

News Broadcasting Standards Authority

Order No. 44 (2017)

Order of NBSA on the complaints relating to:

Complaint dated 4.4.2016 filed by Prof. Gauhar Raza against Zee News for telecasting programme “Afzal Premi Gang ka Mushaira” on 9.3.2016 to 12.3.2016

and

Joint complaint dated 4.4.2016 filed by Mr. Ashok Vajpeyi, Poet, Ms. Shubha Mudgal, Singer, Ms. Sharmila Tagore, Actor and Dr. Syeda Hameed, Writer against Zee News for telecasting programme “Afzal Premi Gang ka Mushaira” on 9.3.2016 to 12.3.2016

Dr Gauhar Raza, in his complaint dated 15.3.2016 (addressed to the broadcaster) and complaint dated 4.4.2016 (addressed to NBSA) stated that he had recited three of his poems at the 51st Annual Shankar Shad (Indo-Pak) Mushaira event held at New Delhi on 5.3.2016; that one of them was written by him in the year 1989, about the murder of Safdar Hashmi, a street theatre and cultural activist; that another poem was written by him in 2010 about the killing of two journalists in Iraq; and the third poem was written by him in 2016; that the said Mushaira is a prestigious annual event held from 1954, with the object of promoting poetry and fostering Indo-Pak cultural relations through Urdu poetry, the common cultural heritage of the Indian sub-continent.

2) The complainant stated that on 9.3.2016, Zee News channel had aired a programme titled, “*Afzal Premi Gang ka Mushaira*”. The said programme and another version of it with the title “*Poetry Night On The Love For Afzal Guru Gang*” were aired by Zee News repeatedly on 9.3.2016, 10.3.2016, 11.3.2016 and 12.3.2016; that in the said programmes, the Zee News reporters, programme producers and editors made false, motivated, defamatory, derogatory allegations against him and the persons assembled at the function, in breach of the code and ethics of journalism; that the said programmes were structured in an aggressive, intimidating, and browbeating style, and were telecast with commentary and taglines labelling the complainant as “*Afzal Guru Gang*” and “*Afzal Premi Gang*” and “*Desh Virodhi Shayar*”; that the broadcasts were incendiary, with the obvious motive of inciting hatred and ill-will against him and endanger him and his family. He was deeply aggrieved by the allegations that he is part of a gang that is standing with those who support the break up of India into many parts : “*Yeh aisa gang hai jo Bharat ke tukde karne wali soch ke saath khada dikh raha hai.*” He stated that these and similar highly defamatory and

derogatory statements made throughout the Zee News programmes which were, completely unfounded and baseless; These impugned programmes were also available on the following links:

- (i) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_R4is4PP3Q
- (ii) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_uVq1l33to
- (iii) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVJQjfqNcmk>

and that the programme telecast by the channel violated several guidelines and standards laid down by the NBA/ NBSA which Zee News as a Member of the NBA is obliged to respect and follow.

3) The violations, according to the complainant, were in regard to the following Ethical Standards & Regulations of NBA (Section 1, Fundamental Principles, Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards) that :

1. Professional electronic journalists should accept and understand that they operate as trustees of public and should, therefore, make it their mission to seek the truth and to report it fairly with integrity and independence. Professional journalists should stand fully accountable for their actions.

4. Broadcasters shall, in particular, ensure that they do not select news for the purpose of either promoting or hindering either side of any controversial public issue. News shall not be selected or designed to promote any particular belief, opinion or desires of any interest group.

5. The fundamental purpose of dissemination of news in a democracy is to educate and inform the people of the happenings in the country, so that the people of the country understand significant events and form their own conclusions.

Further, Section 2 Principles of self regulation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards) state that :

1) Impartiality and objectivity in reporting: Accuracy is at the heart of the news television business.....

2) Ensuring neutrality:news channels must strive to ensure that allegations are not portrayed as fact and charges are not conveyed as an act of guilt.

The purpose of putting together the principles of self regulation is to avoid compromising the genre of television news by broadcasting content that is malicious, biased, regressive, knowingly inaccurate, hurtful, misleading, or aimed at willfully concealing a conflict of interest.

4) The complainant (Mr. Raza) stated that the Zee News programme violated the principles of impartiality, objectivity and neutrality, contained in the News Broadcasters Association's Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards; that the programmes aired by Zee News had displayed a blatant disregard for either professional integrity or the truth; that the 'Principles for Self-regulation' have been flouted by Zee News by telecasting content that is malicious, biased, regressive, knowingly inaccurate, hurtful, misleading; that the commentary by the Zee News anchor distorted his poetry to give it a different imputation and colour, and falsely stated that he made statements in support of Afzal Guru; that the broadcaster not only distorted the words of his poem, but also added unfounded and baseless allegations against him by repeatedly terming him as 'anti-national'. He further alleged that the broadcasts had caused serious and severe harm to his reputation and endangered the safety of himself and his family; pursuant to the telecast of this programme, he received several intimidating and threatening messages and hate e-mails apart from hate-comments in the social media, which were influenced by the baseless and malicious allegations made against him in the broadcasted programmes. He therefore, requested the following actions from the broadcaster:

- to issue a corrigendum with respect to the Zee News programme on him and telecast it prominently at the same timings as the aforesaid programme was telecast, and as many times as the aforesaid programme was telecast from 9.3.2016 onwards by Zee News;
- to issue a public apology for telecasting inaccurate information, defamatory and malicious propaganda against him prominently on Zee News channel;
- to give an undertaking that Zee News will not telecast the aforesaid programme again;
- to pay a compensation of Rs. 1 crore to him as damages, for the intentional harm caused to his reputation and the incitement of hatred and ill-will against him, by the multiple telecasts of the aforesaid programme; and
- to remove the said programme from all channels of information including all website, social media and internet.

5) The complainant stated that on taking up the matter with the broadcaster vide his complaint dated 15.3.2016, the broadcaster gave an untenable and unsatisfactory reply i.e. devoid of merit and that the broadcaster contention that the impugned programmes constitute "fair comment" was clearly erroneous and misconceived. He stated that the impugned programme and the highly inflammatory and incendiary tag lines used by the channel in the telecast cannot be considered as "fair comment" as they contain no element of accuracy, neutrality, objectivity, impartiality and were violative of the prescribed Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards, Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage and Guidelines on Broadcast of Potentially Defamatory Content. He therefore desired that the complaint may be considered

under the NBSA Regulations and appropriate action be taken against the broadcaster.

6) Another complaint dated 4.4.2016 (addressed to NBSA) received from Mr. Ashok Vajpeyi, Poet, Ms. Shubha Mudgal, Singer, Ms. Sharmila Tagore, Actor and Dr. Syeda Hameed, Writer was that they were aggrieved and offended by the inaccurate, unfair, biased, derogatory journalism, evident from the telecast of a programme titled as “*Afzal Premi Gang ka Mushaira*” aired by Zee News channel on 9.3.2016 to 12.3.2016. Therefore the complainants sought action against the intentional, grave and repeated violation of the News Broadcasters Association’s Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards; Guidelines on Broadcast of Potentially Defamatory Content and Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage, by Zee News channel.

7) Mr. Ashok Vajpeyi, Ms. Shubha Mudgal, Ms. Sharmila Tagore and Dr. Syeda Hameed in their joint complaint dated 16.3.2016 (addressed to broadcaster) stated that in the Zee News programmes, Prof. Raza’s recitation of his poems recorded at the Shankar Shad Mushaira were interspersed with video clips allegedly of slogans raised at JNU on 9th February 2016 and visuals of posters of Afzal Guru and Kashmir; that the video clips which Zee News anchor has claimed are of slogan shouting at JNU, were already shown to be doctored through forensic analysis pursuant to an enquiry initiated by Delhi Government; that Zee news has however intentionally and willfully broadcast those doctored videos, without exercising due diligence and caution; that the anchor, the commentary and the subtitles in the programmes repeatedly refer to Prof. Raza as a member of the “Afzal Guru Premi Gang” and “Desh Virodhi Shayar” and describe him as a part of a gang that is standing with those who support the break up of India into many parts, “*Yeh aisa gang hai jo Bharat ke tukde karne wali soch kesaath khada dike rah abai*”; and that other similar highly inflammatory, derogatory, completely unfounded and baseless statements were made throughout the Zee News programmes. The complainants stated that Zee News programme violated the principles of impartiality, objectivity and neutrality, prescribed by NBA; that the programme has cast serious allegations on the character and integrity of Prof. Gauhar Raza and caused harm to his personal and professional reputation; that the programme was intended to lower his moral and intellectual character in their estimation and others in society; that the programme manipulated and distorted facts and circumstances and indulged in malicious propaganda to incite hatred against Prof. Raza, and project him as disgraceful and loathsome to the viewers; that through the multiple telecast of the Zee News Programmes, branding Prof. Raza as an “anti-national” poet in an extremely surcharged atmosphere in the society, has placed his personal security at risk and jeopardised his professional work; and that this was evident from the hateful, intimidating, threatening and abusive messages and comments that have

been directed at Prof. Raza through social media and email, pursuant to the telecast of the Zee News Programme.

8) They therefore stated that the baseless and politically motivated vilification and targeting of poet Prof. Raza, is part of a pattern manifest in Zee News's reporting against artists, thinkers and public intellectuals who express diverse and plural opinions or points of view, which Zee News channel takes upon itself to label as 'anti-national'. Therefore, they sought action against the broadcaster, similar to what was requested by Prof. Raza.

9) The broadcaster in their response vide letter dated 22.3.2016 to the complainants had stated that the video footage of the events that took place at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on 9.2.2016 which was broadcast on Zee News was absolutely authentic and was not doctored in any manner whatsoever; and the news report about JNU events was not only based on the raw footage but also on what the reporter of ZMCL who was present on ground zero and had seen and experienced the entire series of unfortunate events that took place in the campus; that the correctness of its report of JNU events was supported by the judgment of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court dated 2.3.2016 in Writ Petition (Crl) No. 558/2016 wherein the Court has acted upon the video footage of Zee News without doubting its veracity; and that the Hon'ble High Court has recorded a finding that there were certain slogans raised during the protest on 9.2.2016 and it was clearly evident from various placards/posters held by the participants in the protest that they were indeed anti-national.

10) The broadcaster stated that the intention of the programmes relating to Prof. Raza was to present to their viewers the varied group of poets, and the views that were presented at the 51st Annual Shankar Shad Mushaira event held at New Delhi; that if Prof. Raza had merely recited poetry, without making any references to JNU, their report would have been completely different and about the recitation; and that for showing the viewers what Prof. Raza was supporting, the video clips from JNU were also shown alongside excerpts from his recitation. It was stated that the visuals of posters of Afzal Guru were also part of the same recordings from JNU and not separate visuals. It was contended that the true message behind the programme broadcast on Zee News was that no restraint has been placed on the freedom of speech and expression, as has been continually alleged by some news channels and certain individuals; that the news programme was at pains to repeatedly point out that despite the fact that certain Pakistani poets were present at the 51st Annual Shankar Shad Mushaira event held at New Delhi, and they spoke on sensitive subjects such as the freedom of Kashmir, there was no hooting or untoward incident at the event. The fact that Mr. Javed Akhtar was even shown stating that the fact *"that you can freely say that the freedom of speech and expression has been restrained, was indicative*

of the fact that in fact the freedom of speech and expression remains unfettered". The broadcaster stated that it has always supported free speech and the right to express views even if it was against the personal belief of any individual or ideology.

11) The broadcaster denied that Prof. Raza was called an anti-national poet even once during the entire broadcast. It also stated that no false statements were made in the impugned programme. Since the report by Zee News clearly showed that anti-national slogans were raised at JNU, the impugned news programme was true and factually correct; and it would be unfair and unreasonable to expect Zee News to apologize or be penalized in any manner for speaking the truth. Zee News as a news channel also has the freedom of speech and expression in addition to its editorial discretion enjoyed as a news channel and the programme can only be termed as a fair comment and nothing more.

12) Insofar as the alleged violations of the guidelines and standards of the News Broadcasters Association is concerned, they deny that any violation, as alleged or otherwise has been committed by Zee News while reporting the impugned news programme. Their response to the specific allegations is below:

(i) Professional integrity and truth: The news programme was factually correct and presented an accurate description of the events that have taken place.

(ii) Selective news reporting to promote a particular side in a controversial issue: Zee News has always acted as an independent media house and has no affiliation with any political party whatsoever and as such does not take any side while reporting any news. Highlighting the fact that anti-national elements were being made martyrs and being celebrated by a prominent public figure at a public event does not constitute taking a side in a controversial issue. In fact, this qualifies as nothing more than accurate reporting.

(iii) Ignored the principle that news should educate and inform people: The news programme was aimed at highlighting the fact that the freedom of speech and expression has not been restrained in our country. Moreover, the news programme had an important patriotic message and such programmes are very important to promote patriotism in this time of social upheaval in our country, caused by certain anti-national elements.

(iv) The regulations relating to impartiality and objectivity in reporting was violated: The news programme was simply a recital of facts as they are. It also included the views of other poets who attended the event and even if they had differing views, the said views were diligently shown as they were said.

(v) The report had portrayed allegations as facts: It is an admitted and undisputed fact that Prof. Raza made statements and/or references to Mr. Kanhaiya Kumar and JNU during his recital. It is also undisputed that he spoke of them in a very positive manner and portrayed them as being heroic and as martyrs. The news programme simply highlighted the said undisputed facts and questioned as to why a public figure of eminence would endorse such anti-national acts. ZMCL, as a news channel has the same freedom of speech and expression as Prof. Raza. Similarly, ZMCL has a right to be critical of any speeches made so long as ZMCL is willing to justify its comments.

The broadcaster stated that it was high time the people who have been caught on camera making anti-national statements are brought to justice, and that knowledgeable people like Prof. Raza should abstain from supporting anti-national activities.

13) NBSA at the meeting held on 6.4.2016 considered both the complaints, the response of the broadcaster and also viewed the CD. Being of the *prima facie* view that the broadcaster had breached the guidelines relating to accuracy impartiality, neutrality, fairness, objectivity & privacy, as also the “*Guidelines on broadcast of potentially defamatory content*” and the broadcaster had failed to give an opportunity to Prof Gauhar Raza, who was being reported upon, to give his version/views, NBSA decided to issue a show cause notice to the broadcaster seeking an explanation in that behalf. NBSA also decided that the complainants and the broadcaster be directed to appear before it for a hearing on a date and time indicated by it.

14) NBSA at the meeting held on 12.7.2016 noted that response to the show cause notice was received vide letter dated 31.5.2016, raising various issues, including the jurisdiction of the NBSA to consider the complaint. From the response, the reasons for naming the 51st Annual Shankar Shad Mushaira as “Afzal Premi Gang Ka Mushaira” in the programme appeared to be: (i) Prof. Gauhar Raza had referred to Kanhaiya Kumar & JNU while reciting his poem; (ii) that Kanhaiya Kumar had attended an 'anti-national' meeting held at JNU; and (iii) the said JNU meeting was to purportedly support Afzal Guru, where posters of Afzal Guru were displayed. The broadcaster reiterated that its video footages of events that took place at JNU on 9.2.2016 broadcast by its channel were genuine and unfabricated and the Delhi High Court had relied on it in order (on the bail pleas of Kanhaiya Kumar). The broadcaster also referred to the freedom of the media and duty of media to bring to light 'anti-national' statements.

15) On a perusal of the complaints and response dated 31.5.2016 of the broadcaster; and after viewing the CD which contained the poetry recited by Prof.

Gauhar Raza on 5.3.2016 at the 51st Annual Shankar Shad Mushaira, and again viewing the CD containing the telecast on Zee News channel, NBSA was of the view that the limited issue before the NBSA was whether the broadcast violated NBA/NBSA Regulations/Guidelines; and that it was not necessary to consider the other issues raised by the broadcaster in their response, as they had no bearing on the complaint which related to recital of poetry by Prof Gauhar Raza in the 51st Annual Shankar Shad Mushaira. NBSA therefore decided to call the broadcaster and the complainants to appear for a hearing at the next meeting of NBSA. Accordingly, the parties were called for a hearing on 1.9.2016. The following persons were present for the hearing:

Complainants:

1. Ms. Vrinda Grover [Advocate for Mr. Gauhar Raza, Mr. Ashok Vajpeyi, Ms. Shubha Mudgal, Ms. Sharmila Tagore and Dr. Syeda Hameed]
2. Dr. Gauhar Raza, Chief Scientist CSIR & Professor, ASIR
3. Ms. Ratna Appender, Advocate
4. Ms. Tusharika Mattoo, Associate

Zee Media Corporation Ld.

1. Mr. Aman Lekhi, Senior Advocate
2. Mr. Rohan Swarup, Advocate
3. Mr. Kapil Midha, Advocate
4. Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, AVP Legal, ZMCL
5. Mr. Harsh Vardhan Tripathi, Senior Manager Legal, ZMCL

16) The complainants reiterated their complaints and further submitted as under:

- (i) NBSA's Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards had been violated by the telecasts in so far they related to the fundamental principles Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the Code.
- (ii) The principles of impartiality, neutrality, objectivity and privacy had been violated by the impugned telecasts.
- (iii) The Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage have been violated in so far as the impugned telecasts repeatedly used archival footage but did not mention the same as "file" or "archival".
- (iv) The Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage relating to reporting accurately had also been violated by the impugned telecasts.
- (v) Guidelines Nos. 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6 and 2.1 and 2.2 of the Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage had been violated.
- (vi) The telecasts violated Guideline 1 and 2 of Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage and guideline 5 of the Guideline on broadcasting Potentially Defamatory Content.

17) The complainants further stated that the commentary by the anchor and the taglines in the impugned telecasts were aggressive and intimidating and violated all the guidelines mentioned hereinabove; and that the following highly inflammatory and incendiary taglines were repeatedly used in the impugned telecasts, in violation of the Code of Ethics and other Guidelines of NBSA:

- i. “Deshdrohiyon ka samarthan karne waale shayaron se miliye” (Meet the poets who support traitors of the nation)
- ii. “sher ka ‘vajan’ badhane keye deshdrohi naare baazi ka samarthan kyun ?” (Why are you taking the support of anti-national sloganeers to increase the impact of your poems?)
- iii. “deshdroh ka aropi ‘hero kaise?” (How can anti-national accused be a hero?)
- iv. “deshdrohi naare baazi ka samarthan kyun” (Why support for anti-national sloganeering ?)
- v. “JNU ke deshdrohiyon ke samarthan mein utra naya ‘gang” (There is a new ‘gang’ supporting JNU’S anti-nationals)
- vi. “deshdrohi nare baazi ke samarthan mein mushaira suniye” (Listen to the poetic symposium supporting anti-nationals)
- vii. “Yeh aisa gang hai jo Bharat ke tukde karne wali soch ke saath khada dikh raha hai” (This is a gang which is showing solidarity with the mindset that wants to break the nation into pieces)

18) In its response the broadcaster/ZMCL reiterated its statements made in reply to the complaint and argued as under :

- (i) Prof. Raza had brought in to his poetry recital, a completely extraneous topic of JNU and Kanhaiya. Such reference to the JNU incident and Kanhaiya was deliberately provocative and meant to incite and distort, thereby leading to discontent in the country.
- (ii) Recitation of such poetry by Prof. Raza was completely contrary to the definition and purpose of the Mushaira. Therefore the telecast showed a story of public importance as the issues were integral to Indian democracy.
- (iii) The reason for the so called recitation was to emphasise on selected personalities whose role was clearly dubious because of the association with the incidents that showed hostility towards integrated India.
- (iv) The said poetry at the Mushaira was a camouflage for ideology hostile to India and sought punitive sanction for those who disagreed with the ideology.
- (v) Prof. Raza had shown sympathy for a group, which had shown hostility towards India. The telecasts gave the broadcaster an opportunity to comment on such sympathy and alignment.

(vi) The reference to Kanhaiya and JNU was unnecessary in the context of the event and the poetry. Prof. Raza had covertly and indirectly made a reference to Afzal Guru in the poetry wherein reference was also made to JNU and Kanhaiya and such references were out of place at the Mushaira.

(vii) The telecasts were an expression of fair comment made by the broadcaster in good faith. Prof. Raza's speech was laced with meaning and metaphor and the broadcaster had as much a right to criticize and counter the comments.

(viii) Merely because the complainants did not like the criticism does not mean it amounts to defamation or that it breached of any NBA/NBSA Code/Guidelines.

(ix) In fact the broadcaster and the telecasts are protected by "qualified privilege" as he impugned telecasts were simply expressing a belief it held honestly. (The broadcaster relied upon the judgment in *Horrocks Vs. D. Lowe* (1974) 1 All ER 135 which was read extensively).

(x) The telecasts were based on facts and satisfied the test of neutrality, objectivity and impartiality. Merely because the complainants were aggrieved with the broadcaster did not make the impugned telecasts any less impartial, neutral and objective. The broadcaster is simply putting forth a contrary point of view.

19) Arguments of both sides were heard and carefully considered. On request, parties were also permitted to file written submissions. NBSA reserved the matter for orders. The complainants filed their written submissions dated 16.9.2016. The broadcaster submitted its written submission dated 15.9.2016.

20) NBSA at the meeting held on 10.1.2017 after viewing the CD, considering the submissions and examining the matter, was of the view that the broadcaster had breached the guidelines relating to accuracy, impartiality, neutrality, which required "TV news channels must provide for neutrality by offering equality for all affected parties, players and actors in any dispute or conflict to present their point of view" and "news channels must strive to ensure that allegations are not portrayed as fact and charges are not conveyed as an act of guilt", fairness, objectivity and privacy as also the "*Guidelines on broadcast of potentially defamatory content*"; that the broadcaster had failed to give an opportunity to Prof Gauhar Raza, who was being reported upon, to give his version/views; that broadcasting a programme using the footage of the JNU incidents with the poetry recital of Prof Raza and giving title to the programme as "Afzal Premi Gang ka Mushaira" was highly inappropriate and derogatory as mere reference by Prof Gauhar Raza while reciting his poetry to "Kanhaiya", "Nehru University" & "Rohit Vemula", could not be a ground to brand the poet, the organisers of the Mushaira and the audience as "Afzal Premi Gang"; and that branding all the participants/audience who attended the Mushaira as

belonging to a “gang” who admired Afzal Guru, when Mr. Gauhar Raza in his poetry recital did not even mention or refer to Afzal Guru, was unwarranted.

21) Members present were unanimous in their view that the entire programme was intended to sensationalize the issue in a biased manner and facts were distorted and manipulated to masquerade as news.

22) NBSA decided to impose following sanctions/fine upon the broadcaster:

(a) The broadcaster shall at **9 pm on 8.9.2017** air the following text **in Hindi** (static) on full screen in large font size with a clearly audible voice-over (in slow speed) expressing regret for the said telecast on their channel Zee News by stating the following :

“Zee News” regrets the taglines used and views expressed during the broadcast of the programme/news report under the caption “Afzal Premi Gang ka Mushaira” on 9.3.2016 to 12.3.2016, reporting upon the poetry recital by Prof. Gauhar Raza on 5.3.2016 at the annual Shankar Shad (Indo-Pak) mushaira at New Delhi. Zee News also regrets the description of Prof. Gauhar Raza and the attendees/participants at the event, as “Afzal Premi Gang”.

Translated Text in Hindi:

नई दिल्ली में आयोजित वार्षिक शंकर शाद (भारत पाक) मुशायरा के दौरान 5 मार्च 2016 को प्रो. गौहर रजा द्वारा कविता पाठ के बारे में ज़ी न्यूज़ चैनल पर 9 मार्च, 2016 से 12 मार्च, 2016 को "अफजल प्रेमी गैंग का मुशायरा" के शीर्षक के साथ प्रसारित कार्यक्रम के दौरान व्यक्त किए गए विचारों एवं इस कार्यक्रम के लिए इस्तेमाल की गई टैगलाइन के लिए "ज़ी न्यूज़" चैनल को खेद है। इसके आलावा ज़ी न्यूज़ चैनल प्रो. गौहर रजा तथा उक्त मुशायरे में भाग लेने वालों के बारे में "अफजल प्रेमी गैंग" के नाम से दिए गए विवरण के लिए भी खेद प्रकट करता है।

(b) The broadcaster is imposed a fine of Rs. 1,00,000/-.(Rupees one lakh only) payable to NBA (News Broadcasters Association) within 7 (seven) days of receipt of this Order.

(c) The video of the said programme, if hosted, on the website of Zee News or any other links should be removed immediately and confirmed to NBSA.

23) The request of the complainant for award of compensation of Rs.1 crore for loss of reputation, and consequences of incitement of hatred and illwill against him, cannot be considered, being beyond the jurisdiction of this Authority.

24) It is clarified that any statement by the broadcaster in the proceedings before NBSA while responding to the complaint and putting forth its view points, and any finding or observation by NBSA in regard to the broadcast or broadcaster, 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 NBSA in regard to any civil/criminal liability.

25) NBSA further directs the NBA:

- a) To send a copy of this order to the complainants and the news channel;
- b) To circulate this order to all Members, Editors & Legal Heads of NBA.
- c) NBA to also host this order on its website and to include it in its next Annual Report.
- d) Release the order to media.

Proof of compliance of telecast of the apology to be submitted to on compact disc within 7 days of telecast.

Sd/-
Justice R.V. Raveendran (Retd.)
Chairperson

Place : New Delhi

Date : 31.8.2017