impugned broadcast from all digital platforms.

## 2. Complaint dated 6.10.2022 filed by Mr. Matin Mujawar

इस पुरे समय में गरबा पंडालों में पायेगये कुछ मुस्लिम युवकों को लेकर खबरों को सांप्रदायिक रंग देने और हिन्दू मुस्लिम विवाद बनाने की साजिश ये साफ़ नजर आती है जो Times NowNav Bharat न्यूज चैनल ने अपने प्रोग्राम Sawal Public Ka के जरिये की है. खबरे हिन्दू मुस्लिम ध्रुवीकरण करने के हतु से चलायी गयी है. जिस में एकतरफा अल्पसंख्यक मुस्लिम समाज को निशाना बनाया गया है और इस तरह हिन्दू मुस्लिम बटवारा करने की कोशिश की गयी है. कुछ खबरे और उस में इस्तेमाल की गई भाषा को आगे समय सहित प्रस्तुत किया गया है

नमाज, लवजेहाद, घरवापसी, राम मंदिर, ज्ञानव्यापी, अयोध्या काशी, वक्फ बोर्ड जैसे मुद्दों पर ध्रुवीकरण करने वाली खबरों के बाद अब Times NowNav Bharat ने गरबा पंडालों में पाए गये मुस्लिम युवको को हिंदू मुस्लिम ध्रुवीकरण का मुद्दा बनाकर पेश किया है. इन संवेदनशील विषयों से मुस्लिम समाज को खलनायक बनाकर दर्शकों के सामने जिस अंदाज में पेश किया गया है उसे देखने के बाद ये सीधे सीधे साबित होता है के Times NowNav Bharat देश में अल्पसंख्यकों के विरोध में बड़ा नरसंहार करवाना चाहता है.

क्या हमारा समाज इतना टूट रहा है के त्योहारों के आड़ में एक दूसरे की बहु बेटियों पर बुरी नजर रखी जाने लगी है. जब हिन्दू देवी दुर्गा के नवरूपों की आराधना कर रहे है साथ ही गरबा का पवित्र उत्साह मनाया जा रहा है कम से कम तीन जगहों पर गरबा पंडालों में घुसे मुस्लिम युवकों को लेकर भारी हंगामा हुआ है मध्यप्रदेश के इंदौर, महाराष्ट्र के अकोला और गुजरात के अहमदाबाद में मुस्लिम युवक संदेह के घेरे में आये है, इनडोर में ५ और अकोला में ४ युवकों पर गरबा पंडालों में घुस कर वीडियो बनाने का आरोप लगा है. और में बताउ ये बात मुझे क्यों चुबती है इस लिए क्यों के जो आरोप लगा है वो सिर्फ वीडियो बनाने का नहीं लेकिन एक तरह से अश्लील वीडियो, निचे एंगल से, लड़कियों के बिच, गरबा पंडालों में खेलते हुए लड़कियों के बिच. और ये सोच दर्शाता है, में एक माँ हु एक औरत हूँ, एक महिला हूँ और सपमत सकती हूँ के यहाँ गरबा में जब हम दुर्गा माँ के याद में सोच में विलीन होते है तो गरबा में क्या दोष होता है लेकिन क्या अब लड़कियों को गरबा नाचते वक्त, गरबा मनाते वक्त, नवरात्रि मानते वक्त ये भी सोचना पड़ेगा के कौन उनके आस पास है और कही तस्वीर तो नहीं ले रहा और कही ये वीडियो निचे एंगल से नहीं बना रहा ये सवाल है में आप से पूछना चाहती हूँ जब की अहमदाबाद में दो युवको को बिना परमिशन पंडाल में घुसने का आरोप लगा है. तीनों जगहों पर पकडे गए युवको की पिटाई हुई और उन्हें पुलिस को सौपा गया है. पुलिस के मुताबिक अकोला में पकडे गए इन लड़को के पास से लड़कियों की २५० से ज्यादा तस्वीरें मिली है. और यही बात में आप के सामने लेकर आयी हूँ. क्या लड़किया अब जाकर गरबा और नवरात्रि नहीं मना सकती। सवाल पब्लिक का आज ये है के गरबा के बहाने लव जिहाद के कोशिश के आरोप में क्या सच्चाई है. जैसे हिंदूवादी संघटन आरोप लगा रहे है और क्या धर्म देख कर ही गरबा जैसे समारोह में इजाजत मिलनी चाहिए? ये सवाल है, ये राजनैतिक सवाल नहीं है, ये हमारे लिए एक सामजिक मुद्दा है. यही है आज सवाल पब्लिक का ?

बहरूपिया भाईजान गरबे में क्या तुम्हारा काम ?

समय सेकंड ०:२६ से ०३:१६ मिनट

अनेकता में एकता यही हमारे देश की खूबसूरती है. गरबा ये हिन्दू समाज का एक कल्चरल कार्यक्रम है, ये एक ऐसा कार्यक्रम है जिस में बरसो से सभी समाज के युवा युवती, या तो इस कार्यक्रम में हो रहा नृत्य देखने आते है या खेलने आते है और यह परंपरा बरसो से हमारे देश में चलीती आरही है.

हम सब ये जानते हैं कि आयोजक द्वारा गरबा कार्यक्रम दो प्रकार से आयोजित किया जाता है. १. जिसमें आयोजक एंट्री पास देते हैं २. जो सार्वजनिक होते हैं मैदान में, सड़क के किनारे, हॉल में, वगैरे वगैरे जिस में एंट्री पास नहीं होता। (कोई भी खेल सकता है)

कुछ दिन पहले विहिप और बजरंग दल जैसे संघटन ने गरबा पंडालों में गैर हिंदुओं को प्रवेश नहीं करने की चेतावनी दी थी। अचानक इन लोगों ने आनेवाले लोगों से नाम पूछे जिस में पकड़े गए युवा धर्म जाती से मुस्लिम समाज के हैं यह समझ में आया. उस संघटन के लोगों ने उनकी पिटाई की पूछ ताछ की और उन्हें पुलिस के हवाले किया गया.

आज कल मोबाईल फोन हर व्यक्ति के पास होता है, अकोला में गरबा पंडाल से पकड़े युवा के पास पुलिस की जांच में पता चला कि उसके मोबाइल फोन में महिलाओं की 250 से ज्यादा तस्वीरें थीं। Times NowNav Bharat ने खबरों में यह कह कर बताया कि "अकोला में ४ युवकों पर गरबा पंडालों में घुस कर वीडियो बनाने का आरोप लगा है. और मैं बताऊं ये बात मुझे क्यों चुबती है इस लिए क्यों के जो आरोप लगा है वो सिर्फ वीडियो बनाने का नहीं लेकिन एक तरह से अश्लील वीडियो, निचे एंगल से, लड़कियों के बिच, गरबा पंडालों में खेलते हुए लड़कियों के बिच." इस तरह से मुस्लिम अल्पसंख्यकों के बारे में एक गलत संदेश दर्शकों तक पहुंचने का जुर्म किया है. बदनाम किया और इस समाज के विरोध में देशभर लोगों के मन में नफरत पैदा किया है.

"सवाल पब्लिक का" इस कार्यक्रम में सवाल खड़ा किया कि "आज ये है कि गरबा के बहाने लव जिहाद के कोशिश के आरोप में क्या सच्चाई है ?" इस तरह विहिप जैसे कट्टर संघटन के विनोद बंसल, सुजाता पांडे राजनैतिक विश्लेषक आनंदमधाम के सदुर रितेश्वर और कुछ मुस्लिम सदस्यों के बिच बहस लगाकर खबरों को सांप्रदायिक एंगल देने का और मुस्लिम समाज के विरोध में नफरत फैलाने का धुवीकरण करने का काम Times NowNav Bharat ने किया है। "लव-जिहाद" का इस्तेमाल हिंदुओं और मुस्लिमों का धुवीकरण करने के लिए और मुस्लिम समुदाय प्रति देश में अविश्वास पैदा करने के लिए किया गया है जो असंविधानिक है. Times NowNav Bharat ने मुस्लिम समाज के विरोध में भड़काऊ भाषा का इस्तेमाल किया है. इस तरह प्रसार माध्यम का दुरुपयोग किया है.

गरबा पंडालों में वो जो भी युवा आये थे वो किस लिए आये थे, उनका मकसद क्या था ये पुलिस के जांच का मामला है और इस का फैसला करना कोर्ट का काम है इन सब की जानकारी होते हुए भी नाविका कुमार द्वारा मिडिया ट्रायल चलायी गई है जो गैर कानूनी है.

Times NowNav Bharat ने न्यूज ब्रॉडकास्टर्स एंड डिजिटल एसोसिएशन के निति संहिता और प्रसारण मानकों का उलंघन किया है. खंड एक "मौलिक या बुनियादी सिद्धांत १,४,५ का उलंघन किया है तथा खंड २ आत्मनियंत्रण का सिद्धांत १, २ का उलंघन किया है

Times NowNav Bharat न्यूज चैनल ने देश में अशांति फैलाने वाली, सामाजिक तथा धार्मिक भवनाओं को चोट पहुंचने वाली, समाजों में द्वेष निर्माण करने वाली, कट्टर और देश को हिंसा के तरफ लेजाने वाले भाषा का प्रयोग किया है और लगातार करता आया है.

Times NowNav Bharat न्यूज़ चैनल ने न्यूज़ माध्यम का गलत इस्तेमाल करके देश में हिन्दू मुस्लिम तनाव बनाकर देश में हिन्दू मुस्लिम हिंसा करवाने की साजिश की है और इस तरह के भड़काऊ खबरों से मुस्लिम समाज का नरसंहार (जेनोसाइड) करवाना चाहता है.

**Reply dated 20.10.2022 from the Broadcaster:**

The broadcaster stated that the topic of the debate was the incidents reported at three Garba events in the country. It had come to light that inappropriate photographs of women were being taken by miscreants believed to have entered the Garba event with such intention. Based on reports from the local police authorities, the debate raised valid and pertinent questions surrounding women's safety at such public events.

The debate had balanced representation, and views were freely expressed on the subject chosen for the programme. The pertinent concerns the anchor raised stemmed from the public's questions, which were called out as such for the panellists to respond. As the alleged accused were from a particular community, it was only relevant to debate whether a communal angle is necessary while dealing with such incidents. The anchor did not claim or assert that the men of the Hindu faction were pure or innocent. The questions raised during the show regarding why people of the Muslim community do not attend other Hindu festivals, but such incidents have become frequent at Garba events, was based on comment/questions from the public/viewers. The issues raised were focused only on the topic being debated based on the incidents reported and were not intended to target or support a particular faction or community.

The broadcaster stated that the allegations raised in the complaints were out of context and baseless. The debate focused on issues surrounding women's safety after the incidents reported at Garba events, and relevant questions were posed based on concerns raised by the public. Responses and views of factions involved were made available, and there was no targeted discussion against or in favour of any community as alleged.

The broadcaster denied the allegations raised by the complainant Mr. Matin Mujawar against the channel and its representatives and officers, that the debate was conducted to target the minority community or to promote genocide or create an atmosphere of violence in the country by way of such debates as being meritless and baseless.

**Further reply dated 24.10.2022 from the complainant Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade**

The complainant stated that the broadcaster's response was unsatisfactory as it had failed to acknowledge the violations despite being so blatant. Therefore, the complaint was escalated for consideration by NBDSA.

**Further reply dated 24.10.2022 from the complainant Mr. Matin Mujawar**

The complainant stated that the broadcaster's response dated 20.10.2022 was misleading and an attempt on its part to escape from the clutches of law. He stated that the news reports in the media make it clear that the channel was spreading hatred by broadcasting news with a communal agenda, which could cause harm to the minorities and disturb the secular structure of the State.

The impugned news programme propagated a communal angle, which defamed the minorities and caused hatred and damage to their reputation. The complainant reiterated that by making defamatory allegations, i.e., of taking inappropriate photographs of women and of love jihad, the broadcaster had defamed the Muslim community at large.

In view of the above, the complainant prayed for appropriate action to be taken against the broadcaster under the Regulations.

**Decision of NBDSA taken at its meeting held on 28.1.2023**

NBDSA considered the complaints regarding the broadcast aired on Times Now Navbharat on 29.9.2022, response of the broadcaster and after viewing the footage of the broadcast, decided to call the parties for a hearing.

**Hearing on 11.03.2023**

On being served with notice, the following persons were present at the hearing:

**Complainant**

1. Mr. Matin Mujawar
2. Ms. Sanchita Kadam, on behalf of the Complainant, Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade

**Broadcaster**

Mr. Kunal Tandon, Advocate

Ms. Niti Jain, Advocate

Ms. Kirtima Maroovar, Compliance Officer NBDSA

**Submissions on behalf of the Complainant, Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade:**

On behalf of the complainant, it was submitted that in the impugned broadcast the following tickers “बहुरूपी भाईजान गरबे में क्या काम”; “गरबे का मैदान क्यों आए भाईजान” and “गरबा का

बहाना हिंदू बेटियाँ निशाना” were broadcast and the anchor kept questioning why people from the Muslim community participated in the Garba festivals. In a country like India where diverse people of all backgrounds come together to celebrate festivals, such a question was raised by the anchor on national television based solely on some reports which claimed that some boys had ‘allegedly’ misbehaved during the Garba festival.

Further, in the impugned show, a video of certain individuals belonging to certain right-wing groups thrashing the boys was also broadcast. However, the anchor failed to condemn the violence meted out by Bajrang Dal despite such beatings being unlawful. The anchor’s emphasis appeared to be only on how this issue was a communal incident. Without any data, she further claimed that such incidents were happening every year and were increasing. Such claims were made by the anchor despite the Fundamental Principles enshrined in the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards, which requires journalists to stand fully accountable for their actions.

At several instances during the impugned broadcast, the anchor baselessly questioned why Muslim people don’t attend Ganapati celebrations, Janmashtami, Durga Utsav, and Holi celebrations and why they only love Garba. The complainant submitted that the anchor appeared to be targeting the entire Muslim community for an ‘alleged’ folly committed by a few individuals and had sowed the seeds of disharmony. Furthermore, divisive, inflammatory and derogatory tickers were aired in the impugned programme despite the Specific Guidelines for Anchor conducting Programmes including Debates, which requires broadcasters to “*ensure that panel discussions and /or the programmes including debates do not become a platform to encourage or expound extremist/ divisive views or spread falsehood or fake facts about individuals, communities, religious beliefs and practices*”.

#### **Submissions by the Complainant, Mr. Matin Mujawar:**

The complainant submitted that the manner in which the impugned news programme was conducted was condemnable. He stated that “गरबा पंडालों में खेलते हुए लड़कियों के बीच अश्लील वीडियो बनाना, निचे एंगल से वीडियो बनाना, निचे एंगल से तस्वीरें ली जा रही है, त्योहारों के आड़ में बहु बेटियों पर बुरी नजर रखना, हिन्दू देवी दुर्गा के पवित्र त्योहार में लव-जिहाद करना इस तरह से मुस्लिम समाज के विरोध में एक झुठ नरेटिव निर्माण करके एक समाज को दूसरे समाज और उसके धर्म के विरोध में भड़काया गया है. देश के सेकुलर ढांचे को चोट पहुंची है. इस तरह के संवेदनशील भाषा से समाज पर निर्माण होनेवाले परिणाम की जानकारी होते हुए भी एक समाज के विरोध में दूसरे समाज के विरोध में भड़काया गया है.



झूठ को सच सिद्ध करने के लिए और यह विषय कितना सच है ये सिद्ध करने के लिए विनोद बंसल, सुजाता पांडे राजनैतिक विश्लेषक आनंदमधाम के सदुरु रितेश्वर और कुछ मुस्लिम सदस्यों के बिच बहस लगाकर खबरों को सांप्रदायिक एंगल दिया है. ये चैनल पर ऐसे मेहमानों को बुलाते हैं जो बांटने वाली बातें करते हैं, झूठे नैरेटिव फैलाते हैं

पोलिस प्रशासन ने लव जिहाद से साफ़ इंकार कर दिया है. सरे आरोप बेबुनियाद बताये, जमाव द्वारा मारपीट किये युवकों ने कोई भी अपराध नहीं किया ना ही उन पर कोई FIR दाखल नहीं हुई है. (इंडियन एक्सप्रेस और बाकी न्यूज पेपर) फिर भी बजरंग दल के कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा इन निर्दोष मुस्लिम युवाओं को पीटता हुआ वीडियो बार बार दिखा कर मुस्लिम धर्म और समाज के प्रति लव जिहाद का भ्रम निर्माण किया है. दंगाईयों पर धरा ३२३, १४३, १४७, २९४B, १५३A के अनुसार सर्वेज पोलिस स्टेशन अहमदाबाद में गुन्हा दाखल है खबरों का नैरेटिव लवजेहाद है जो मानहानि करनेवाला एवं भड़काऊ है.

Times NowNav Bharat ने न्यूज ब्रॉडकास्टर्स एंड डिजिटल एसोसिएशन के निति संहिता और प्रसारण मानकों का उलंघन किया है. खंड एक “मौलिक या बुनियादी सिद्धांत १,४,५ का उलंघन किया है तथा खंड २ आत्मनियंत्रण का सिद्धांत १, २ का उलंघन किया है टाइम्स नाउ नवभारत के एंकर की भाषा अभद्र, भड़काऊ, अपमानजनक, राष्ट्रीय एकात्मता को नुकसान पहुँचने वाली है.

### **Submissions by the Broadcaster**

The broadcaster submitted that the debate was conducted in the backdrop of the incidents reported at three Garba events in the country, wherein it had come to light that some miscreants entered the Garba event and took inappropriate photographs of women. The broadcast was based on the reports and information obtained from the local police authorities. The purpose of the debate was to discuss and debate the glaring incidents that had transpired during the Garba events, which had caused grave prejudice to women's safety. The debate was conducted to highlight the issue of safety of women, a subject of national importance.

In this regard, the broadcaster drew the attention of the Authority to time stamp 39:07 mins in the broadcast, wherein the anchor stated that *“I am the sister of Ankita, I am the sister of Bilkis and the issue I am raising is not of Hindu-Muslim, the issue I am raising is of women safety”*.

NBDSA questioned the broadcaster that if it intended to raise the issue of women's safety why was one community selectively targeted in the broadcast.

In response, the broadcaster submitted that it had not singled out a particular community. Rather, it had only raised questions based on the report and public comments, which alleged that the accused were from a particular community. Further, the anchor had raised such questions to probe the communal angle and to uncover the truth as to whether there were people of a particular community behind the said incidents as was being alleged.

### **Decision of NBDSA at its meeting held on 11.3.2023**

NBDSA considered the complaint, response from the broadcaster and also gave due consideration to the submissions of the complainant and the broadcaster and viewed the footage of the broadcast.

After considering the submissions made by the parties, NBDSA decided to defer the decision in the complaint to consider the broadcaster's response to the following queries:-

1. On what basis was it claimed during the impugned broadcast that inappropriate photographs of women were being taken by miscreants who were believed to have entered the Garba event with the intention of disturbing women?
2. On what basis was it claimed that men from the Muslim community do not attend other festivals such as Durga Puja, Janmashtami, Or Ganesh Utsav? and why do they only love Garba?

### **Response dated 3.4.2023 of the Broadcaster**

In response to the queries raised by NBDSA at the hearing on 11.03.2023, the broadcaster submitted that:-

1. Some of the women participants at the Garba event claimed that inappropriate photographs were taken by miscreants at the Garba event. The claim was discussed in the debate and the issue was put forth before the panellists present on the show.
2. The claim that men from the Muslim community do not attend other festivals apart from Garba was not a claim asserted by the channel. Following these incidents, public debate raised these questions, which were highlighted by the channel so that they could be debated. As these incidents were reported during Garba and not other festivals, the query was raised based on public sentiment expressed during the show.

### **Rejoinder dated 4.4.2023 filed by the complainant Mr. Indrajeet Ghorpade:**

The complainant stated that the channel's response was not satisfactory, as it had failed to interview any women who had attended the Garba event who claimed that Muslim men were taking inappropriate photos. Further, no woman present at the Garba event had filed a police complaint against any Muslim man for taking inappropriate pictures of the women attending the event.



Without any evidence, it was claimed that such incidents occur every year. The channel reported this “news” and made claims based on hearsay, using them to demonise all Muslim men.

Further, while the channel had in its response claimed it was raising the public’s questions when it stated that Muslim men don’t attend Ganpati celebrations, Holi celebrations, etc. however, “*junata ke sawal*” are often used by channels as a cover to promote their own hateful, inaccurate, biased stereotypes.

It is the channel’s responsibility not to promote such inaccurate, biased and prejudiced questions.

The broadcaster and the anchor failed to do so and had, therefore violated the guidelines on accuracy, fairness, neutrality, religious harmony, negative stereotypes, good taste and decency.

### **Decision**

NBDSA considered the complaint, response from the broadcaster and also gave due consideration to the submissions of the complainant and the broadcaster and viewed the footage of the broadcast.

NBDSA stated that while it was the broadcaster’s submission that it had in the impugned broadcast based on reports received from the police authorities raised valid and pertinent questions surrounding the safety of women at such public events. Had that been the focus of the programme, NBDSA would not have found any fault with the same. However, instead of confining to the issue of safety of women, the broadcaster went overboard and gave it a communal tilt which tends to taint the manner in which the programme was conducted.

NBDSA noted that the programme was a debate and the views of several panellists were broadcast, to that extent there may not be any cause of grievance. However a different tilt and thrust is visible from the questions raised by the anchor and the language used in the tickers “बहुरूपी भाईजान गरबे में क्या काम”; “गरबे का मैदान क्यों आए भाईजान” and “गरबा का बहाना हिंदू बेटियाँ निशाना even before the debate had commenced, which shows that the broadcaster had generalized the alleged incidents, thereby giving a certain tilt to the programme by creating an impression that only men from a certain community were miscreants and/or criminals who were trying to harm/deceive women of another community in the garba festival.

NBDSA held that by airing the impugned broadcast and the tickers in the aforesaid manner, the broadcaster had violated the Guidelines to prevent communal colour in reporting crime, riots, rumours and such related incidents and the Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage relating to Racial and Religious Harmony.

In view of the above, NBDSA decided to caution the broadcaster against using such tickers in future broadcasts and also advised the broadcaster to avoid giving a communal colour while reporting such incidents.

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

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

NBDSA directs NBDA to send:

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

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

Sd/-

**Justice A.K Sikri (Retd.)**  
**Chairperson**

**Place: New Delhi**  
**Date : 02.11.2023**