

**News Broadcasting Standards Authority  
Order No. 88 (2021)**

**Order of NBSA on Complaint dated 14.4.2020 from Mr. Mohammad Jubeir Rangrez regarding irresponsible reporting by News Nation**

The complaint was escalated to the second level of redressal, i.e., NBSA, as the complainant was not satisfied with the response received from the broadcaster.

**Complaint :**

आपके संज्ञान में लाना है कि आज शाम बांद्रा स्टेशन में जो भीड़ इकट्ठा हुई थी उसके बारे में राष्ट्रीय न्यूज़ चैनल न्यूज़ नेशन के द्वारा साम्प्रदायिक सोहाद्र को खराब करने की कोशिश की गई है उनके द्वारा जो खबर ब्रॉडकास्ट की गई वो बहुत ही गलत है स्टेशन और मस्जिद एक साथ होने के कारण उस भीड़ को मस्जिद से जोड़ना कतई सही नहीं है जबकि आज तक चैनल के द्वारा ये खबर दिखाई गई है कि लोग वहा जब इकट्ठा हो गए थे तो प्रसाशन के द्वारा मस्जिद के लोडस्पीकर की मदद से लोगो को भीड़ इकट्ठा न करने की गुहार लगाई जा रही थी। कृपा आपसे अनुरोध कि इस बात पर आप संज्ञान लीजिये ओर इस तरह की असामाजिक खबर न दिखाने के लिए न्यूज़ एजेंसीज को नियम बद्ध कीजिये।

**The headings of the screenshots/ images are as under:**

मस्जिद के पास हज़ारों की भीड़ कहाँ से आयी?

मस्जिद के पास लोगों को किसने बुलाया ?

बांद्रा के जामा मस्जिद के पास पहुंचें हज़ारों लोग ?

मस्जिद के पास ही भीड़ क्यों इकट्ठा हुई ?

मुंबई में टूटा लॉकडाउन ...मस्जिद के पास हज़ारों की भीड़

**Reply dated 21.4.2020 from the broadcaster:**

The broadcaster stated that the broadcast of news on the Mumbai Bandra incident on its show "Lakh Take Ki Baat" dated 14.4.2020 was based on facts reported from the ground and nothing out of context was reported or broadcast on the show. The Masjid's name was taken only as a reference to the area where the crowd had gathered, as can be seen in the visual.

**Reply dated 30.4.2020 from complainant to the channel:**

इस पूरी घटना में आपने अपनी खबर में एक बार भी बांद्रा स्टेशन का नाम नहीं लिया न्यूज़ की हर लाइन में मस्जिद का ही ज़िक्र था जबकि मस्जिद स्टेशन परिसर में ही है और आपके संवाददाता ने आपको ये नहीं बताया ग्राउंड रिपोर्टिंग के समय के लोग स्टेशन से ट्रेन पकड़ने आये है मेरी शिकायत सिर्फ इतनी है कि बिना जांच पड़ताल के आपके चैनल ने मस्जिद पर सवालिया निशान क्यों लगाया पहले आप पूरी खबर जान लिया करे फिर उसे टेलीकास्ट किया करे। महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री ने भी ये साफ किया था के वो लोग ट्रेन पकड़ने के लिए एक अफवाह के तहत इकट्ठा हुए थे पर फिर भी अपने मस्जिद के बारे में गलत खबर चला कर लोगों को भ्रमित करने की कोशिश की। आपकी खबर की फ़ोटो भी इसी मेल में अटैच है जिसे एक बार ओर आपको भेज रहा हु कृपया देखिए ओर बताइए कि कहा आपने स्टेशन का ज़िक्र किया था। आपके द्वारा दिये गए जवाब से मैं सहमत नहीं हु आप अभी भी उसी बात पर कायम है जो आपने कहा था। कृपया कर के भविष्य में ऐसी कोई भी खबर दिखाने से पहले उसकी हकीकत को जान लें जिससे सामाजिक सोहाद्र बना रहे।

**Further reply dated 30.4.2020 from complainant to the channel:**

आपके जवाब से मैं असहमत हु जिस तरह आपके चैनल ने गलत खबर दिखा कर लोगों को भ्रमित करने की कोशिश की है वह बहुत ही चिंता जनक बात है आपको अपने चैनल पर फुल स्क्रीन माफीनामा ब्रॉडकास्ट करना होगा जिससे लोगो को सच्चाई का पता चले। ओर उसका स्क्रीन शॉट मुझे रिप्लाई करना होगा।

**Decision of NBSA dated 10.7.2020**

NBSA, at its meeting held on 10.7.2020, considered the complaint, response of the broadcaster, the reasons for escalating the complaint to NBSA and also viewed the alleged broadcast. NBSA was of the prima facie view that the broadcaster had violated the fundamental principles of Impartiality, Objectivity and Neutrality in reporting and also the Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage No. 9 relating to Racial & Religious Harmony, which states that “*Racial and religious stereotyping should be avoided*” and “*Caution should be exercised in reporting content which denigrates or is likely to offend the sensitivities of any racial or religious group or that may create religious intolerance or disharmony.*”

As decided by the NBSA, the broadcaster and the complainant were called for a hearing on 7.9.2020 through Video conferencing.

**The following persons were present at the hearing on 7.9.2020:**

**Complainant:** Mr. Mohammad Jubeir Rangrez

**Broadcaster:** Mr Ajay Verma, Senior Executive Editor

Ms. Nupur Giri, Company Secretary & Compliance Officer (NBSA)

Mr. Ankit Parashar - Legal Representative for News Nation

The complainant stated that without any verification of facts as to why the persons had gathered outside the Bandra station, provocative headlines were carried by the channel to give a communal colour. He stated that based on a wrong report that trains would soon commence, several hundred people had gathered outside the Bandra railway station to board the train/s. Instead of reporting that the crowds had gathered outside the Bandra station, the entire focus by repeated telecasts and provocative headlines was to give a communal colour to the broadcasts. He stated that the police, in fact, took the help of the mikes of the Masjid to announce that the information was wrong and that the persons gathered should go back to their respective places. The Maulana also had made similar announcements. He demanded that in the same manner that wrong news was broadcast by the channel, the broadcaster should apologize so that the viewers know the factual position.

The broadcaster submitted that the focus of the report was not in any way to communalize the issue but to embarrass the State Government, which became a mitigating factor. The reporter and anchor took extreme care in reporting the incident.

### **Decision**

NBSA went through the complaint, response from the broadcaster and also considered the arguments of both the complainant and the broadcaster and reviewed the footage.

NBSA found that the broadcaster had used provocative headlines which conveyed misleading information, thereby creating a wrong impression. There was no balance and objectivity in the reporting as the headlines were in variance and served no purpose in the broadcast, and therefore the broadcaster had violated the fundamental principles of Impartiality, Objectivity and Neutrality and the Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage No. 9 relating to Racial & Religious Harmony while reporting.

In view of the above, NBSA warns the Channel News Nation for the provocative headlines used in the said broadcast and also directs that such headlines should not be telecast in future in the news programmes.

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 complaints with the above observations and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

NBSA directs the NBA 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 NBA;
- (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 NBSA while responding to the complaint and putting forth their view points, and any finding or observation by NBSA 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 NBSA in regard to any civil/criminal liability.

**Sd/-**

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

Place: New Delhi

Date: June 16, 2021