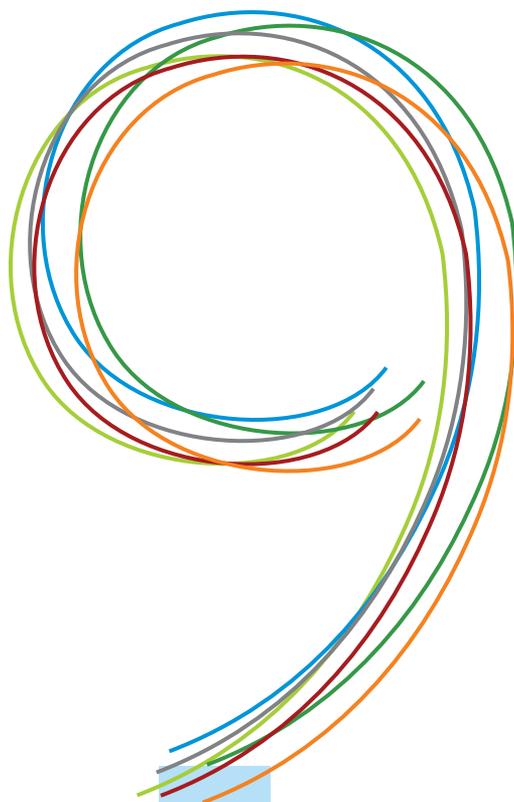


NewsBroadcastersAssociation



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**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2015-16

News Broadcasters Association Board of Directors



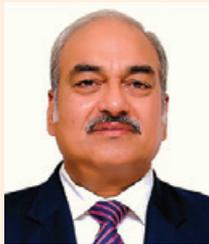
Rajat Sharma
President



Ashok Venkatramani
Vice President



Anuradha Prasad
Honorary Treasurer



K.V.L. Narayan Rao



Ashish Bagga



M.K. Anand



Rahul Joshi



Dr. Bhaskar Das



M.V. Shreyams Kumar



News Broadcasters Association

Board of Directors	Mr. Rajat Sharma Independent News Service Pvt. Ltd.	President
	Mr. Ashok Venkatramani ABP News Network Pvt. Ltd.	Vice President
	Mrs. Anuradha Prasad News24 Broadcast India Ltd.	Honorary Treasurer
	Mr. K.V.L. Narayan Rao New Delhi Television Ltd.	
	Mr. Ashish Bagga TV Today Network Ltd.	
	Mr. M.K. Anand Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.	
	Mr. Rahul Joshi TV18 Broadcast Ltd.	
	Dr. Bhaskar Das Zee Media Corporation Ltd.	
	Mr. M.V. Shreyams Kumar Mathrubhumi Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd.	
Secretary General	Mrs. Annie Joseph	
Auditors	S.S. Kothari Mehta & Co Chartered Accountants	
Bankers	Bank of India Bank of Baroda	
Registered Office	Juris House, Ground Floor, 22, Inder Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi – 110 087	
Corporate Office	Mantec House, 2 nd Floor, C- 56/5 Sector 62, Noida – 201 301	

CIN: U22211DL2007NPL165480



Rajat Sharma
President

Message from President, NBA **September 1, 2016**

Dear Members,

It is my privilege to present the Ninth Annual Report of the News Broadcasters Association. The management report gives the details of the activities that we have undertaken during the year.

We are jointly taking actions to achieve the purpose for which we came together nine years ago. In all these years we have remained a unified voice of the news broadcasters. Decisions taken by the Board have always been consensual keeping in mind the overall interest of the news genre. Every effort is being made to impress upon the officials in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the TRAI to arrive at an amicable solution in resolving the ad cap issue, instead of waiting for a judicial order. Another important issue for consideration by the MIB is the deletion of Rules 7(10) and 7(11) of the Cable TV Rules 1994 as we believe that such Rules operate to regulate advertisements on television channels in a manner that amounts to “content regulation”. We have submitted that the existence of the said Rules on the Statute Book ought to be done away with keeping in mind the constitutional provisions of free speech and for the very survival of the news genre. We hope to find solutions on these two critical issues, which have an impact on the survival of the news genre. DAVP rates is also an issue of concern. We have made detailed submissions before the Rate Structure Committee as to why it is necessary to get a “fair rate” for Government advertisements. The Report is expected to be released soon.

Digitisation of cable television has reached its last phase and the fourth phase is to be completed by 31.12.2016. On January 1, 2017 a new era for the broadcast industry would be ushered in. The entire country would be digitized and analogue signals would be switched off. This major technological leap for the broadcast industry would not have been achieved without the unstinted support and cooperation of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and all the stakeholders, who have painstakingly and collectively worked together to achieve this goal. NBA would like to place on record its sincere appreciation for the efforts put in by all the officials in the MIB. They have left no stone unturned in this regard. We sincerely hope that digitization considered to be a “game changer”, would benefit every stakeholder in the value chain. One of the major benefits that we as news broadcasters were confident to achieve was reduction in carriage fees. Unfortunately, this is not the ground reality. We continue to be burdened with huge carriage fees, placement fees and other fees, which is impacting our finances and survival. We hope that the TRAI would intervene and ensure that a reasonable carriage fee is demanded from news broadcasters by the MSOs.

The 23 broadcasters representing 59 channels should not be the sole beneficiaries of the initiatives of NBA. Every news broadcaster should voluntarily join the NBA to make it a unified voice of the news broadcasters. I must admit that despite our best efforts, we have not succeeded in strengthening our membership. Regional broadcasters are shying away from becoming members of NBA. We hope they will see value in being members of NBA and we look forward to welcoming them.

Our major initiative has been the setting up of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) in 2008. Self-regulation, which we have chosen for ourselves, has succeeded in the last eight years only due to the commitment of our members, who have honored and accepted all the actions and decisions taken by the NBSA. While there may be some aberrations, the overall standard of broadcasting has seen marked changes, due to the enforcement of the Codes and Regulations by the NBSA. This has been possible only due to the unstinting support, advice and time that our Members and Editors receive from Justice (Retd) R.V. Raveendran, Chairperson and the Independent Members of the NBSA. On behalf of the Board and Members of the NBA, our sincere gratitude to the Chairperson and Independent Members for their support and invaluable time. We are also conscious of the fact that if we do not succeed, the only option for us is government regulations. To make self regulation more effective, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should recognize the NBA Code of Ethics and the Redressal Regulations by making it as part of the Programme Code under the Cable TV Rules.

I am deeply grateful to the Board and Members of the NBA for their constant support. Their steadfast contribution has helped consolidate and anchor the NBA.

Finally, I would like to thank Mrs. Annie Joseph, Secretary General, NBA for working tirelessly towards achieving the goals of NBA. I am sure she will continue to contribute wholeheartedly to the betterment of NBA. I would like to thank the staff of the NBA Secretariat, Legal Counsel, Financial and Corporate Consultants as well as the Auditors of NBA and Bankers for their time and cooperation.

Best wishes,



Rajat Sharma

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Members of News Broadcasters Association will be held on Wednesday, the 21st September, 2016, at 12.00 noon at Committee Room-1, Annexe Building, India International Centre, 40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi – 110 003, 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, 2016 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, 2016, together with Auditor's Report and Director's Report thereon, be and are hereby approved and adopted.”
2. To re-appoint M/s S.S. Kothari Mehta & Co., Chartered Accountants, as Statutory Auditors of the Association, to hold office from the conclusion of this Annual General Meeting (AGM) till the conclusion of the fourteenth AGM of the Company to be held in the year 2021 (subject to ratification of their appointment at every AGM) and to fix their remuneration and for the purpose, to pass with or without modification(s) the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:
“**RESOLVED THAT** pursuant to the provisions of Section 139 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules framed thereunder, as amended from time to time, M/s S.S. Kothari Mehta & Co., Chartered Accountants, be and is hereby re-appointed as Auditors of the Company to hold office from the conclusion of this Annual General Meeting (AGM) till the conclusion of the fourteenth AGM of the Company to be held in the year 2021 (subject to ratification of their appointment at every AGM), at a remuneration as may be determined by the Board of Directors of the Association.”

Special Business

3. To consider and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s) the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:
“**RESOLVED THAT** Dr. Bhaskar Das who was appointed as a Permanent Director of the Association by the Board of Directors on December 21, 2015 subject to approval of 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 a Permanent Director of the Association, not liable to retire by rotation, in terms of the provisions of Article 17 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. Rahul Joshi who was appointed as a Permanent Director of the Association by the Board of Directors on March 1, 2016 subject to approval of 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 a Permanent Director of the Association, not liable to retire by rotation, in terms of the provisions of Article 17 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 Mrs. Anuradha Prasad 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.”

6. 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.”

Place: New Delhi
September 1, 2016

By Order of the Board of Directors of
News Broadcasters Association



Annie Joseph
Secretary General

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 102 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013

Item No. 3

The Board of Directors of the Association appointed Dr. Bhaskar Das as a Permanent Director on December 21, 2015 subject to approval of General Body meeting on the Board of NBA. 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, who will be Permanent Director and not liable to retire by rotation under Article 17 of the Articles of Association of NBA.

The Board of Directors, therefore, recommends the Resolution to be passed by the Members as an Ordinary Resolution.

Relevant documents relating to said item is available for inspection by Members at the Registered Office of the Company.

None of the Directors, except Dr. Bhaskar Das 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

The Board of Directors of the Association appointed Mr. Rahul Joshi as a Permanent Director on March 1, 2016 subject to approval of General Body meeting on the Board of NBA. 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, who will be Permanent Director and not liable to retire by rotation under Article 17 of the Articles of Association of NBA.

The Board of Directors, therefore, recommends the Resolution to be passed by the Members as an Ordinary Resolution.

Relevant documents relating to said item is available for inspection by Members at the Registered Office of the Company.

None of the Directors, except Mr. Rahul Joshi 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

Mrs. Anuradha Prasad 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 NBA.

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 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.

Item No. 6

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 NBA.

The Board of Directors, therefore, recommends the Resolution to be passed by the Members as an Ordinary Resolution.

Relevant documents relating to said item is 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. 6 of this Notice.

Place: New Delhi
September 1, 2016

By Order of the Board of Directors of
News Broadcasters Association



Annie Joseph
Secretary General

NOTES

1. 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.
2. A Member entitled to attend and vote at Annual General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on poll instead of himself and the proxy need not be a Member of the Company. The proxy, in order to be valid must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Association not less than 48 hours before the commencement of the meeting.
3. 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.
4. Members are requested to bring their copy of the Annual Report to the Meeting.
5. No person other than the authorized representative of the Member entity or his/her duly appointed proxy as aforesaid shall be entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
6. Members desirous of having any information on accounts are requested to send their queries to NBA at its Registered Office, at least seven days before the date of the AGM, to make the requisite information available at the meeting.
7. Members/Proxies attending the meeting are requested to bring the attendance slip, as appended to this Notice, duly filled in and present the same at the venue of the Annual General Meeting. No photocopies of the attendance slip will be accepted.
8. 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.
9. 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 9th Annual Report of your Association together with Audited Accounts for the period from April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016.

Financial Review

	31.03.2016 (Amount in Rs.)	31.03.2015 (Amount in Rs.)
Income from Subscription	1,06,00,000	1,16,00,000
Other Income	29,61,549	31,14,813
Depreciation and amortization expense	10,57,338	5,43,123
Total Expenditure	1,18,88,507	1,18,33,659
Surplus/(Deficit) after depreciation and tax carried to Members' General Reserve	16,73,042	28,81,153

Out of the excess of income and expenditure of Rs. 22,00,807 (previous year Rs. 16,12,337) 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 and Mr. M.V. Sreyamskumar were appointed as Additional Directors on February 1, 2012 and 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. Dr. Bhaskar Das and Mr. Rahul Joshi have been appointed as Directors on 21.12.2015 and 1.3.2016 by the Board of Directors in terms of Article 17 of the Articles of Association, not liable to retire by rotation. Mr. Ashish Kirpal Pandit and Mr. A.P. Parigi have tendered their resignation from the Board of the Association during the period under report.

Membership of Association

The number of Members/Associate Members of the Association are 23 broadcasters representing 59 channels.

Auditors & Auditors' Report

M/s S.S. Kothari Mehta & Co., Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditors of the Association, hold office until the conclusion of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and are eligible for reappointment. The Association has received letter from them to the effect that their appointments, if made, would be within the prescribed limits under Section 141(3)(g) of the Companies Act, 2013 and also that they are not disqualified for re-appointment.

The Statutory Auditors' Report on the Financial Statement of the Association for the financial year ended 31st March, 2016 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 alongwith 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

An extract of the Annual Return in Form No. MGT – 9 as provided under Sub-Section (3) of Section 92 which shall form part of the Board's report is attached as Annexure A.

Meetings of the Board

Six meetings of the Board of Directors were held on 2.4.2015, 28.5.2015, 22.7.2015, 23.9.2015, 21.12.2015 & 30.3.2016 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 (Account) 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.

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.

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

Sd/-
Rajat Sharma
President

Sd/-
Ashok Venkatramani
Vice President

Sd/-
Anuradha Prasad
Honorary Treasurer

Place: New Delhi

Dated: August 3, 2016

Annexure - A

Form No. MGT-9

EXTRACT OF ANNUAL RETURN**as on the financial year ended on 31st March, 2016**

[Pursuant to Section 92(3) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 12(1) of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014]

I. Registration and Other details

- i) CIN: **U22211DL2007NPL165480**
- ii) Registration Date: **03/07/2007**
- iii) Name of the Company: **News Broadcasters Association**
- iv) Category/Sub-Category of the Company: **Company Limited by Guarantee/
Indian Non-Government Company**
- v) Address of the Registered office and contact details: **Juris House, Ground Floor, 22, Inder Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087.**
- vi) Whether listed company: **No**
- vii) Name, Address and Contact details of Registrar and Transfer Agent, if any: **NA**

II. Principal Business Activities of the Company

All the business activities contributing 10% or more of the total turnover of the company shall be stated:-

Sl. No.	Name and Description of main products/services	NIC Code of the Product/Service	% to total turnover of the company
1.	Subscription from Members and welfare services	99959989	100%
2.			
3.			

III. Particulars of Holding, Subsidiary and Associate Companies

S. No.	Name and address of the company	CIN/GLN	Holding/Subsidiary/ Associate	% of shares held	Applicable section
1.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2.					

IV. Shareholding Pattern (Equity Share Capital Breakup as percentage of Total Equity)

(i) Category-wise Share Holding

Not applicable as the Company is a Section 8 Company (Guarantee Company)

Company does not have any shareholding

Category of Shareholders	No. of shares held at the beginning of the year				No. of shares held at the end of the year				% Change during the year
	Demat	Physical	Total	% of total shares	Demat	Physical	Total	% of total shares	
Promoters 1. Indian a) Individual/HUF b) Central Govt c) State Govt(s) d) Bodies Corp. e) Banks/FI f) Any Other.... Sub-total (A) (1):	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2. Foreign a) NRIs – Individuals b) Other – Individuals c) Bodies Corp. d) Banks/FI e) Any Other.... Sub-total (A) (2): Total shareholding of Promoter (A) = (A) (1)+(A)(2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
B. Public Shareholding 1. Institutions a) Mutual Funds b) Banks/FI c) Central Govt d) State Govt(s) e) Venture Capital Funds f) Insurance Companies g) FIIs h) Foreign Venture Capital Funds	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Contd...

Category of Shareholders	No. of shares held at the beginning of the year				No. of shares held at the end of the year				% Change during the year
	Demat	Physical	Total	% of total shares	Demat	Physical	Total	% of total shares	
i) Others (specify)									
Sub-total									
(B) (1):									
2. Non-Institutions									
a) Bodies Corp.									
i) Indian									
ii) Overseas									
b) Individuals									
i) Individual shareholders holding nominal share capital upto Rs. 1 lakh	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ii) Individual shareholders holding nominal share capital in excess of Rs. 1 lakh									
c) Others (specify)									
Sub-total									
(B) (2):									
Total Public Shareholding (B)=(B)(1)+(B)(2)									
C. Shares held by Custodian for GDRs and ADRs									
Grand Total (A+B+C)									

(ii) Shareholding of Promoters**Not applicable as the Company is a Section 8 Company (Guarantee Company)**

S. No.	Shareholder's name	Shareholding at the beginning of the year			Shareholding at the end of the year			% change in shareholding during the year
		No. of shares	% of total shares of the company	% of shares pledged/encumbered to total shares	No. of shares	% of total shares of the company	% of shares pledged/encumbered to total shares	
1.								
2.								
3.								
	Total							

(iii) Change in Promoters' Shareholding (please specify, if there is no change)**Not applicable as the Company is a Section 8 Company (Guarantee Company)**

S. No.		Shareholding at the beginning of the year		Cumulative shareholding during the year	
		No. of shares	% of total shares of the company	No. of shares	% of total shares of the company
	At the beginning of the year				
	Date wise increase/decrease in Promoters Shareholding during the year specifying the reasons for increase/decrease (e.g. allotment/transfer/bonus/sweat equity etc):				
	At the end of the year				

(iv) Shareholding Pattern of top ten Shareholders (other than Directors, Promoters and Holders of GDRs and ADRs):**Not applicable as the Company is a Section 8 Company (Guarantee Company)**

S. No.	For each of the top 10 shareholders	Shareholding at the beginning of the year		Cumulative shareholding during the year	
		No. of shares	% of total shares of the company	No. of shares	% of total shares of the company
	At the beginning of the year				
	Date wise increase/decrease in Shareholding during the year specifying the reasons for increase/decrease (e.g. allotment/transfer/bonus/sweat equity etc):				
	At the end of the year (or on the date of separation, if separated during the year)				

**(v) Shareholding of Directors and Key Managerial Personnel:
Not applicable as the Company is a Section 8 Company (Guarantee Company)**

S. No.	For each of the directors and KMP	Shareholding at the beginning of the year		Cumulative shareholding during the year	
		No. of shares	% of total shares of the company	No. of shares	% of total shares of the company
	At the beginning of the year				
	Date wise increase/decrease in Promoters Shareholding during the year specifying the reasons for increase/decrease (e.g. allotment/transfer/bonus/sweat equity etc):				
	At the end of the year				

V. Indebtedness

Indebtedness of the Company including interest outstanding/accrued but not due for payment

	Secured loans excluding deposits	Unsecured loans	Deposits	Total indebtedness
Indebtedness at the beginning of the financial year				
i) Principal Amount	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
ii) Interest due but not paid				
iii) Interest accrued but not due				
Total (i+ii+iii)				
Change in Indebtedness during the financial year				
▪ Addition	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
▪ Reduction				
Net Change	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Indebtedness at the end of the financial year				
i) Principal Amount	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
ii) Interest due but not paid				
iii) Interest accrued but not due				
Total (i+ii+iii)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

VI. Remuneration of Directors and Key Managerial Personnel

Company does not pay any remuneration to Directors of the Company.

Company does not have any Key Managerial Personnel.

A. Remuneration to Managing Director, Whole-time Directors and/or Manager:

S. No.	Particulars of Remuneration	Name of MD/WTD/Manager				Total amount
1.	Gross salary a) Salary as per provisions contained in Section 17(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 b) Value of perquisites u/s 17(2) Income-tax Act, 1961 c) Profits in lieu of salary under Section 17(3) Income Tax Act, 1961					
2.	Stock Option					
3.	Sweat Equity					
4.	Commission ▪ as % of profit ▪ others, specify...					
5.	Others, please specify					
	Total (A)					
	Ceiling as per the Act					

B. Remuneration to other Directors:

S. No.	Particulars of Remuneration	Name of Directors				Total amount
	Independent Directors ▪ Fee for attending Board Committee meetings ▪ Commission ▪ Others, please specify					
	Total (1)					
	Other Non-Executive Directors ▪ Fee for attending Board Committee meetings ▪ Commission ▪ Others, please specify					
	Total (2)					
	Total (B)=(1+2)					
	Total Managerial Remuneration					
	Overall ceiling as per the Act					

C. Remuneration to Key Managerial Personnel Other than MD/Manager/WTD**Not applicable as the Company is a Section 8 Company (Guarantee Company)**

S. No.	Particulars of Remuneration	Key Managerial Personnel			
		CEO	Company Secretary	CFO	Total
1.	Gross salary (a) Salary as per provisions contained in Section 17(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (b) Value of perquisites u/s 17(2) Income Tax Act, 1961 (c) Profits in lieu of salary under Section 17(3) Income Tax Act, 1961				
2.	Stock Option				
3.	Sweat Equity				
4.	Commission ▪ as % of profit ▪ others, specify...				
5.	Others, please specify				
	Total				

VII. Penalties/Punishment/Compounding of Offences**There is no penalty/punishment on the Company or its Directors or other officers.**

Type	Section of the Companies Act	Brief description	Details of Penalty/Punishment/Compounding fees imposed	Authority [RD/NCLT/COURT]	Appeal made, if any (give details)
A. Company					
Penalty					
Punishment					
Compounding					
B. Directors					
Penalty					
Punishment					
Compounding					
C. Other Officers in Default					
Penalty					
Punishment					
Compounding					

Sd/-
Rajat Sharma
President

Sd/-
Ashok Venkatramani
Vice President

Sd/-
Anuradha Prasad
Honorary Treasurer

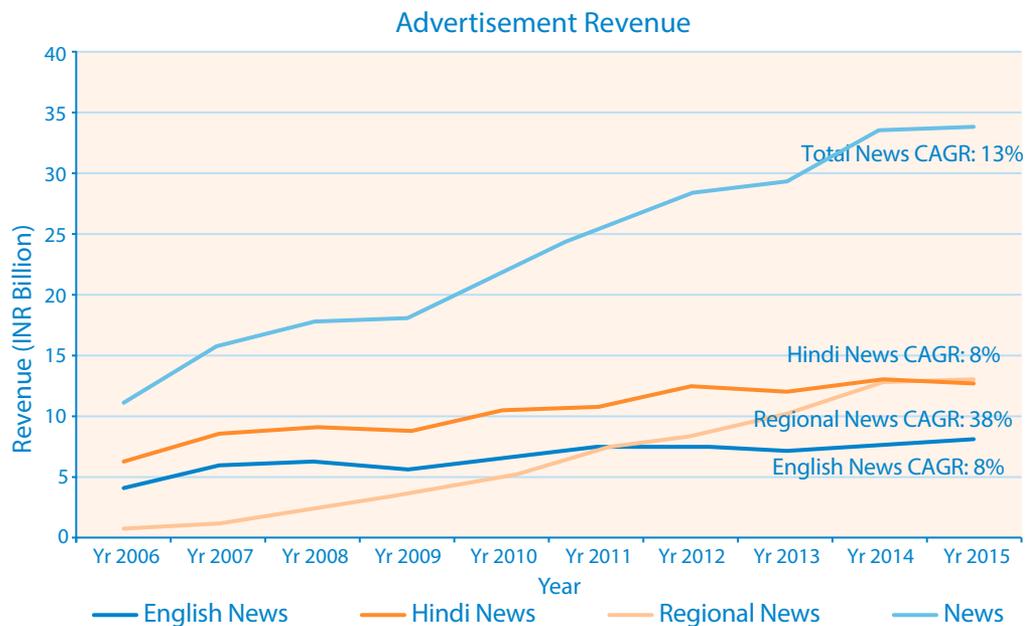
Section I

MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2015-16

Industry Overview

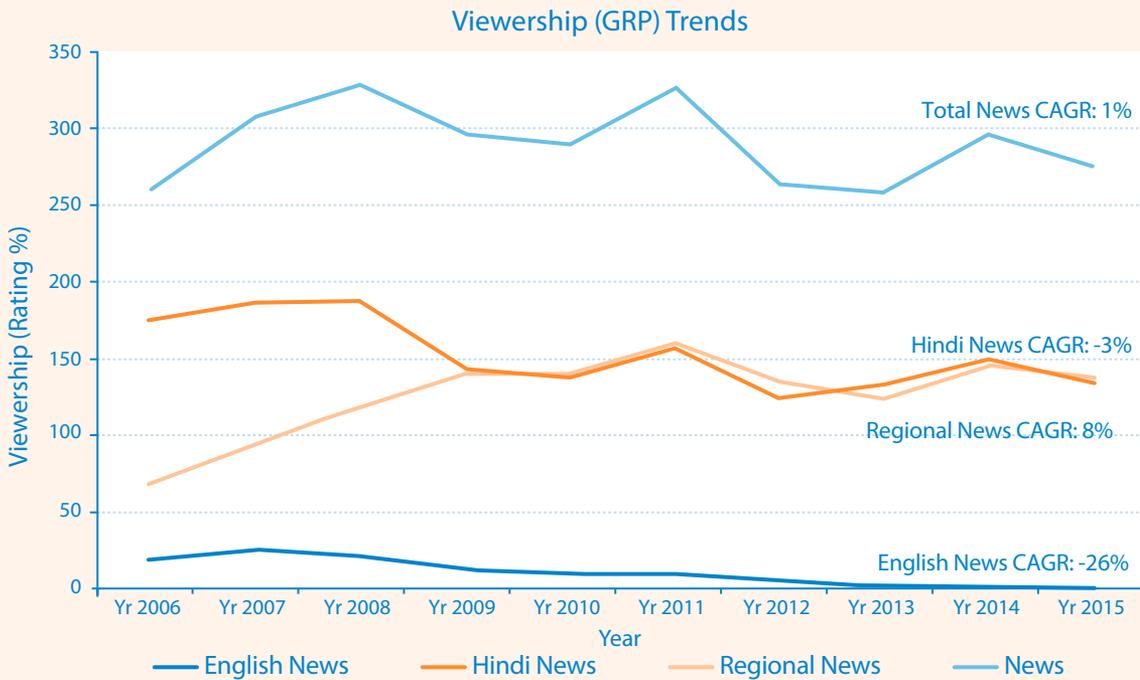
According to the FICCI-KPMG Indian Media & Entertainment Industry Report 2016, India's media and entertainment industry stood at INR 1,157 billion in 2015, a growth of 12.8% over the previous year. The television industry is at INR 542.2 billion which is a growth of 14.2%.

The charts below indicate the growth in advertising and the viewership of the news and current affairs genre during the years 2006-2015.



Source: FICCI-KPMG Media and Entertainment Industry Report - 2016. TAM Adex

During the years 2006-2015, the revenue of news channels grew at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 13% where English news channels grew by 8%, Hindi news channels by 8% and Regional news channels by 38%. If one looks at the change with respect to previous year, news channels revenue in 2015 increased by 1%.



Source: TAM | Average Weekly GRPs | All India | CS 15+ | All Days | All Dayparts

According to TAM reports the viewership of news channels grew at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 1% where English news channels viewership declined by 26%, Hindi News channels declined by 3% and Regional news channels grew by 8%. Compared to the previous year, the viewership of news channels in 2015 declined by 7%.

The implementation of the viewership measurement system (BARC) was a landmark event in 2015. Individual viewership data was rolled out by BARC from 23rd May 2015. According to BARC, overall news Genre stood at 217 GRPs. (Average Weekly).

Channel Groups	Average Weekly GRPs
English News	1.5
Hindi News	107
Regional News	109
News	217

Source: BARC | Average Weekly GRPs | All India Urban | 15+ | All Days | All Dayparts | Wk 21 to Wk 52 2015

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoI&B) in the present dispensation of Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister Urban Development Housing, Urban Poverty Alleviation and Information & Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and under the earlier dispensation of Mr. Arun Jaitley, Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Information and Broadcasting have been very proactive in handling issues of concerns of the news broadcasters.

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 NBA and the Board Members of NBA called on the following officials:

1. Mr. Sunil Arora, Secretary, MOI&B
2. Mr. R.S. Sharma, Chairperson, TRAI
3. Mr. J.S. Mathur, Special Secretary, MOI&B
4. Mrs. R. Jaya, Joint Secretary, MOI&B
5. Mr. K. Ganesan, Director General, DAVP

Industry Issues

Standards of Quality of Service (Duration of Advertisements in Television Channels) (Amendment) Regulations, 2013 (3 of 2013) dated 22.3.2013

As reported earlier the TRAI on 22.3.2013 issued the following regulations to amend the Standards of Quality of Service (Duration of Advertisements in Television Channels) Regulations, 2012 (15 of 2012), namely:

1. Duration of advertisements in a clock hour—No broadcaster shall, in its broadcast of a programme, carry advertisements exceeding twelve minutes in a clock hour.

Explanation: The clock hour means a period of sixty minutes commencing from 00.00 of an hour and ending at 00.60 of that hour (example: 14.00 to 15.00 hrs).
2. Power of the Authority to intervene—The Authority may, by order or direction issued from time to time, intervene for the purpose of protecting the interests of the subscribers or for ensuring compliance of the provisions of these regulations.
3. Reporting requirement—Every broadcaster shall, within fifteen days from the end of a quarter, submit to the Authority, in the format specified by it by order, the details of advertisements carried in its channel.

While making the above amendments, the TRAI took the view that the issue of excessive advertisements in violation of the existing rules, needs to be addressed for giving a respite to the consumers from onslaught of prolonged duration of advertisements and thereby to enhance the quality of viewing experience of TV channels. TRAI is also of the view that the restriction on maximum duration of advertisements carried in the programmes of a TV channel, as prescribed in the Cable Television Networks Rules is to be effectively enforced on a clock hour basis, to ensure quality of service to the consumers. With regard to the reporting requirement, the TRAI is of the view that there should be a proper monitoring mechanism in place. Accordingly, a reporting requirement has been incorporated in the regulation wherein the broadcasters are required to furnish to the Authority a report in the proforma and at intervals as specified by the Authority, from time to time.

NBA in its representation and meetings with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and TRAI has explained all the issues involved (total dependence on advertising revenues, high carriage fees and little or no subscription revenues) and requested that the notification be kept in abeyance until digitisation is completed and the resultant benefits of no carriage fees and credible subscription revenues would accrue.

It was also explained that in so far as fixing the duration of maximum advertisements for channels was concerned, TRAI has only recommendatory or an advisory function. The final jurisdiction and authority to take decisions regarding the parameters for regulating maximum time for advertisements vests in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Also, under the garb of “regulation of advertisements” through TRAI imposed restrictions, hitting at the finances of news channels, amounts to “Control of Content” and these advertisement regulations are in violation of Article 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution of India, which entitles a citizen to *inter alia* carry-on any trade or business. Therefore, it was suggested to the TRAI that news channels should be exempted from this notification and an appropriate amendment be made in the Cable Act. Such exemption should be keeping in line with rest of the media such as newspapers, magazines, website etc., where there is no restriction on number of advertisements.

There has been no resolution in this matter. The matter is subjudice. The writ petition filed in the Delhi High Court is pending for final hearing.

Deletion of Rules 7(10) and 7(11) of the Cable TV Rules 1994 – Representation to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

As reported earlier, NBA has represented to the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting that Rules 7(10) and 7(11) are commercially unworkable and unconstitutional for the following reasons:

- The said Rules operate to regulate advertisements on television channels in a manner that amounts to “content regulation” and such regulation is anathema to the constitutional scheme in our country.
- Advertisements are part of the free speech guarantee contained in Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution of India, which is a fundamental right and a “preferred freedom” under the Constitutional scheme and any restriction upon such fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression can only be imposed by law which must pass the test of “reasonable restriction” within the meaning of the Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India, which the said Rules do not (as explained below).
- Advertising revenue is the lifeblood of the media and therefore restrictions imposed upon advertisements that may be carried on television channels would also amount to unreasonable restriction, violative of Article 19(1) (g) r/w 19(6) of the Constitution, which grants freedom to do business.
- Restrictions placed on advertisements will have the inevitable effect of exposing broadcasters to financial loss, by reason of decrease in advertisement inventory available with broadcasters.
- Restrictions placed on advertisements will also have the inevitable effect of a sharp increase in subscriptions charges payable by subscribers/viewers for pay channels.
- Restrictions on availability of advertising time would, in addition, have the inevitable effect of increase in advertisement rates, which would be detrimental to the interests of the small scale and medium enterprises and advertisers.
- Advertisements are not a pernicious evil nor are advertisements useless or purpose-less. Advertisements serve the purpose of informing viewers and consumers about goods and services; and of promoting consumption of goods and services, which is in the best interests of economic development of the country as a whole.

NBA therefore submitted that the existence of the said Rules on the Statute Book ought to be done away with keeping in mind the constitutional provisions of free speech and for the very survival of the news genre.

This issue has been taken up with Mr. Arun Jaitley, the then Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Information and Broadcasting. The final decision of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is awaited in the matter.

Fresh Security clearance before renewal of permission for next 10 years after expiry of its initial period of permission to TV channels/Teleports

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting vide Notice dated 28.3.2016 stipulated the requirements for “fresh Security clearance”, before renewal of the permission for next 10 years for Uplinking and/or Downlinking of TV channels and setting up of Teleports, which have been brought in as prescribed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). NBA has represented to the MHA that the details required to be submitted in the “Self Declaration” other than giving details of the Company, name and address of Owners, Promoters and Directors of the Company, the broadcasters would need to give details of preventive detention proceedings (PSA/NSA etc), criminal proceedings, against the Company/Owners/Directors/Promoters, details of detention/cases/FIR /warrant number/police station/District/Agency/Section of Law/name and place of the court, in respect of both India and any other foreign country.

NBA has represented to MHA that seeking such information from broadcasters is arbitrary, unwarranted and draconian and sets a dangerous precedent. Several defamation/criminal cases are filed against news broadcasters, in particular on the content aired on news channels, by individuals/rivals/political parties etc. on a daily basis. Such cases drag on for years. The final outcome is known only after several years. The mere existence of a criminal case/complaint against a broadcaster would become a ground for refusal/rejection of security clearance by the MHA. With such requirements, a broadcaster will never be able to get their security clearance from MHA for renewal of their permission by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

NBA represented to MHA that if there is no change in the shareholding of the Company or the Directors and since the broadcaster is already on air or holds permission for ten years, there should be no reference made to the MHA for any security clearance. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should automatically renew the permission under the provisions contained in the Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines, which are presently in force. Furnishing of such details, should not be a requirement even for broadcasters applying for permission for the first time.

The matter is being pursued at the highest levels in the MHA, the outcome of which is awaited.

Draft Geospatial Information Regulation Bill, 2016

The Ministry of Home Affairs sought comments/suggestions on the draft on “Geospatial Information Regulation Bill, 2016”, which inter alia was “to regulate the acquisition, dissemination, publication and distribution of geospatial information of India which was likely to affect the security, sovereignty and integrity of India”. NBA submitted its comments to MHA. NBA stated in its reply that there should be no need to include matters arising from internal geographies and features within the ambit of the Bill

since these would not affect the security, sovereignty and integrity of India. If there are certain areas in the country that the Central Government considered sensitive from the national security purposes, it may extend the application of the statute only to such areas; but not to the rest of the country. But ‘security, sovereignty and integrity of India’ should not be used as a catch-all phrase to bar all use of maps without Central Government permission. NBA submitted specific comments on various Sections of the Bill. NBA stated that on a perusal of the provisions of the Bill it appeared that in the process of achieving the above stated objective, the Bill overstepped its objectives and purpose. It violated the provisions of freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by the Constitution to its citizens and the media. NBA stated that the media uses, collects, publishes and broadcasts maps/locations as a part of its reporting and disseminating information to its viewers in respect of several events like natural disasters etc. It also relies on map based visualization for reporting events. It was pointed out that one of the main problems with the draft Bill was that no exceptions have been carved out for the media from licensing or the provision of free-to-use templates by the government which the media can easily access without any fear of punishment. NBA stated that the draft Bill needs to be reconsidered, modified and reframed so that it adheres strictly to its objective of protecting the geospatial maps of sensitive locations/areas rather than be an umbrella law which is problematic for all persons and organizations concerned. The draft Bill is too wide in its coverage and the penalties prescribed are too stringent.

NBA submitted that the draft Bill should be withdrawn for the following reasons:

1. It is draconian & goes against the grain of democracy
2. The provisions of this Bill need to be in sync with the draft National Geospatial Policy, which has been submitted by an Expert Committee to the Ministry of Science & Technology on which comments have been invited.
3. This draft bill seems to be in conflict with the Information Technology Act 2000, which also spells out the compliances required for use & storage of electronic data & records.
4. Technology having no boundaries, and the use of smart phones going to dominate, such draconian laws would be impossible to implement and would open the flood gates of litigation.
5. The initiatives of the Government like “Digital India”, “Stand Up India” & “Smart Cities” would have to be dropped as real time data is freely used and there is a lot of dependence on such data by multiple stakeholders.

It was also stated that news broadcasters very often have to rely on third party data and through “sources”, therefore need an enabling liberal legal framework to operate its business. NBA suggested that the draft Bill in the present form, may be dropped. Any future attempt to draw up this Bill must be only after there is consultation with all the stakeholders and after the National Geospatial Policy, has been passed and adopted by the Government. Even in those circumstances, the news broadcasters should be kept out of such draconian provisions as it impinges on the basic principles of freedom of speech & expression. Further there are enough existing laws, which can address the concerns expressed in the present Bill. There was no need to create more laws, which would be difficult to enforce & administer. NBA stated the draft Bill amounts to saying that mapping, photography and videography of geographical terrain is the sole preserve of the Central Government and a citizen (resident)/user has no right to engage in any such activity. The principles and the objectives of the National Geospatial Policy 2016 submitted to the Ministry of Science and Technology should also be considered while drafting/considering the present draft Bill or in the future.

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Meeting with Secretary, MoI&B

President, NBA and the Board members called on Secretary, MoI&B on 10.9.2015, to discuss issues relating to carriage fees, deletion of Rules 7(10) and 7(11) of the Cable TV Rules 1994, DAVP rates, recommendations of TRAI dated 12.8.2014 relating to issues of media ownership and for making the NBA Code of Ethics and the Redressal Regulations part of the Programme Code under the Cable TV Act. Another meeting was also held on 23.2.2016, to discuss the issue of ad cap matter pending before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

Re-constitution of the Committee for finalization of policy issues pertaining to print, electronic and new media for DAVP Advertisements

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MoI&B) vide its Order dated 2.7.2015, constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Special Secretary, MoI&B, to review the recommendations of the EAC for fixing the criterion for empanelment and also for fixation of rates for empanelled TV channels/radio stations. The Cost Advisor, Ministry of Finance, who is a member of the Committee, requested DAVP to collect information pertaining to income and expenditure of Pvt. C&S TV channels. NBA informed the then Special Secretary MoI&B that it would not be possible for the news broadcasters to give such detailed financial information for fixing DAVP rates. It was suggested that the methodology for fixing DAVP rates should be the reach of the channels based on BARC data. MoI&B convened a meeting on 19.8.2015, under the Chairmanship of the then Special Secretary, MoI&B, which was attended by Mr. Ashok Venkatramani, Vice President, NBA, Secretary General, NBA, Mr. Avinash Pandey and Mr. Sudipto Chowduri. Arising out of the discussions at the said meeting, a new format was issued by DAVP. Since, there was no change in the format and the same financial information was again being sought, no action was taken to submit the data to DAVP. Thereafter, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting vide Order No. 24013/90/2015-MUC(Pt.) dated 13.11.2015, notified re-constitution of a Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Special Secretary, MoI&B, to carry out a review and to finalize the guidelines and rate structure in Print Media, Private C&S Channels, Private FM Radio Stations, Internet Websites and Social Media besides examining the financial implication to the Government. It was observed that the terms of reference also included internet websites, which was not there in the earlier Order dated 2.7.2015. MoI&B requested NBA to nominate two representatives on the said Committee. Accordingly, NBA nominated Mr. Rajnish Rikhy and Mr. Sudipto Chowdhuri (representing private C&S channels) and Mr. Shouneel Charles (representing internet websites and social media - New media). The rates for the news genre have been submitted to the Committee. The Report of the Committee is awaited.

Guidelines for Central Government Advertisements on Websites

In a major policy initiative concerning Central Government advertisements on online platform, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting framed guidelines and criteria for empanelment of suitable agencies and rate fixation for advertisements on websites. The aim of the guidelines is to devise principles and instruments to streamline the release of Government advertisements on websites. The policy emphasizes that only websites which are owned and operated by Companies that are incorporated in India will be considered for empanelment by Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP). However, websites owned by foreign companies/origin can still be empanelled if such Companies have branch offices which are registered and operating in India for at least one year.

PAC Meeting of DAVP for Regional channel Empanelment

After a gap of two years, the Panel Advisory Committee (PAC) was convened by DAVP on 5.2.2016 for the empanelment of Regional C&S TV channels, which was attended by the Secretary General. A few broadcasters were granted empanelment. At the meeting among other issues, it was suggested that the DAVP along with the “on air certificate” should also seek information of the “distribution platform” of the channel as it was a critical piece of information for considering empanelment applications. DAVP agreed to take up the suggestion with the MoI&B, since the present guidelines did not require this information.

Meetings of the Task Force on implementation of Phase III & IV of Cable TV Digitisation

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has regularly convened meetings of the Task Force under the Chairmanship of the Secretary and the then Special Secretary, MoI&B to oversee the implementation of Phase III & IV of cable TV digitisation. For Phase III & IV of digitisation, MoI&B convened sixteen meetings. Secretary General, NBA attended the meetings. The seeding of set top boxes in Phase III has been very encouraging and has been fully successful in several States. Unfortunately, court cases have been filed for extension of the deadline of Phase III in various courts. For speedy disposal of the court cases and for the matters to be heard by one court, the MoI&B filed a petition in the Supreme Court of India for transfer of all the cases pending in various High Courts to the apex court or the High Court of Delhi with prayer for urgent hearing and quashing of the extension in deadline granted by the various courts. Supreme Court of India passed an order to transfer all cases for extension in Phase III deadline filed in various courts and any new cases on similar prayer to the Delhi High Court for adjudication. Some orders have been vacated by the Court, but several others are pending. The matter is being pursued by the MOI&B and broadcasters are also assisting in this regard.

Phase III of Cable TV Digitisation – Publicity by Broadcasters & MSOs

In public interest all Members of NBA carried the promo in Hindi and also the translated versions in Kannada, Telugu and Marathi, after incorporating their respective logos from 20.11.2015 to 31.12.2015, five times a day, including prime time. Members were also advised to run the following ticker from 20.11.2015 to 31.12.2015, at least two times in an hour.

“All Cable TV operators in urban areas (Phase-III) must switch to digital broadcasting from January 1, 2016. To avoid losing your cable TV services call your local operator to obtain a digital set-top box. A public interest message from the News Broadcasters Association”.

“डिजिटल डिजिटेशन के तीसरे चरण में आने वाले शहरी क्षेत्रों के सभी केबल आपरेटरों के लिए 1 जनवरी, 2016 से डिजिटल प्रसारण करना अनिवार्य है। आप अपने केबल आपरेटर से डिजिटल सेट टॉप बॉक्स प्राप्त करने के लिए सम्पर्क करें ताकि आपको केबल सेवाएं प्राप्त होती रहें। न्यूज ब्राडकास्टर्स एसोसिएशन द्वारा जनहित में जारी”।

Amendment in Programme and Advertising Code relating to depiction of animals/wild life in television programmes.

The then Special Secretary, MoI&B had convened a meeting to discuss the representation received from Hon’ble Minister for Women & Child Development and the Animal Welfare Board wherein they had raised certain concerns relating to depiction of animals on TV programmes/advertisements. GEC and many

regional news channels, which are not members of NBA were showing cruelty to animals or propagating superstition. It was suggested that an additional clause, be included in the Programme and Advertisement Code in the Cable Television Network Rule 1994. NBA submitted that the news genre cannot be subject to any restrictions as it has to report “news”, even if it meant that the subject matter being reported related to cruelty to animals. NBA would not support any amendment to the Programme and Advertising Code of Cable TV Rules, 1994 as there were provisions in the Cable Rules to take care of the concerns relating to the subject. It was also submitted that a broadcaster which is a member of NBA is bound by the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards/Regulations and any violation of the Codes/Guidelines are looked into by the NBSA. With regard to non members, the Animal Welfare Board or any person/entity could represent to the MoI&B to take action under the Cable TV Rules. NBA requested the then Special Secretary MoI&B not to proceed with the suggested amendments in the Cable Rules.

3rd Expert Committee meeting on reference of Secretary, MHRD regarding Copyright

The then Special Secretary MoI&B on 11.1.2016 had convened a meeting to discuss a specific clarification sought from the MoI&B by the Secretary Ministry of MHRD “whether broadcast included internet music” The meeting was attended by Secretary General NBA. It was clarified that this issue ought to be discussed in the Ministry of HRD, which deals with the Copyright Act/Rules & its implementation. MoI&B was informed that presently Section 31(d) of the Copyright Act limits itself only to Radio and TV. Therefore, for any amendment to the Copyright Act to include “internet or any other medium”, the Ministry of HRD should call the meeting of the stakeholders and not the MoI&B.

Suggestions invited on online media journalist accreditation – Press Information Bureau (PIB)

In view of the rapid changes in the medium of dissemination of news i.e. through online medium, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) thought it was necessary that the existing Accreditation Guidelines for journalists be brought in consonance with these changes. NBA responded to the questionnaire received from PIB, which *inter alia* related to the following:

1. The criteria for empanelment of online media agencies (such as number of unique visitors, number of page views etc.)?
2. What kind of analytical agency is capable of providing data regarding the criteria for empanelment?
3. What kind of entities should be covered under ‘online media’?
4. What should be the minimum percentage of news content carried by such an entity? What should be the mechanism for this verification?

The outcome of the submissions made to PIB are awaited.

Pre-budget consultation in respect of Information & Broadcasting Sector

A pre-budget consultation preceding the Union Budget 2016-17 in respect of Information & Broadcasting Sector was convened by MoI&B on 20.10.2015. The meeting on behalf of NBA was attended by the Secretary General, NBA, Mr. Ajay Mankotia, President Corporate Planning & Operations & Head of Legal, New Delhi Television Ltd., and Mr. Gulab Makhija, CFO - Independent News Services Private Ltd. A joint pre-budget Memorandum dated 23.10.2015 was submitted on behalf of NBA and IBF to MoI&B.

A pre-budget meeting was also convened for the Information & Broadcasting Sector on 3.2.2016, which was chaired by Secretary, Revenue, Ministry of Finance. The meeting was attended by all stakeholders of the broadcast industry. The discussions with Secretary Revenue, and officials of CBDT were very fruitful and the industry received some relief in the budget proposals for 2016-17.

Circular No. 04/2016 dated 29.2.2016 regarding TDS on payments by broadcasters or television channels to production houses for production of content or programme for telecasting and Circular No. 05/2016 dated 29.2.2016, regarding TDS on payments by television channels and publishing houses to advertising companies for procuring or canvassing for advertisements

NBA has been representing for the last several years to the CBDT on the subject. Mr. Narayan Rao, Board Member & former President had several meetings with the Chairperson/Member CBDT and other officials in the Ministry of Finance to get the appropriate amendments/clarifications from CBDT on the subject. This issue was also taken up with Secretary, Revenue and Member CBDT during the pre-budget meeting. The efforts put in for several years by NBA have yielded positive results this year. CBDT clarified vide Circular No. 04/2016 dated 29.2.2016, that in a case where the telecaster/broadcaster acquires only the telecasting/broadcasting rights of the content already produced by the production house, there is no contract for “carrying out any work” as required in Sub-Section (1) of Section 194C. Therefore, such payments are not liable for TDS under Section 194C. However, payments of this nature may be liable for TDS under other Sections under Chapter XVII-C of the Act. The CBDT also clarified through Circular No. 05/2016 dated 29.2.2016, that no TDS is attracted on payments made by television channels/newspaper companies to the advertising agencies for booking or procuring of or canvassing for advertisements. It has also been clarified that “commission” does not refer to payments by media companies to advertising companies for booking of advertisements but to payments for engagement of models, artists, photographers, sports persons, etc. and therefore is not relevant to the issue of TDS referred to in Circular No. 715 dated 8.8.1995.

Constitution of Three Members Committee to implement the Supreme Court Guidelines on Content Regulation of Government Advertising by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, while pronouncing its judgement on 13.5.2015 after hearing Writ Petition (Civil) No.13 of 2003 with Writ Petition (Civil) No.197 of 2004 and WP (Civil) No.302 of 2012, had directed that a three member body be constituted, consisting of persons with unimpeachable neutrality and impartiality and who have excelled in their respective fields for ironing out the creases that are bound to show from time to time in implementation of the Supreme Court Guidelines on Content Regulation of Government Advertising. In accordance with the direction of Hon’ble Supreme Court dated 13.5.2015 and based on the recommendations of the Selection Panel, the Competent Authority in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting constituted a three member committee comprising the following persons and notified vide Order NO. M-24013/17/2014-MUC (PtI) dated 6.4.2016:

1. Mr. B.B. Tandon, former Chief Election Commissioner of India : Chairperson
2. Mr. Rajat Sharma, Chairman & Editor-in-Chief of India TV and President of the News Broadcasters Association: Member
3. Mr. Piyush Pandey, Executive Chairman and Creative Director, South Asia, Ogilvy & Mather: Member
Mr. N.V. Reddy, ADG, DAVP is Member Secretary

Advisories issued by MoI&B

The following Advisories received from MoI&B, have been circulated to all Members & Editors of NBA for their information:

1. Dissemination of critical and vital information regarding all aspects of the disaster on real-time basis in the wake of unprecedented rainfall and consequential floods in Tamil Nadu and some other parts of Southern India dated 2.12.2015
2. Compliance of Court Order passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi – Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 2527/2015 & CRL. M.A. No. 17045/2015 – Geeta Sharma (Mother of Astha Sharma) vs. The Union of India & Anr. dated 29.12.2015,
3. Compliance of Hon'ble Delhi High Court's Order dated 19.1.2016 in the matter of movie Kya Kool Hain Hum 3 (CS Comm No 38/2016-Balaji Motion Pictures Ltd vs.www.1337.yootorrent.com & Ors.) dated 14.3.2016

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Meeting with Chairperson, TRAI

President NBA and Board members called on the Chairperson TRAI on 10.9.2015, to discuss issues relating to carriage and placement fees and to find an amicable solution to the same as it was crippling the news broadcasters. In the meeting, it was explained to the Chairperson, TRAI that digitisation of Phase I had shown some marginal decrease in carriage/placement fees. However, with several cities/towns getting digitized in the subsequent phases, the demand for carriage/placement fees was becoming exorbitant, which was severally impacting the finances of news broadcasters. It was impressed upon the Chairperson that if the TRAI did not intervene in the matter, several news broadcasters would have to close their establishments. We are awaiting some policy decision from the TRAI in this regard.

Consultation Paper on Tariff Issues related to TV Services

TRAI released a Consultation Paper on Tariff Issues related to TV Services on 29.1.2016. The objectives of the Consultation, *inter alia*, related to the following:

1. Carry out a review of existing tariff arrangements and developing a comprehensive Tariff Structure for Addressable TV Distribution of “TV Broadcasting Services” across Digital Broadcasting Delivery Platforms (DTH/Cable TV/HITS/IPTV) at wholesale and retail level.
2. Ensure that the tariff structure is simplified and rationalized so as to ensure transparency and equity across the value chain.
3. Ensure that subscribers have adequate choice in the broadcast TV services while they are also protected against irrational tariff structures and price hikes.
4. Encourage the investment in the TV sector.
5. Encourage production of good quality content across different genres.

Since the issues taken up in the Consultation Paper specifically related to the following issues, which are very critical to news broadcasters, NBA advised all its member broadcasters to respond individually to the

Consultation Paper. NBA responded to the following questions raised in the TRAI Consultation and other related issues.

1. Carriage fees
2. Placement fees
3. Marketing Fee
4. Variants of Channels
5. Channels visibility on EPG
6. Pay per programme viewing and tariff options
7. Audit & reporting issues related to tariff infrastructure for creation of a central facility set up by an industry body or a third party.

The concerns of NBA addressed to TRAI were as follows:

1. If any carriage fee is to be paid by the broadcasters, it must necessarily have a co relation with a subscriber base cited by the MSO/DPO verified by the central facility/auditor.
2. The broadcaster must be able to choose the city/ies and/or areas/regions within a city to which a channel may be carried and be made to pay carriage fee accordingly.
3. The rate of carriage fee per set top box per subscriber per channel per year must be strictly regulated by the TRAI and be reviewed not more often than annually.
4. The rate as aforesaid should vary depending on the genre, with due weightage being given to the significance of a genre e.g. the importance of news in a democracy.

NBA also participated in the Open House discussions. The recommendations are awaited.

Meeting convened by TRAI regarding carriage fee, placement fee, packaging fee paid by broadcasters to MSOs in DAS Phase-I and II areas

TRAI convened a meeting on 30.10.2015 with stakeholders to understand the issues relating to carriage and placement fees and to see if an amicable solution could be arrived at between stakeholders without regulations from the TRAI. The meeting was chaired by Chairperson, TRAI. The meeting on behalf of NBA was attended by Mrs. Anuradha Prasad, Board Member, Mr. Vikram Chandra, CEO NDTV and the Secretary General, NBA. NBA stated that carriage fee was not coming down post digitization and news broadcasters continued to pay huge sums both as carriage and placement fees (paid in various forms), with no benefit of subscription revenue in a digitized environment. NBA requested the TRAI to intervene and recommend reasonable carriage fees and opposed the payment of placement fee in whichever form to MSO's.

Commissioning of 2nd Compensation Bench Marking Survey

NBA negotiated with several vendors for commissioning the 2nd compensation bench marking survey. On conclusion of the negotiations, NBA decided to assign the task to Aon Hewitt for the survey on behalf of the following broadcasters who agreed to participate:

1. TV Today Network Ltd.
2. TV18 Broadcast Ltd.

3. New Delhi Television Ltd.
4. Bennett Coleman & Company Ltd.
5. ABP News Network Pvt Ltd.
6. Zee Media Corporation Ltd.
7. Mathrubhumi Printing & Publishing Company Ltd.

The survey has been successfully completed and the results have been shared by Aon Hewitt with the individual broadcasters.

Sharing of Election Data for Assembly Elections

NBA negotiated with A.C. Nielsen for the counting day election data for the Assembly elections held during the year in Bihar/Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry. 11/9 members broadcasters subscribed to the data.

Justice J.S. Verma Memorial Lecture

The 2nd Justice J.S. Verma Memorial Lecture will be held shortly.

Attack on Electronic Media

NBA condemned the assault by lawyers and others on journalists and cameramen, especially women journalists, who were reporting from Patiala House Court on 15.2.2016 when the President, JNU Students' Union was to be produced in the Court. NBA called it a cowardly attack meant to intimidate journalists carrying out their work in disseminating news and information, a service that is essential for any democratic society. NBA stated that this was an attack on the freedom of the press.

Corporate Matters

1. Membership

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

2. Office Bearers 2015-16

In terms of Article 26 of the Articles of Association, the following Directors were elected Office Bearers of the Association for the year 2015-16:

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

Vice President – Mr. Ashok Venkatramani (ABP News Network Pvt. Ltd.)

Honorary Treasurer – Mrs. Anuradha Prasad (News 24 Broadcast India Ltd.)

3. Meeting of HR Sub Committee

The HR Sub Committee met several times during the period under report. These meetings were necessitated in view of the commissioning of the Second Compensation Benchmarking Survey. The meetings were chaired by Mr. Ashok Venkatramani, Vice President NBA and CEO ABP News.

4. NBA Website and Mobile App

During the year under report a new website of NBA has been developed, which is more informative. For the benefit of viewers an online complaint form both in English & Hindi are available on the website

which is for the second level of redressal i.e., NBSA. Similarly, the broadcasters also have put up an online complaint form on their respective websites. Broadcasters have been advised that they shall continue to accept the complaints received by email/post/courier/person.

On the recommendation of the NBSA a mobile App is being launched soon for the day to day use of the editorial personnel for compliance of the Codes, Guidelines and Advisories, which would result in further improving broadcasting standards.

5. Registration of NBA Logo with Trade Mark Authority

As reported earlier NBA had applied for registration of the NBA logo with the Registrar of Trade Marks. Taj Trade Marks Prvt Ltd , Agra vide letter dated 22.2.2016 informed NBA that our logo has been published in the Trade Marks Journal and the date for obtaining the objections has been kept as 18.5.2016. If any objections were not received by the above stipulated period, our Trade Mark would be registered and if any objections were received, they would go by the law. If NBA wins, then the Registration certificate will be issued and not otherwise.

NBA received a Notice dated 18.6.2016 from “NBA Properties Inc”, USA, through their agent duly authorized under Section 145 of Trade Mark Act, 1999 opposing the registration of the trade mark on the ground that their client National Broadcasters Association, USA is the owner of the trademark “NBA”. NBA is filing a suitable reply to the opposition and would take necessary steps for obtaining the registration of the trade mark.

6. Allotment of Labour Identification No.

NBA has been allotted a Unique Identification Number called Labour Identification Number (LIN) 1-5979-6880-0 by the Shram Suvdha Portal of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

NBSA Matters

1. Meeting with Chairperson, Independent Members of NBSA and NBA Board

To discuss issues relating to NBSA, a meeting with the Chairperson and Independent Members of NBSA and NBA Board members was held on 6.4.2016. The meeting was attended by President, NBA and Mr. Ashish Bagga, Board Member.

2. Appointment/Re appointment of Editor Members of NBSA

During the year under report, Ms. Navika Kumar, Executive Editor – Politics, Times Now has been appointed a member on the NBSA representing the Editor category for a period of two years in place of Mr. Vivek Law, India Today TV. Ms. Manika Ahirwal Raikwar, Managing Editor - NDTV 24x7 & Editor Integration, whose term had expired on 11.3.2016, has been reappointed for another period of two years.

Sports Matters

1. ICC World Twenty20 2016 from 4.3.2016 to 4.4.2016

2. Vivo IPL matches from 9.4.2016 to 29.5.2016

For use of footage with regard to the above matches, member broadcasters were advised to strictly follow the NBA News Access Guidelines for One Day & T20 Cricket Matches. In addition to following the NBA

News Access Guidelines, Member Broadcasters who had separate arrangements with third party sources such as SNTV, APTN, Reuters etc. may use footage obtained from such third party sources in accordance with the contractual arrangements with such third parties. In addition to the above, members were advised to bear in mind the principles of general applicability relating to fair-dealing as laid-down by the Hon'ble Division Bench of the Delhi High Court in Judgment dated 11.10.2012 in case FAO (OS) 460 of 2012 titled "NDTV Ltd. vs. ICC Development (International) Ltd. & Anr." Members were also informed that in the event of any conflict or repugnance between NBA News Access Guidelines & the principles of general applicability laid down in the aforesaid judgement, the principles laid down by the Court will prevail.

3. XXXI Olympiad, Rio De Janerio 5-21 August 2016

Members of NBA were advised to follow the "News Access Rules Applicable for the Broadcast of the XXXI Olympiad, Rio De Janerio 5-21 August 2016. ("IOC News Access Rules"), issued by the International Olympic Committee.

BARC – Single Event Reporting Policy Amendment to BARC India Ratings – Principles of Fair and Permissible Usage

BARC India in July 2015, issued principles of fair and permissible usage regarding use of ratings in the public domain. NBA represented to BARC on 18.9.2015 that news broadcasters will not be able to abide by these principles as the news genre operates in a completely different environment. BARC India on 18.11.2015 amended its "Fair and Permissible Usage Policy Guidelines" that needed to be applied for commercial use of its data.

Policy for genre classification by BARC

BARC has issued policy for genre classification of television channels. The guidelines, which determine News & Business channels are as follows:

News

More than 60% of the TV Channel content for a given week averaged across a calendar quarter from 6:00 Hrs. – 26:00 Hrs. should be News, Talk Shows, Interviews.

Business News

More than 60% of the TV Channel content for a given week averaged across a calendar quarter from 6:00 Hrs. – 26:00 Hrs. should be News, Talk Shows, Interviews and 25% of the content should be Business & Finance.

Matters pending in the Supreme Court of India and High Courts

Supreme Court

Common Cause vs. Union of India: Civil Writ Petition No. 387 of 2000 is a petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a writ directing the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Home Affairs to prescribe norms and guidelines for observance by TV Channels, and to bring about conditions where under TV channels and producers adopt self-regulatory measures. Intervention application of NBA has been allowed and written submissions have also been filed NBA. The matter has not yet come up for hearing.

Hindu Janjagruti Samiti vs. Union of India and Ors.: Writ Petition (Civil) No. 963 of 2013 is a petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India seeking *inter alia* the framing and/or issuance of guidelines in the matter of regulation of television channels in India. NBA received notice in the matter. At the hearing on 15.1.2014, the Hon'ble Court observed that apart from the main Writ petition, namely, "Common Cause vs. Union of India and Ors. W.P. (C) No. 387 of 2000, the other two connected writ petitions i.e., W.P. (C) No. 880 of 2013 and W.P. (C) 1024 of 2013, had to be heard along with this petition. NBA filed its counter affidavit. The matter has not yet come up for hearing.

Media Watch-India vs. Union of India and Ors.: Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1024 of 2013 is a petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India seeking *inter alia* to establish systematic and deterrent "self-regulatory" mechanism for the electronic media and other detailed relief's in regard to content violations and grievances by/against such media. NBA received notice in the matter..The Hon'ble Court has posted this matter for hearing along with "Common Cause vs. Union of India and Ors. W.P.(C) No. 387 of 2000, and the other connected Writ Petitions i.e., W.P.(C) No. 880 of 2013 and W.P.(C) No. 963 of 2013. NBA has filed its counter affidavit. The matter has not yet come up for hearing.

People's Union for Civil Liberties and Anr. vs. The State of Maharashtra and Ors.: Criminal Appeal No. 1255 of 1999 pending before the Supreme Court of India arises from an Order passed by the Bombay High Court in Criminal Writ Petition No. 1146 of 1997 in relation to alleged fake encounter killings. The Hon'ble Court delivered its judgement dated 23.9.2014 in the matter titled "People's Union for Civil Liberties and Anr. vs. The State of Maharashtra and Ors." relating to the guidelines to be framed in cases of encounter killings which aspect of the matter does not concern the media or NBA. On the question of media briefing by the police, the Court heard the submissions made by the *amicus curiae*, NBA, NHRC & Dr Surat Singh. On behalf of NBA a compilation comprising the draft/suggested guidelines of police briefing of the media that had originally been drawn up in the ANHAD matter alongwith guidelines in vogue in England and New South Wales were presented to Court. After hearing the submissions, the Court directed the *amicus curiae*, to circulate a questionnaire to all the parties to which NBA has responded. The matter has not yet come up for hearing.

Dr. Surat Singh vs. Union of India and Ors.: Civil Writ Petition No. 316 of 2008 has been filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a writ 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's intervention application has been allowed; By interim Order dated 22.7.2008, which is continuing in the matter, the media has been directed by the Supreme Court to exercise restraint in reporting on the Aarushi case.. NBA was directed to circulate the draft Guidelines for Media Briefing by Police to the other counsel in the matter; and the Court also further directed that if any person had a grievance in relation to coverage of the Aarushi murder case by any electronic media organisation, they may file an application before the NBSA and that the NBSA had assured the Court that such application (complaint) would be dealt with as per NBSA's regulations. The matter is to be heard alongwith Criminal Appeal No. 1255 of 1999 titled "People's Union for Civil Liberties and Anr. vs. The State of Maharashtra and Ors.". The matters have not yet come up for hearing.

Act Now for Harmony and Democracy (ANHAD) and Anr. vs. Union of India and Ors.: Civil Writ Petition No. 7368 of 2008 before the Delhi High Court was filed under Article 226 of the Constitution

of India 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. The Court allowed NBA to intervene in the case. NBA had filed draft/suggested Guidelines for Media Briefing by Police, which were to be considered by the Court alongwith the guidelines suggested by the Petitioner. However, in the meantime, NBA's application filed in the Dr. Surat Singh matter pending before the Supreme Court (seeking transfer of this writ petition to be heard in the Supreme Court alongwith the Dr. Surat Singh matter) was allowed; and this matter is to be heard alongwith the Dr. Surat Singh matter. The matters have not yet come up for hearing.

M/s News Broadcasters Association and Anr. vs. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and Ors.: Civil Appeal No. 1525 of 2013 pending before the Supreme Court of India. The Civil Appeal has 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 "IndusInd Media Communication Ltd. vs. TRAI and Anr." NBA was granted leave to file additional grounds and substantial questions of law, NBA has filed its counter affidavit. The appeal of NBA is covered by the law as laid down by the Supreme Court on 6.12.2013 in Civil Appeal No. 5253 of 2010 (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. vs. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and Ors.) in NBA's favour. NBA moved an application in the matter bringing to the notice of the Hon'ble Court that this appeal is covered by the aforementioned BSNL Judgment and therefore the Court may dispose of the matter on the basis of the said Judgment.. The matter has not yet come up for hearing.

IndusInd Media and Communications Limited and Anr. vs. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and Ors. (TRAI): Civil Appeal No. D3009 of 2013 This Civil Appeal has been filed by IndusInd Media and Communications Ltd. 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 "IndusInd Media Communication Ltd. vs. TRAI and Anr. NBA has filed its counter affidavit in the matter. This appeal is connected with the appeal titled "M/s News Broadcasters Association and Anr. vs. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and Ors." Civil Appeal No. 1525 of 2013. The appeal of NBA in this case is covered by the law as laid down by the Supreme Court on 06-12-2013 in Civil Appeal No. 5253 of 2010 (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. vs. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and Ors.) in NBA's favour. NBA moved an application in the matter bringing to the notice of the Hon'ble Court that this Appeal is covered by the aforementioned BSNL Judgment and therefore the Court may dispose of the matter on the basis of the said Judgment. The matter has not yet come up for hearing.

Delhi High Court

M/s News Broadcasters Association and Ors. vs. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India: Writ Petition (Civil) No. 7989 of 2013 has been filed by the NBA and its other members under Article 226 of the Constitution of India 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. At the hearing on 17.12.2013, the petition has been admitted for final hearing; parties have been directed to complete the pleadings; and in the interim the TRAI has been restrained from taking any coercive measures to make NBA members abide by the impugned Regulations. NBA members have been directed to file weekly reports of advertising time minutage in prescribed format before the TRAI. TRAI has filed its counter affidavit NBA has filed it's rejoinder to the counter affidavit of TRAI. The Standing Counsel for the Central Government appeared before the Hon'ble Court and supported NBA's submission that it was in discussions with the Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting (MIB) to sort out the issues in the matter. The Standing Counsel sought 6 to 8 weeks time in order that the issues in the matter may be resolved. The interim orders were continued. The matter has come up on several times before the Court for hearing. However due to lack of time the matter has not yet been heard. The matter is posted for hearing on 29.9.2016.

Kantar Market Research Services Pvt. Ltd. and Anr. vs. Union of India and Ors.: Writ Petition Civil No. 494 of 2014 pending before Delhi High Court. This petition has been filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking *inter alia* the Order or direction quashing the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India challenging paras 1.7(a), 1.7(d) as well as 16.1 and 16.2 of the “Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India” published on 16.1.2014 by Union of India which prohibits crossholding between Rating Agencies and Advertising Agencies.. They also relied upon Section 11 (1) (a) (iv) and (vii) of the TRAI Act to submit that TRAI had no jurisdiction to recommend the impugned guidelines. NBA filed its Counter Affidavit. NBA has recently filed an application seeking withdrawal from the matter on the above date for the reason that TAM is not in the business of being a rating agency anymore and BARC has become fully operational.

Court on its own motion vs. Union of India and Ors.: Writ Petition (Civil) No. 787 of 2012 pending before Delhi High Court: This writ petition had been initiated by the Delhi High Court on the basis of a Letter Petition filed by Mr. Anant Asthana, Advocate drawing the attention of the Court to the on going media reportage relating to two year old baby girl named Falak who was admitted at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and another 15 year old minor girl who had allegedly brought baby Falak to Hospital. By its Order dated 8.2.2012 the Court recorded that the issue related to the violation of particular provisions *inter alia* of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 by causing breach of privacy by revealing the name/s and identity/ies of the children and the Court expressed that it would frame guidelines for media reportage of such situations. NBA moved an intervention application in the matter, which was allowed. The Court permitted NBA to nominate a representative on the Committee. Secretary General, NBA was nominated on the Committee. By order dated 8.8.2012, the Court directed that the guidelines so finalized insofar as media is concerned, be implemented with immediate effect. On 4.9.2013, the petitioner sought further time to bring on record the further proposed guidelines for stakeholders other than media for reporting on children. After coming up on several dates, the matter came up for hearing on 13.7.2016 when the Court disposed of the matter with the observation that if the petitioner had any suggestions it could raise these suggestions before the Committee. The Court also stated that it would pass a detailed order in the matter subsequently. The Order is awaited.

M/s Zee Media Corporation Ltd. Versus M/s News Broadcasting Standards Authority and Anr: CS (OS) NO. 93 OF 2016 pending before the Hon’ble Delhi High Court has been filed by M/s Zee Media Corporation Ltd. against News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) and the Mumbai District Central Cooperative Bank Ltd seeking a Declaration and a Permanent and Mandatory injunction and directions against NBSA’s orders dated 28.7.2015, 23.10.2015, 23.11.2015 and 18.2.2016 stating that directions passed by NBSA to Zee Media to run a regret in respect of the programs telecast on 15.1.2015 and 16.1.2016 are arbitrary and illegal. On 2.2.2016 the matter came up for hearing and the Hon’ble Court granted an *ex parte* interim injunction staying the implementation of the above Orders till the next date and posted the matter to 8.8.2016 before Court. NBSA in the meantime filed its written submissions. The matter is now listed on 17.1.2017.

Karnataka High Court

Shri Shakeel Ahmed and Ors. vs. Suvarna News 24 x 7 and Ors.: Writ Petition No. 13677 of 2012 pending before the High Court of Karnataka at Bangalore: This writ petition filed by Shri Shakeel Ahmed, Advocate, under Article 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India seeks to stop the broadcast of programmes on various TV channels, in which it is alleged that programmes are pre-planned, recorded and broadcast depicting premeditated violence being committed upon persons, in collusion and connivance with TV channels, with a view to denigrating and defaming such persons to seek revenge (described in the petition as premeditated, violent, personal enmity programmes). The Court had issued notice and asked the Respondents to file their versions in the matter. The matter was posted for consideration last on 12.12.2012 on which date it was adjourned for hearing to a later date. Counsel in Bangalore has informed that the matter is being routinely listed everyday since April 2015, if the matter is taken up for hearing before the end of the day, some activity might transpire, as of now nothing has changed. An application for deletion from the array of parties is being filed.

Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court

Dr. Nutan Thakur vs Union of India Writ Petition No. 9976 of 2013 (M/B) before the Lucknow Bench. Aggrieved by the impugned order dated 16.10.2013, passed by the NBSA, Dr. Nutan Thakur filed the above 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. The Court has also alluded to the issue of paid news appearing sometimes on the electronic media, which the Court has described as a well established fact. The Union of India has been directed to file an affidavit bringing on record its stand as regards providing some statutory forum like PCI against the news item and other material relating to electronic media. The counter affidavit on behalf NBA has been filed and the rejoinder has been filed by Dr. Nutan Thakur, which has been received. The matter was posted before Court last on 19.5.2014. The matter has not got listed for hearing thereafter.

News Broadcasting Standards Authority

Attached is a separate Section - II in relation to the initiatives of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority during the year under report.

Place: New Delhi
August 3, 2016

By Order of the Board of Directors of
News Broadcasters Association



Rajat Sharma
President

Annexure - 1

Members of News Broadcasters Association

Members

S. No.	Name of the Broadcaster Member	Channel(s)
1.	ABP News Network Pvt. Ltd.	ABP News, ABP Majha, ABP Anando, ABP Asmita
2.	Asianet News Network Pvt. Ltd.	Asianet News, Suvarna News
3.	Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.*	Times Now, ET Now, Magicbricks Now
4.	Business Broadcast News Pvt. Ltd.	BTVi
5.	Direct News Pvt. Ltd.	News X
6.	Eenadu Television Pvt. Ltd.	ETV-Andhra Pradesh, ETV-Telangana
7.	Independent News Service Pvt. Ltd.	India TV
8.	Malayalam Communications Ltd.	Kairali, People
9.	Mathrubhumi Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd.	Mathrubhumi News
10.	MM TV Ltd.	Manorama News Central
11.	New Delhi Television Ltd.	NDTV24x7, NDTV India, NDTV Profit
12.	New24 Broadcast India Ltd.	News 24
13.	News Nation Network Pvt. Ltd.	News Nation, News State Uttarakhand/Uttar Pradesh
14.	Panorama Television Pvt. Ltd.	ETV UP/Uttarakhand, ETV Rajasthan, ETV MP/Chattisgarh, ETV Bihar/Jharkhand, ETV Urdu, ETV News Bangla, ETV News Kannada, ETV Haryana/HP, ETV News Gujarati, ETV News Odia
15.	SUN TV Network Ltd.	Sun News, Gemini News, Udaya Varthagalu
16.	TV18 Broadcast Ltd.*	CNN NEWS18, IBN7, CNBC Bazaar, CNBC TV18, CNBC Awaaz
17.	TV Today Network Ltd.	Aajtak, India Today, Dilli Aajtak, Tez
18.	Zee Media Corporation Ltd.	Zee News, Zee Business, Zee 24 Taas, Zee Sangam, Zee Kalinga, Zee Madhya Pradesh Chattisgarh, Zee Punjab Haryana Himachal, Zee Marudhara

*Permission is awaited from MIB

Associate Members

19.	Hyderabad Media House Ltd.	HMTV
20.	IBN Lokmat News Pvt. Ltd.	IBN Lokmat
21.	Indira Television Ltd.	Sakshi
22.	Odisha Television Ltd.	OTV
23.	Total Telefilms Pvt. Ltd.	Total TV

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Members of News Broadcasters Association

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of News Broadcasters Association, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2016 and Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements comprising of a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Company Board of Directors is responsible for the matters stated in Section 134(5) of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") with respect to the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of financial positions, financial performance in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, including the Accounting Standard specified under Section 133 of the Act, read with Rule 7 of the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014. The responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provision of this act for safeguarding the assets of the company and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of adequate accounting policies; making judgement and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; the design implementation and maintenance of internal controls that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We have taken into account the provision of this Act, the accounting and auditing standards and matters which are required to be included in the audit report under the provision of the Act and rules made thereunder.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing specified under Section 143(10) of the Act. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of the material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's

internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give the information required by the Act in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

- a. In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Company as at March 31, 2016 and
- b. In the case of the Income & Expenditure account, of the Surplus for the year ended on that date.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

This report does not include a statement on the matters specified in paragraph 3 & 4 of the Companies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2015 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.

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 dealt with by this Report are in agreement with the books of account;
- d. In our opinion, the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account 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, 2016, and taken on record by the Board of Directors, none of the Directors is disqualified as on March 31, 2016, from being appointed as a Director in terms of Section 164(2) of the Companies Act, 2013.
- f. The Company has adequate internal financial control systems in place and it is operating effectively.
- 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, 2016.

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.

For **S. S. Kothari Mehta & Co.**

Chartered Accountants

Firm Regn. No. 000756N

Sd/-

Naveen Aggarwal

Partner

(Membership No. 094380)

Place: New Delhi

Date: August 3, 2016

Annexure A to the Independent Auditor's Report of even date on the Financial Statement of News Broadcasters Association

Report on the Internal Financial Controls under Clause (i) of Sub-Section 3 of Section 143 of the Companies Act, 2013.

We have audited the internal financial controls over financial reporting of News Broadcasters Association (Company) as at 31 March 2016 in conjunction with our audit of the Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended on that date.

Management's Responsibility for Internal Financial Controls

The Company's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal financial controls based on the internal control over financial reporting criteria established by the Company considering the essential components of internal control stated in the Guidance Note on Audit of Internal Financial Controls Over Financial Reporting ('the Guidance Note') issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India ('the ICAI'). These responsibilities include the design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls that were operating effectively for ensuring the orderly and efficient conduct of its business, including adherence to company's policies, the safeguarding of its assets, the prevention and detection of frauds and errors, the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, and the timely preparation of reliable financial information, as required by the provisions of Companies Act, 2013 ('the Act').

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal financial controls over financial reporting based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Guidance Note on Audit of Internal Financial Controls Over Financial Reporting and the Standards on Auditing, issued by ICAI and deemed to be prescribed under Section 143(10) of the Companies Act, 2013, to the extent applicable to an audit of internal financial controls, both applicable to an audit of Internal Financial Controls and, both issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards and the Guidance Note require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether adequate internal financial controls over financial reporting was established and maintained and if such controls operated effectively in all material respects.

Our audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the adequacy of the internal financial controls system over financial reporting and their operating effectiveness. Our audit of internal financial controls over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal financial controls over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on the Company's internal financial controls system over financial reporting.

Meaning of Internal Financial Controls over Financial Reporting

A Company's internal financial control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A Company's internal financial control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorisations of management and Directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorised acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Inherent Limitations of Internal Financial Controls over Financial Reporting

Because of the inherent limitations of internal financial controls over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projections of any evaluation of the internal financial controls over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the internal financial control over financial reporting may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Opinion

In our opinion, the Company has, in all material respects, an adequate internal financial controls system over financial reporting and such internal financial controls over financial reporting were operating effectively as at March 31, 2016, based on the internal control over financial reporting criteria established by the Company considering the essential components of internal control stated in the Guidance Note on Audit of Internal Financial Controls Over Financial Reporting issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

For S.S. Kothari Mehta & Co.

Chartered Accountants

Firm Registration Number: 000756N

Sd/-

(Naveen Aggarwal)

Partner

Membership Number: 094380

Place: New Delhi

Date: August 3, 2016

NEWS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2016

(Figures in Rs.)

Particulars	Note No.	As at 31 st March, 2016	As at 31 st March, 2015
I. EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
(1) Members' Funds			
(a) Entrance Fees	1	17,00,000	17,00,000
(b) Reserves and Surplus	2	3,22,24,645	3,05,51,603
(2) Non-Current Liabilities			
(a) Long term Provisions	3	13,43,925	10,79,730
(3) Current Liabilities			
(a) Short term Provisions	4	1,31,092	1,55,313
(b) Other current Liabilities	5	48,53,289	86,03,855
TOTAL		4,02,52,951	4,20,90,501
II. ASSETS			
(1) Non-Current Assets			
(a) Fixed Assets			
(i) Tangible Assets	6	34,84,584	44,41,060
(b) Other Non-current assets	7	1,89,000	1,89,000
(2) Current Assets			
(a) Trade Receivables	8	-	80,340
(b) Cash and Cash Equivalents	9	3,38,06,663	3,49,94,290
(c) Short-Term Loans and Advances	10	5,34,420	2,04,809
(d) Other Current assets	11	22,38,284	21,81,002
TOTAL		4,02,52,951	4,20,90,501

Significant accounting policies and other Notes to accounts 16-25

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

Sd/- (Naveen Aggarwal) Partner	Sd/- Rajat Sharma President	Sd/- Ashok Venkatramani Vice President	Sd/- Anuradha Prasad Honorary Treasurer	Sd/- Annie Joseph Secretary General
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M No.: 094380

Place: New Delhi

Dated: August 3, 2016

NEWS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 2016

(Figures in Rs.)

Particulars	Note No.	Year ended 31 st March, 2016	Year ended 31 st March, 2015
Income			
I. Subscription	12	1,06,00,000	1,16,00,000
II. Other Income	13	29,61,549	31,14,813
III. Total Income (I + II)		1,35,61,549	1,47,14,813
IV. Expenditure			
Employee Benefit Expenses	14	63,90,380	58,40,066
Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	6	10,57,338	5,43,123
Administrative and Other Expenses	15	44,40,789	54,50,470
Total Expenditure		1,18,88,507	1,18,33,659
V. Surplus before Tax (III - IV)		16,73,042	28,81,154
VI. Tax Expense:			
(1) Current tax		—	—
(2) Deferred Tax		—	—
VII. Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year (V - VI)		16,73,042	28,81,154

Significant accounting policies and other Notes to accounts 16-25

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

Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-
(Naveen Aggarwal)	Rajat Sharma	Ashok Venkatramani	Anuradha Prasad	Annie Joseph
Partner	President	Vice President	Honorary Treasurer	Secretary General

M No.: 094380

Place: New Delhi

Dated: August 3, 2016

NEWS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

NOTES FORMING PART OF BALANCE SHEET

(Figures in Rs.)

NOTE # 1		
Members Funds		
Particulars	As at 31st March, 2016	As at 31st March, 2015
Entrance Fees		
Entrance fees as per last Balance Sheet	17,00,000	15,50,000
Addition during the year	–	1,50,000
	17,00,000	17,00,000
NOTE # 2		
Reserve & Surplus		
Particulars	As at 31st March, 2016	As at 31st March, 2015
(a) Capital Reserve		
As per last Balance Sheet	50,000	50,000
	50,000	50,000
(b) Special Reserve		
As per last Balance Sheet	1,56,75,342	1,88,62,037
Addition/(Transfer) during the year (Refer Note 22)	8,59,481	(31,86,695)
	1,65,34,823	1,56,75,342
(c) Surplus i.e. Balance in the Statement of Income & Expenditure		
As per last Balance Sheet	63,26,261	87,58,413
Addition during the year	16,73,042	28,81,153
Less: Amount transferred to Corpus Fund	(15,00,000)	(85,00,000)
Less: (Appropriations)/transfer to/from special reserve	8,59,481	31,86,695
	56,39,822	63,26,261
(d) Corpus Fund (Refer Note 24)		
As per last Balance Sheet	85,00,000	–
Addition Amount transferred from Income & Expenditure A/c	15,00,000	85,00,000
	1,00,00,000	85,00,000
	3,22,24,645	3,05,51,603
NOTE # 3		
Long term Provisions		
Particulars	As at 31st March, 2016	As at 31st March, 2015
Provision for Gratuity (Refer Note 23)	13,43,925	10,79,730
	13,43,925	10,79,730

(Figures in Rs.)

NOTE # 4								
Short term Provisions								
Particulars	As at 31 st March, 2016			As at 31 st March, 2015				
Other Provisions								
Provision for expenses	1,31,092			1,55,313				
	1,31,092			1,55,313				
NOTE # 5								
Other Current Liabilities								
Particulars	As at 31 st March, 2016			As at 31 st March, 2015				
Subscription Received in Advance	–			72,00,000				
Others	48,53,289			14,03,855				
	48,53,289			86,03,855				
NOTE # 6								
Tangible Assets								
Particulars	Gross Block			Depreciation			Net Block	
	Balance As at 1 April 2015	Additions	Balance as at 31 March 2016	Balance as at 1 April 2015	Depreciation for the Year	Balance as at 31 March 2016	Balance as at 31 March 2016	Balance as at 31 March 2015
Computer	4,93,628	–	4,93,628	4,55,347	5,569	4,60,916	32,712	38,281
Office Equipment	6,94,423	94,699	7,89,122	1,87,435	1,35,755	3,23,190	4,65,932	5,06,988
Furniture & Fixtures	17,500	6,163	23,663	3,048	2,155	5,203	18,460	14,452
Leasehold Improvement	43,01,401	–	43,01,401	4,20,062	9,13,859	13,33,921	29,67,480	38,81,339
Total	55,06,952	1,00,862	56,07,814	10,65,892	10,57,338	21,23,230	34,84,584	44,41,060
Previous Year	7,07,920	47,99,032	55,06,952	5,22,769	4,89,170	10,65,892	44,41,060	1,85,151
NOTE # 7								
Other Non-Current assets								
Particulars	As at 31 st March, 2016			As at 31 st March, 2015				
Security Deposit	1,89,000			1,89,000				
				-				
	1,89,000			1,89,000				

(Figures in Rs.)

NOTE # 8		
Trade Receivables		
Particulars	As at 31st March, 2016	As at 31st March, 2015
Unsecured considered good		
Outstanding for a period less than six months	-	80,340
	-	80,340
NOTE # 9		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Particulars	As at 31st March, 2016	As at 31st March, 2015
Balance with Banks:		
In Current account	8,16,474	57,25,049
Cash on Hand:	3,834	21,045
	8,20,308	57,46,094
Current portion		
Fixed Deposits with Bank	3,29,86,355	2,92,48,196
	3,38,06,663	3,49,94,290
NOTE # 9.1		
Fixed Deposits with Bank		
Particulars	As at 31st March, 2016	As at 31st March, 2015
Fixed Deposits with Bank		
- Upto 12 months maturity from date of acquisition	3,29,86,355	2,77,48,196
- Maturity more than 12 months but within one year from the reporting date		15,00,000
Shown as Current Assets	3,29,86,355	2,92,48,196
NOTE # 10		
Short term Loans and Advances		
Particulars	As at 31st March, 2016	As at 31st March, 2015
Unsecured considered good		
- Advances recoverable in cash or Kind or value to be received	4,78,756	1,49,145
TDS Receivable	55,664	55,664
	5,34,420	2,04,809
NOTE # 11		
Other Current Assets		
Particulars	As at 31st March, 2016	As at 31st March, 2015
Interest accrued on Fixed deposits	22,38,284	21,81,002
	22,38,284	21,81,002

(Figures in Rs.)

NOTE # 12		
Revenue From Operations		
Particulars	Year Ended 31st March, 2016	Year Ended 31st March, 2015
Subscription	1,06,00,000	1,16,00,000
	1,06,00,000	1,16,00,000
NOTE # 13		
Other Income		
Particulars	Year Ended 31st March, 2016	Year Ended 31st March, 2015
Interest Income	29,04,199	30,13,159
Miscellaneous Income	57,350	1,01,654
	29,61,549	31,14,813
NOTE # 14		
Employee Benefit Expenses		
Particulars	Year Ended 31st March, 2016	Year Ended 31st March, 2015
Salaries and Wages	56,22,949	51,05,498
Contribution to Provident Fund	4,87,776	4,47,473
Gratuity Expense	2,64,195	2,62,602
Staff Welfare Expenses	15,460	24,493
	63,90,380	58,40,066
NOTE # 15		
Administrative & Other Expenses		
Particulars	Year Ended 31st March, 2016	Year Ended 31st March, 2015
Printing & Stationary	1,64,121	1,88,259
Legal & Professional Charges	12,12,068	21,17,130
Meeting Expenses	5,25,180	8,05,143
Newspapers, Books & Periodicals	35,717	58,256
Communication Expenses	1,06,587	1,22,740
Travelling & Conveyance Expenses	9,96,351	9,98,424
Rent & Electricity	10,29,036	9,24,984
Website Maintenance Expenses	2,15,361	50,139
Repairs & Maintenance-Computer	2,749	1,100
Repairs & Maintenance- Building	57,984	1,11,516
Repairs & Maintenance- Equipment	1,820	–
Office Insurance-Noida	8,974	–
Miscellaneous Expenses	16,343	7,299
Interest on TDS	–	5,180
Auditor Remuneration:		
Audit Fee	64,703	57,000
Out of pocket expenses	3,795	3,300
	44,40,789	54,50,470

16. Brief information of the Company

News Broadcasters Association is a Company Limited by Guarantee not having a Share Capital, not for Profit 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
Office Equipment	5
Furniture & Fixture	10

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 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 Companies Act 2013, read with Rule 7 of Companies (Accounts) Rules 2014. 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 2016. 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 (Sec. 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.13,41,326/- from special reserve created under Section 11 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, towards the objectives as stated above.
23. 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.

24. During the year Board of Director, decided to set aside some portion 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.

25. 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

For and on behalf of the Board

Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-
(Naveen Aggarwal)	Rajat Sharma	Ashok Venkatramani	Anuradha Prasad	Annie Joseph
Partner	President	Vice President	Honorary Treasurer	Secretary General

M No.: 094380

Place: New Delhi

Dated: August 3, 2016

Section II

NEWS BROADCASTING STANDARDS AUTHORITY

During the year under report, NBSA met regularly under the Chairmanship of Justice R.V. Raveendran, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India and took actions so as to ensure that the broadcasters adhered to the NBA/NBSA regulations, which would improve broadcasting standards.

NBSA has had seven meetings during the year under report and all the meetings were held in New Delhi. NBSA in these meetings considered, reviewed and decided 198 complaints which includes complaints received directly by broadcasters and settled at the first level, complaints considered at the second level i.e. NBSA, suo motu action and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The MoI&B has been proactively sending all the complaints/petitions they receive with regard to the members of NBA to the NBSA for consideration. NBSA after considering the complaints and hearing the parties or otherwise issued necessary decisions/orders.

Complaints received from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Complaint dated 5.2.2015, received from Mr. Rajeev Ranjan regarding telecast of objectionable content/news report by ABP News on 3.2.2015

The complaint is that the opinion poll surveys and news reports shown on ABP News during State Assembly elections were either “managed news” or “paid news”, which it is alleged, that ABP news projected as original news. The complainant alleged that ABP news channel behaved in an absurd manner during assembly elections; that during Jharkhand assembly elections in December 2014, ABP news showed news that Mr. Munda was the most popular face of Jharkhand and more than 45 percent people of Jharkhand wanted to see him as CM; that similarly on 3.2.2015 it suddenly started giving 35 to 48 seats to AAP party for Delhi assembly election which was not possible; the complainant strongly felt it was not the right time to show opinion poll and that the programme was a managed opinion poll. The complainant further alleged that the sample size of the survey (that only 4,000 to 5,000 persons were asked to give their opinion) was not disclosed.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, the reply and the clarification from the broadcaster, and also viewed the CD. NBSA noted that the broadcast in question appeared to be a review of various polls. There appeared to be no violation. The claim of the complainant that in regard to the broadcasts relating to polls, the broadcaster should disclose to the Election Commission the names, addresses and phone number of persons who gave their opinion, has no merit. NBSA therefore decided to close the complaint with a reminder to the broadcaster to follow and observe the “Guidelines for Election Broadcasts” and also inform any external agency engaged by it, about the need to follow the said Guidelines to ensure compliance.

Complaint dated 20.6.2015 from Mr. Vijoy Jha regarding debates on Times Now channel

The complainant while referring to content related issues in a general manner has also expressed his views about the manner in which debates were conducted on Times Now channel.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint and the response from the broadcaster. NBSA was of the view that the complaint was an expression of a general opinion of a viewer and there was no reference to any violation of Regulations or Guidelines. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter, and inform the MoI&B, complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint dated 24.6.2015 from Mr. Nilanjan Majumdar regarding telecast of a programme on NDTV 24x7 on 21.6.2015 on Yoga Goes Global

The complaint is the comment made by Mr. Sanjay Hegde, Senior Advocate, in the programme ‘Yoga Goes Global’ that banning beef is not constitutional, which according to the complainant was not right; and such statements should have been deleted/edited.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint and the response and also viewed the CD. It found no violation of any Regulations or Guidelines. NBSA noted that in a debate based show, individuals are invited to express their views and opinions. The view or perception of a participant on an issue cannot be a ground or grievance or complaint. Further, expression of an opinion that something is constitutional or unconstitutional being an opinion on a legal issue, cannot be objected to, in a democracy. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform MoI&B, complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint dated 2.6.2015 from Mr. Vasudeo J. Sharma, State President, All India Anti Corruption Committee, Pune, regarding telecast of objectionable content/news report by news channels

The complaint is that ‘media’ is poisoning the relationship between Hindus and Muslims to bring disgrace to BJP government and that should be stopped forthwith.

Decision

NBSA noted that the contents of the complaint were an expression of a general opinion of a viewer and not a specific complaint against any particular channel or any particular programme. The complaint does not disclose any violation of the NBA/NBSA Regulations/Guidelines. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the MoI&B and complainant accordingly.

Alleged violation of the content by NDTV 24x7 news channel while reporting a suicide, on 7.10.2015.

A report from the Electronic Media Monitoring Committee (EMMC) was regarding a news report carried on NDTV 24x7 on 7.10.2015 about a seventeen years old athlete committing suicide by hanging herself, was forwarded by MoI&B. While telecasting the news, the channel had shown visuals of the teenagers hanging body, which was shown without any editing/blurring and the camera had captured the hanging body from behind.

Decision

NBSA considered the report from EMMC, response from the broadcaster and also viewed the CD. The broadcaster admitted that they had inadvertently shown the body of the athlete. They requested NBSA to consider the breach as an aberration and not a norm before taking any decision. NBSA noted that the visuals of the hanging body of the athlete were not adequately morphed and were clearly visible. This was a violation of the Guidelines. In view of admission by the broadcaster and the submission that it was an inadvertent aberration, NBSA decided to close the matter with a warning to the broadcaster to be more careful in future.

Complaints regarding airing of programmes with regard to Radhey Maa on ABP News, IBN7 & News 24

NBSA noted that the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting had forwarded nine complaints regarding airing of programmes with regard to Radhey Maa on the said channels. The purport of the complaint was that the broadcasters had invited some specific panelists on the debate, whose main intent was to defame Radhey Maa and to represent her in bad light. It was also alleged that the broadcast defamed Radhe Maa. The complainants demanded that the broadcasters be directed not to telecast the said program and/or to broadcast any further programmes having Ms. Dolly Bindra, Mr. Surinder Mittal, Ms. Arshi Khan and others having similar views as guests failing which they will be forced to file a criminal case against the channels under appropriate sections of Indian Penal Code, and Information and Technology Act.

Decision

NBSA considered the responses of ABP News & IBN 7 and also viewed the programme aired on all the three channels. NBSA noted with regret that News 24 had chosen not to respond to the complaint. NBSA noted that as alleged by the complainants, the broadcasters had a panel discussion with panelists, some of whom were both supporters of Radhey Maa and some who were not and all the panelists were given opportunity to present their views. NBSA found that the views expressed by those opposed to Radhey Maa were not defamatory. Nor were the broadcasters prejudiced against Radhey Maa. NBSA noted that the broadcasters had the editorial freedom to structure the programme as they deemed fit and were free to invite individuals of their choice for debates. NBSA found no violation of its Regulations or Guidelines and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaints. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the MoI&B, the complainants and the broadcasters accordingly.

Complaint from Mr. Mahak Jaini regarding telecast of alleged objectionable news report by ABP News on 8.10.2015

The complaint was regarding content aired on ABP News on 3.10.2015 about the beef lynching incident in Dadri and stated that an innocent animal had been unjustly and unfairly blamed for being the cause of community violence; and that the media had a responsibility in communicating facts and not instigating acts of violence. The complainant quoted various religious texts, which refers to the status of the cow.

Decision

NBSA found no violation of any Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the MoI&B, complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

“Making of alleged fake news by Aajtak TV channel involving a child who was kicked by a Minister”

MoI&B brought to the notice of NBA that it had come across creation of some ‘fake news’ by Aajtak TV. It stated that some TV channels and social media sites had shown a stringer/reporter of Aajtak TV channel inciting a boy (who was involved in an incident in which a Minister of State of Madhya Pradesh allegedly kicked the boy, earlier reported by the media), with an offer of liquor and money to make some ‘tutored’ statement on the incident. The footage showed that the boy was being aggressively prompted to make a statement as suggested by the reporter, much against his will. It was disturbing to see a traumatised child being subjected to inducements with attempts of coercion, to put words into his mouth and extract a particular description of an event suggested by the stringer. Even as the child was visibly sobbing and crying, the stringer of the channel was building up pressure on him to speak out ‘his lines’ followed by an offer of liquor. MoI&B stated that the stringer was “making” fake news and appeared to have compromised the basic principles of journalism, which has been prominently enunciated by NBA in their Guidelines/Regulations. MoI&B requested action against Aajtak Channel, as it had violated the ‘Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards of NBA’ and the provisions of the “Guidelines for media reporting on Children” of NCPDR (duly approved by Hon’ble High Court of Delhi and circulated by MoI&B in 2012 and in turn circulated by NBA to its member channels) for compliance. MoI&B was of the view that even though Aajtak had not telecast the doctored and tutored version of the child, the very fact that its stringer was making attempts to ‘create’ news, raised the fundamental issue of journalistic ethics and methodology of TV reporting adopted by the electronic media. MoI&B therefore requested that the issue be examined in the larger perspective of ethics in journalism.

Decision

NBSA noted with concern that the manner in which the stringer of Aajtak attempted to induce and tutor the child to make a statement was reprehensible conduct deserving criticism, as they violate the very basis of responsible and ethical journalism. NBSA was of the view that the action of any person representing or acting on behalf of a broadcaster, be it an editor, anchor, reporter or stringer, to coerce or browbeat some one, that too a child, with the object of obtaining any statement or allegation, was condemnable; and the fact that the statement obtained by such unethical means was not used, did not in any way mitigate the seriousness of the wrong conduct. However, as the broadcaster had submitted that the action of the stringer was not with its knowledge, concurrence or authority and that the services of the stringer concerned had already been terminated for his unethical conduct, NBSA decided as follows:

- (i) To record and convey its displeasure to the broadcaster about the despicable incident involving its stringer, as it affects the credibility of the electronic media.
- (ii) To record and convey its concern about the lack of ethical training and journalistic integrity, disclosed by the incident.
- (iii) To direct the broadcaster to submit a photo copy of the termination letter issued to the stringer concerned, within one week of receipt of NBSA’s letter communicating this decision.

NBSA also decided to inform all members that manufacturing, doctoring, tailoring, tutoring or creating any kind of false or fake news or any attempt to do so by any editor, anchor, reporter, stringer, employee or associate of a broadcaster, or any attempt to coerce, threaten and browbeat any person or institution, to

extract false or distorted statements or allegations will also be viewed seriously, and will be considered as serious misconduct on the part of the broadcaster, irrespective of whether any 'feed' or 'report' so generated/created is aired or not. It also decided to remind the broadcasters to brief, teach and inculcate ethical standards to its new employees (anchors, reporters and stringers) and also to hold refresher sessions about the same for the existing employees periodically.

NBSA also decided to request the News Broadcasters Association (NBA), to improve broadcasting standards, NBA must take action to have a systematic and comprehensive programme of editorial training. This must cover all levels of editorial responsibility. NBA should take action of implementing the recommendations given by Mr. Phil Harding, International Media Consultant in his report "Raising the Editorial Standards of Indian News Channels" dated June 2012.

Complaint received from Mr. Shivprakash Rai against Zee News TV Channel

The complaint relates to a programme titled "नौटंकी" in which the word "मन की बात" was used to describe the disruption of the proceedings of Parliament by the MPs of Congress party. In the said programme it is alleged, the dharna by the Congress MPs was analysed by dividing it into separate captions such as 'कलाकारों की एंट्री', 'घरने की तैयारी', 'मनमोहन सिंह की एंट्री', 'सहयोगी कलाकार की भूमिका' घरने के लि, तैयार हैं हम', 'घरने का फाइनल सीन, 'अभी कैमरे पर बात करना बाकी है', 'नाटक का क्लाइमेक्स', राजनीति के रंगमंच पर 'घरने वाला ड्रामा', निलंबन पर राजनीति के 'नाटक' का मंचन, कांग्रेस के मन की बात का दिलचस्प विश्लेषण, संसद में कांग्रेस के घरने का वीडियो विश्लेषण, हंगामें से भरपूर संसद की ड्रामा पॉलिटिक्स, संसद में राजनीतिक ड्रामे का महाएपिसोड, संसद की ड्रामा पॉलिटिक्स पर जानकारी आदि were flashed. The complainant has requested that appropriate action be taken against the channel for insulting the Members of Parliament.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, response and also viewed the CD. It found nothing objectionable in the programme aired. NBSA also found no violation of any Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the MoI&B and the broadcaster accordingly.

Alleged violation of content by News Nation in the broadcast on 14.11.2015 at 22:49:12 Hrs.

MoI&B had forwarded the EMMC report to NBSA that News Nation on 14.11.2015 at 22:49:12 had carried a scroll in which it had wrongly reported the death of VHP Leader Mr. Ashok Singhal, though he was alive (Note: Mr. Ashok Singhal died later 17.11.2016).

Decision

NBSA considered the comments of EMMC regarding the alleged violation, response of the broadcaster and also viewed the CD. NBSA was of the view that the response of the broadcaster justifying the broadcast was unacceptable as the broadcaster was in breach of the principles relating to accuracy and verification of facts. However, since the broadcaster took prompt action of removing the inaccurate news and aired the factual position, NBSA decided to warn the broadcaster to be more careful in reporting such news in future. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the MoI&B and the broadcaster accordingly.

Alleged violation of content by News X, Aajtak and Dilli Aajtak

The complaints were received from the MoI&B, which pertains to same incident wherein the CCTV footage was used by the broadcasters of a girl committing suicide in front of metro at the Yamuna Bank station of Delhi. The EMMC report stated that the channels used CCTV footage from the Metro station and had repeatedly telecast that the girl jumped onto the rails as soon as the Metro train arrived and laid on the tracks and the train passes over her. The images were extremely painful and disturbing. The channel should not have broadcast such sensitive footage or should properly blur it before broadcasting.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaints together. NBSA viewed the footage of the above broadcast. NBSA noted that reporting of an incident relating to a young girl committing suicide due to the demand of dowry, a social evil, was certainly in public interest. However, the broadcasters ought to have borne in mind that Metro CCTV footage meant for security purpose, when used for broadcast purposes, should be used with utmost care with adequate safeguards. NBSA noted that the broadcasters have violated the guidelines relating to “good taste and decency”. NBSA decided to close the matter by advising the broadcasters to be more careful in future, so that any disturbing visuals, if used, should be shown with proper morphing/disclaimer/warning etc.

Grievance petition against Aajtak News channel by Mr. Sardar Jasbir Singh on 27.7.2015

The complaint related to a terror attack on a police station in Gurdaspur. According to the complainant, the report repeatedly alleged that Sikh militants or Khalistan militants had carried out the attack; and that it was derogatory to attach the name of Sikh community with a terrorist attack.

Decision

NBSA considered complaint, the Report of the EMMC, response of the broadcaster and also viewed the CD. NBSA was of the view that the anchor putting a question to the reporter during a ‘live’ bulletin, referring to Khalistan Militants did not amount to attributing the terror attack to any group. The anchor had the editorial freedom to ask such a question to elicit information. NBSA found no violation of any Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the MoI&B, complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Petition received from Mr. Deendayal Banga regarding complainant against CNBC Awaz News Channel.

The complainant suggested that views regarding trading of shares should be given after and not prior to the opening of the markets.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint and the response. It decided that no action was called for against the broadcaster, as the complaint was merely a suggestion. NBSA was however of the view that as these shows were aired without any “disclosure and due diligence”, which was the norm around the world in such shows. NBSA therefore decided to draft guidelines with regard to business reporting. NBSA therefore decided to take up the matter with SEBI and frame the guidelines for such business reporting.

Alleged violation of the content by Zee 24 Taas

MoI&B forwarded a violation report from EMMC listing the alleged violations by Zee 24 Taas. The report complained of brought to light a custom practiced from generation to generation, in Rigaon of Indupur Tehsil, where the parents tied the legs of children and lowered them upside down from a twenty feet high wall to the ground and then pulled them back. MoI&B in its complaint had stated that while the channel stated that it was reporting a superstition being practiced, but the channel showing clips of this cruel and inhuman practice of children being hung upside down from such a height, was very disturbing and upsetting and that the channel should have avoided showing such sensitive images repeatedly during the telecast of the programme.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, reply of broadcaster and also viewed the CD. NBSA found that the broadcast was in public interest and did not violate any Standards or Guidelines. NBSA decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the complaint and inform the MoI&B and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaints from: (a) Shri Manak Shah and (b) Mr. Lohit Kumar Bimal against telecast of alleged objectionable programmes by ABP News TV Channel(c) Complaint dated 1.2.2016 addressed to the Prime Minister of India by Shri Manak Shah, Bhartiya Valmedi Dharam Samaj

The complainant stated that Mr. Kailash Vijayvargiye, BJP Leader, who participated in the said programme titled “Press Conference” on 31.1.2016, in ABP News, referred to Bhagwan Valmeki as a “robber”, which insulted him and the entire Valmiki community. The complainant stated that the BJP leader should apologize to the entire Valmeki community through the channel.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, report of EMMC, response of the broadcaster and also viewed the CD. NBSA found no violation of any Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the MOI&B, complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint by Mr. Lohit Kumar Bimal

The complaint is that ABP News had telecast a programme regarding Baba Guruvanand, which promoted enmity, hatred and created doubts amongst the persons who knew the guruji. The complainant alleged that the entire programme was the handy work of 2-3 bad elements and the channel had telecast the programme hand in gloves without verification of facts.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, report of EMMC, response of the broadcaster and also viewed the CD. NBSA found no violation of any Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the MoI&B, complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Petition of Mr. Kishanlal Kuliya against content carried by News TV

NBSA considered the complaint, wherein the complainant had stated that some news channels had claimed that the JNU incident video was genuine while some other channels claimed the same video was fake/doctored. The complainant desired action against those channels for irresponsible journalism.

Decision

NBSA noted that it was not within its domain to decide whether the video footage used in the broadcast was genuine or fake. As NBSA only considered issues relating to the violations of the Regulations/Guidelines of NBA/NBSA, there was no ground to take any action against any broadcasters with reference to the said video footage. It therefore decided to close the matter and inform the MoI&B accordingly.

Petition of Dr. Rajeev Singh for improvement of news programme

The complaint was that in a programme on Aajtak channel in May/June 2015, a question posed by Mr. Ashok Singhal, anchor of the channel, to Mrs. Smriti Irani, the then HRD Minister, was disrespectful and humiliating.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint response and also viewed the broadcast. NBSA noted that the interview was in a public forum; the Hon'ble Minister had handled the question firmly and aptly and a section of the public had immediately protested against the question. NBSA noted that while there were no violations of the NBA/NBSA Guidelines, the question appeared to be inappropriately worded and could have been structured in a more politically correct manner. NBSA therefore decided to inform the broadcaster to be careful in such matters, and close the complaint and inform the MoI&B and the complainant accordingly.

Petition of Mr. Manoranjan Mishra against ABP News, News 24 and Aajtak news TV Channels for improvement of their news programme

The complaint is a general grievance that news channels are not performing their role as responsible news media and some channels lack integrity.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, response, rejoinder by the complainant. NBSA found that the complaint was a general expression of the opinion of a viewer without any specific details of broadcasts or violation of NBSA/NBA Regulations/Guidelines. NBSA, therefore, decided to close the matter and inform the MoI&B accordingly.

Petitions dated 7.2.2014 and 10.2.2014 received from Mr. Kannan NS regarding contents carried by news TV channels

NBSA considered the above petitions which pertain to some broadcasts of the year 2014. The complainant alleged that some channels had taken sides and distorted news content. It was also alleged that some channels laid wrong emphasis on certain aspects on which the complainant had a different view.

Decision

NBSA found that they were the general expression of the opinion of a viewer without any specific details of broadcast and violation of NBSA/NBA Guidelines and hence do not fall in the jurisdiction of NBSA.

Complaints received by NBSA

Complaint dated 1.3.2015 from Mr. Anuj Sinha regarding identity of minor revealed by news channel News 24 on 1.3.2015

The complaint was that News 24 had revealed the identity of a minor accused of murder of one Bittu Tyagi in a Court premises in Muzaffarnagar.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, reply given by the broadcaster and also viewed the programme. NBSA noted that while initially the broadcaster was reporting a “reconstruction” of the story, subsequently, the identity of the minor was revealed as the broadcaster had only put a band on the eyes of the minor without completely pixilating the face of the minor. NBSA decided that since the identity of the minor was revealed in the broadcast, which was a violation of Regulations. A notice was issued to the broadcaster to explain why it should not proceed under its Regulations for violation of the Guidelines and the Guidelines for media reporting approved by the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi on 8.8.2012 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 787 of 2012. NBSA considered the said reply and decided to warn the broadcaster to be more careful in future, and warn that any future transgressions would be viewed seriously by the NBSA. With such warning the matter was closed.

Complaint dated 11.5.2015, filed by Mr. Ramesh Ramachandra regarding the programme ‘Left, Right & Centre’ on NDTV 24x7

The complaint was that there was lack of objectivity and impartiality in the programme “Left Right and Centre” telecast on 22.4.2015. It was alleged that Mr. Vishnu Som, the anchor of the programme was putting leading questions to Mr. Sanjay Kaul, BJP Spokesperson, in an attempt to suggest that Delhi CM Arvind Kerjwal was responsible for the death of the farmer, who allegedly committed suicide at the AAP rally at Jantar Mantar.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint and the response and also viewed the CD. NBSA was of the view that there was no merit in the complaint, as the TV anchor was only trying, in the course of the discussion, to elicit a clarification on what Mr. Sanjay Kaul meant by his statements. Merely probing an answer or seeking clarification by an anchor is not sufficient to impute any ulterior motive or improper conduct, to the anchor. NBSA found no violation of any Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA decided to close the matter and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint dated 23.3.2015 against Times Now by Mr. Sharad Shah regarding unnatural death of IAS officer Mr. D.K. Ravi

The complainant alleged violation of Guidelines of NBSA during the debate in Times Now channel in regard to the death of Mr. D.K. Ravi.

Decision

NBSA upon considering the complaint and the response and after viewing of the programme found no violation of any standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called

for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint dated 17.8.2015 filed by Mr. Gurmel Singh, Secretary General, Sikh Council UK regarding Aajtak reporting of Gurdaspur terror incident on 27.7.2015.

The complaint was that a video posted by Aajtak on Youtube showed the presenter making a reference to “Khalistanis” and “Khalistan Liberation Front” while referring to persons possibly responsible for the terrorist attack in Gurdaspur. The broadcaster has contended that there was no reference to ‘Sikh militants’ in the broadcasts.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, the broadcaster’s response and also viewed the CD of the broadcast. NBSA found no reference to Sikh militants or Khalistanis in the broadcast. Further, the objected content did not relate to any broadcast, but a clip on Youtube under the caption “Punjab Faces Terror Attacks after 1992; KLF Suspected,” which does not fall within the jurisdiction of NBSA. As there was no broadcast in violation of any Guidelines, NBSA decided to close the matter and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint dated 21.10.2015, from Dr. Pranay Nijhawan, regarding airing of a programme on Aajtak on 19.9.2015 titled “Kejriwal Sarkar ka pyaaz test”

The complainant alleged that the channel repeatedly aired a report that AAP Government in Delhi had bought onion at Rs.18 per kg from Nasik Mandi and sold it at Rs. 40 per kg.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, response from the broadcaster and also viewed the CD. The broadcaster had stated that the news broadcast was based on information procured by an activist Mr. Vivek Garg, under the Right to Information Act. It contended that the telecast was fact based on the reply provided by the Government that they had authorised SFAC (Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium) to buy, store and deliver onions in Delhi and the rates were clear from the SFAC letter to Delhi Government. NBSA was of the view that it is not within its remit to examine the correctness of information furnished by the Government itself in a reply given to an activist. It found no violation of the guidelines and therefore decided to close the matter and inform the complainant and the channel accordingly.

Complaint dated 21.8.2015 from Mr. Radheesh Gopalan against Asianet News’s regarding broadcast of funeral of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Yakub Memon on 30.7.2015

The complaint relates to the manner of broadcasting the news relating to the death of former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and the hanging of Yakub Memon, convicted for terrorist activities. The substance of the complaint was that more importance was given to the news report relating to the hanging of Yakub Memon than to the report relating to the death of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, response of the broadcaster and also viewed the CD and found no violation of Guidelines while reporting the news. NBSA was of the view that the contents of a ‘report’ and the manner of reporting, are matters of editorial discretion and an individual’s view or perception on such

matters cannot be a ground to take action against a broadcaster. As the complainant has not made out any violation of Guidelines, NBSA decided to close the matter and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint dated 11.8.2015 from Mr. Manoj S. Nair against 3 Malayalam channels - Asianet News, Mathrubhoomi, Manorama News for the news telecast on 31.7.2015

The complaint relates to the manner of broadcasting the news relating to the death of former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and the hanging of Yakub Memon, convicted for terrorist activities and that more importance was given to the news report relating to the hanging of Yakub Memon than to the report relating to the death of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The complainant also alleged that the reportage of the news relating to the hanging of Yakub Memon was made in a manner implying that he was hanged because he was a Muslim and such reportage would create public unrest.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint and the response of the broadcasters and also viewed the CDs and found no violation of Guidelines while reporting the news. NBSA noted that the content of a 'report' is an editorial discretion and an individual's view or perception on such a matter cannot be a ground to take action against a broadcaster. As no violation of the Guidelines was made out, NBSA decided to close the matter and inform the complainant and the broadcasters accordingly.

Complaint dated 28.7.2015, from Mr. Dharendra Mohan Bhatia regarding wrong broadcast of news ticker by Aajtak

The complaint was that when Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam died, a wrong news was broadcast (running ticker) at 3.00 AM on 28.7.2015 that all offices will be closed as Prime Minister had announced a national holiday; and that as a result, the complainant did not attend an Income Tax hearing at Indore.

Decision

NBSA considered the matter. As incorrect information without proper verification had been aired resulting in inconvenience to the viewers, NBSA decided to require the broadcaster to air regret for the mistake on the date and time given by NBSA. NBSA decided to close the matter after the broadcaster had complied with the decision and submits the CD in proof of compliance.

Complaint dated 4.9.2015, from Mr. Nishikant Pagare regarding the programme Godawari Pradushan par ek report on NDTV India on 17.7.2015

The complaint is that the reporter of NDTV had misquoted the complainant's views regarding the pollution of the Godawari river.

Decision

NBSA noted that the broadcaster had clarified that the programme was aired on NDTV 24x7 and not on NDTV India and that on receipt of the complaint at NDTV office in Mumbai on 20.7.2015, they had made necessary corrections to the news report, which had been published on their website www.ndtv.com. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter with a warning to the broadcaster to be more careful in future and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint dated 27.7.2015 from Mr. Nishant Swami regarding the use of words like Khalistan or insurgency during terrorist attack

The complaint is that the Anchor of Aajtak used words like “Khalistan” and “insurgency” during the report of Gurudaspur attack and that the use of such words should be avoided.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint and viewed the broadcast and noted that there was no violation of Guidelines while reporting the terrorist attack. NBSA decided to close the matter.

Complaint filed by Supertech Ltd. against wrong news telecast on various news channels

The complainant alleged that several channels had flashed a news that the High Court had directed the demolition of the buildings of complainant, when in fact there was no such order of the Hon’ble Allahabad High Court. It therefore wanted a corrigendum to be published. NBSA forwarded the complaint to NDTV, India TV, Aajtak (Group), ABP News, Zee (Group), CNN IBN (Group), Total TV, 24 ETV, UP/Uttarakhand and News Nation, for their response.

Decision

The response received from the broadcasters showed that the broadcasters had carried the news by a lawyer who had given the incorrect information by mentioning the name of Supertech Builders (complainant) along with other builders regarding unauthorized occupation on the public ponds or other similar public ponds. After going through the Court Order, the broadcasters made amends by airing an apology/and in some broadcasts the version of the company was also aired. NBSA decided that in view of corrective action taken by the broadcasters no further action was called for and the complaint be closed.

Complaint dated 31.7.2015 from Mr. Robin Upadhyay regarding news on Yakub Memon on 29.7.2015 on all news channels

The complaint relates to the manner of reporting the hanging of Yakub Memon. The grievance is that the news relating to hanging of Yakub Memon was given more prominence than the news relating to the death of Dr. ABJ Abdul Kalam; and the manner of reporting, virtually made Yakub Memon look like a victim; and that the channels had improperly shown the photographs of Supreme Court Judges who heard and rejected Yakub Memon’s midnight appeal. According to the complainant, such reporting would provoke retaliatory emotions in terrorists and affect national security.

Decision

NBSA noted that while it shares the concern of the complainant about the national security and safety of courts and the need for balanced reporting, NBSA could not find any violation of its Regulations or Guidelines in regard to the report in question. NBSA was of the view that the choice of news, relative emphasis to be placed on different news, manner of presentation of news, are all matters within editorial discretion and therefore, no action is warranted. The matter was therefore treated as closed.

Complaints relating to broadcast of a programme “Operation Bhumihaar” on 14.10.2015 on ABP News

About a dozen complainants lodged complaints regarding airing of a programme “Operation Bhumihaar” on 14.10.2015, on ABP News in which it was shown as to how certain upper caste people had restrained the people belonging to the lower caste from casting their votes in elections for years. The programme also highlighted the fact that residents of Ghosi village, which predominantly had Dalit and lower caste have not ever been allowed to vote during elections. The complainants alleged that the title “Operation Bhumihaar” was inappropriate and highly objectionable as it shows a particular caste as being against the downtrodden and socially weak classes; that the purpose of the title was malafide and to show the entire caste in bad light despite the fact that the allegation attributed was with respect to some people of a particular village; the title was deliberately made to create a divide and enmity among other castes against Bhumihaar in order to benefit some particular parties; the title was deliberately given which indicates that the entire program seemed to be sponsored by some political party; further the timing of the broadcast was also important as Bihar was in the grip of elections, any irresponsible act on behalf of media could trigger unfortunate situation in Bihar and further the caste divide among people, which was not good for a democracy like India.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, response and also viewed the entire broadcast and was of the view that it was a well researched report story which had a very positive impact by enabling voters who had never cast their votes in their life time could cast their votes. While NBSA was of the view that the reference to the caste in the title of the programme could have been avoided, it was also of the view that such reference had a nexus to the news story and was not intended to show the particular caste in a bad light; and the reference to the caste was not unwarranted. NBSA found no violation of any Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the complainants and the broadcaster accordingly. NBSA was also of the unanimous view that the CD containing the broadcast should be sent to the Election Commission of India to demonstrate the positive impact of a news broadcast on exercise of the valuable and cherished democratic right to vote, which was denied for decades to the poor and down trodden in a particular area. NBSA was also of the view that this broadcast was a fit case for being used as a case study by the Commission.

Letter dated 7.11.2015, received from Mr. Prithvi Manaktala, General Secretary, The People’s Voice Society, New Delhi

NBSA noted the general complaint, was that there was a tendency on the part of the channels to give communal colour to incidents, that same images are repeated for several days and the participants in the 9 PM debates utter irresponsible words. NBSA was of the view that the contents of the complaint were an expression of a general opinion of a viewer and there was no reference to any violation of Regulations or Guidelines. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter.

Complaint dated 30.11.2015 & 2.12.2015 from Mr. Rakesh regarding telecast of programme, “Press Conference” on ABP News on 28.11.2015

The complaint related to a question asked by the anchor in the programme “Press Conference” regarding a statement attributed to the Prime Minister of India during election campaigns that each family would get Rs.15 lakhs, if all the black money abroad was brought back to India. According to the complainant, no such statement was ever made and therefore action should be taken.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint and response. NBSA was of the view that there was no violation of any Guidelines. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaints dated 23.11.2015 and 6.12.2015 from Ms. Sreedevi Manghat and Mr. Radhakrishnan P. regarding telecast of a news item in the programme FIR on 22.11.2015 by Asianet News

The complaint relates to a telecast in which it is alleged that the broadcaster had aired news without knowing the facts, which has done irreparable loss to the prestige of their family. The story aired on the channel related to a boundary dispute and using of the pathway by her parents leading to their ancestral property for which her father has obtained an injunction order of the Hon'ble Court of Ponnani restraining Ms. Indira Menon and family not to object to using of the pathway. The complainant also alleged involvement of one Mr. Vinod Menon who is an employee of the broadcaster and son of Mrs. Indira Menon against whom they are having the dispute.

Decision

NBSA considered the response and upon viewing of the programme found no violation of any standards or guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the complainants and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint dated 26.10.2015 from Mr. Sanju S regarding distorted version of speech of Mr. Mohan Bhagwat telecast by Asianet News on 22.10.2015

The complainant alleged that Asianet News TV had misquoted the speech delivered by RSS Sarsanghchalak Sri Mohan Bhagwat and telecast the same in a distorted version. It is alleged that Asianet News channel reported that "Mohan Bhagwat had devalued 'Dadri & Faridabad' incidents" and that he had stated that "such minor incidents are not going to defame or harm the cultural values of India" (referring to news telecast of October 22, 2015 at 9.00 pm). The complainant has stated that Sarsanghchalak in his speech did not mention the names Dadri or Faridabad at all and the said report was a deliberate move to tarnish the image of one of the world's largest non-govt. volunteer organisation and its Sarsanghchalak. He sought an apology from the channel and a re-telecast of the right version of news.

Decision

NBSA viewed the programme. It found that the report does not say that Sri Mohan Bhagwat used the words 'Dadri and Faridabad incidents' in his speech, and that the news anchor and reporter had contextually interpreted his words 'minor incidents do not destroy the nation's culture' as referring to the Dadri-Faridabad incidents. The news story was apparently based on the report of Press Trust of India (copy of which was furnished by the broadcaster with its further response dated 24.12.2015). NBSA did not find violation of any standards or the guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint dated 26.9.2015 from Mr. Ashok Pawar regarding a news shown on Zee 24 Taas on 30-31.8.2015

The complainant alleges that in the backdrop of parents of the students residing in Swami Vivekananda Integration School Hostel, Latur, complaining about the inhuman treatment meted out to their children in the said hostel, which is owned by ex-MLA Mr. Shivaji Patil Kavekar, the broadcaster had telecast a news report throughout the day on 30th/31st August 2015 in which the news channel laid emphasis primarily on the gun being pointed at the news reporter. The complainant took strong objection to the manner in which the news was shown in a distorted manner. According to complainant, such reporting gave room for suspicion about the motives of the broadcaster and affected the credibility of the media. Also, when the tormented children were speaking, it was clear that someone from the background was telling them what to speak, which was clearly audible in the video.

Decision

NBSA upon viewing of the programme found no violation of any standards or guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint dated 18.1.2016, from Ms. Bhawana Arora, Asst. Professor, Lady Shri Ram College for Women regarding mistaken identity by India Today TV News Channel on 17.1.2016

The complaint relates to a broadcast on India Today TV wherein, while telecasting a telephonic conversation with the accused Ms. Bhawana Arora who had thrown ink on Shri Arvind Kejriwal, the channel had shown the Facebook profile photo of the complainant (who is of the same name) with the caption Bhawana Arora “The Attacker”. The complainant stated that she is not the Bhawana Arora who is alleged to have thrown ink on Shri Arvind Kejriwal. The complainant approached NBSA as she was not satisfied with the remedial actions taken by the channel. She alleged that as a consequence of her photo being wrongly shown, her Facebook page was inundated with unsolicited messages and the broadcaster had failed to remove the link even after a day. The complainant sought repeat telecast of an apology by the broadcaster for 24 hours and a written apology from the CEO of the India Today TV News Channel.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, response and also viewed the CD and was of the view that the broadcaster was in breach of the guidelines relating to accuracy, impartiality, neutrality, fairness, privacy, good taste & decency. However, taking note of the fact that the broadcaster has admitted that it was an inadvertent mistake and as the channel had taken remedial action and apologized for the mistake by airing an on-air apology by the news presenter in the 10.00 pm news, removed the link, which contained the inaccurate news from their website, which was confirmed by the broadcaster to the complainant vide email dated 20.1.2016, NBSA decided that since the broadcaster had taken action to rectify the mistake, the complaint may be closed. The complainant and the broadcaster be informed accordingly.

Complaint dated 23.1.2016, from Mr. Ramesh Ramachandra regarding violation of Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards – Broadcast on India Today TV Channel on 22.1.2016

The complainant stated that on the night of 22.1.2016, when the programme on “Start-ups” was being broadcast between 20.30 hrs. and 21.00 hrs. on “India Today” TV channel, the headline was flashed repeatedly in bold letters at the bottom of the screen (quotation marks including) “SUNANDA WAS POISONED”. Under the said bold headline there was a sentence attributing the above statement to AIIMS Medical Board, New Delhi. The complainant contended that these two statements, when read in conjunction, were clearly intended to give the indication to viewers that Sunanda Pushkar was intentionally poisoned to death, i. e. murdered, and that AIIMS Medical Board came to this considered conclusion. The complainant alleged that neither AIIMS Medical Board nor any other agency has given a finding that Sunanda Pushkar was murdered; that nowhere in the report of the AIIMS Medical Board does it say that Sunanda Pushkar was “poisoned”; and all that the report of AIIMS Medical Board stated was: “The Medical Board unanimously concluded that the cause of death in this case is poisoning.....”. He contended that India Today TV, by flashing the headline “SUNANDA WAS POISONED” deliberately sought to mislead its viewers that Sunanda was murdered; and that was the opinion of the AIIMS Medical Board. The complainant alleged that India Today TV has thus violated, and that too deliberately, the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards of the NBSA, in particular the provisions requiring impartiality and objectivity in reporting.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, the response from the broadcaster, rejoinder by the complainant and also viewed the CD containing the tickers which were aired on the channel. It was of the view that while the caption “SUNANDA WAS POISONED” was capable of being understood as a statement implying that she was murdered by poisoning, it was also possible to understand it as a statement implying that the cause of her death was poisoning (which could be either due an accidental or suicidal act). NBSA was also of the view that so long as what was intended to be said (that is, death by poisoning) was discernible from the statement and that was clear from the subsequent four statements, it cannot be said that the broadcaster deliberately sought to mislead the viewers or violated any broadcasting Standards or Guidelines. NBSA also found no merit in the contention of the complainant that the said statement (“Sunanda was poisoned”) and what followed was intended to make the viewers believe that AIIMS Report was to that effect. The news report telecast had clearly stated what was mentioned in the AIIMS Report. Therefore NBSA decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the broadcaster and the complainant accordingly.

Complaint dated 3.11.2015, filed by Mr. Sanju S. regarding distorted version of RSS ABKM report telecast on Asianet News channel on 1.11.2015

The complainant stated that he is a participant of the activities of Rashtreeya Swayam Sevak Sangh, popularly known as Sangh or RSS. Every year RSS conducts a meeting of its highest body, Akhil Bharatiya Karyakarini Mandal Baitak (ABKM), for policy formation and decision making. He stated that this year ABKM Baitak was conducted in Ranchi, where the RSS Body had taken various decisions and resolutions. In the press briefing following the meeting, Sarkaryavahak (General Secretary) of RSS - Shri Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi, detailed the decisions and resolutions to the media. He had mentioned about the existing reservation system in this country and said that Sangh is in support of the existing reservation in this country. Various media

houses reported this news on the same day. However, intentionally or unintentionally, Asianet News TV has also reported the same by adding a distortion. In the news broadcast by Asianet News, its reporter said that Bhaiyyaji Joshi is supporting existing reservation, though RSS Sarsanghchhalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat wanted to change the existing reservation. The reporter said that Shri Mohan Bhagwat had earlier stated in an interview to Organiser magazine that RSS wanted to alter or revoke the existing reservation system in the country and that such statement had created an outrage in this country. The complainant alleged that RSS Sarsanghchhalak had never said in any interview that existing reservations in the country must change or be revoked, but he was talking about reservation policy and its futile execution. But Asianet rendered a telecast in news (not even news analysis) stating that “RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat was proposing to change or revoke the exiting reservation in this country”. The complainant stated that this was a deliberate move to tarnish the image of RSS, which is one of the world’s largest non-govt. volunteer organisations and its Sarsanghchhalak. He sought an apology from the channel as well as rectification of the grave error and also sought re-telecast of the right version of news as the damage caused was irreparable.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, the response from the broadcaster and also viewed the programme. NBSA was of the view that the choice of news, relative emphasis to be placed on different news, and the presentation thereof are all matters within editorial discretion. NBSA found no violation of any Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the broadcaster and the complainant accordingly.

Suggestion from Mr. Surya Pratap Singh Rajawat, Advocate, Jaipur, regarding need of incorporating the Section 16 of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013 in NBA Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards

NBSA noted that Mr. Surya Pratap Singh Rajawat, Advocate, has suggested that there is a need to incorporate the provisions Section 16 of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013 in the Code of Ethics & Guidelines of NBA.

Decision

NBSA considered the suggestion and noted that similar provisions exists in the “Principles of Self-Regulation” Regulation No. “4. Depiction of violence or intimidation against women and children”, Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage relating to “3. Law & Order, Crime & Violence” and Guidelines on Reportage of Cases of Sexual Assault”. Therefore, NBSA decided that there was no need to incorporate Section 16 of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 as the NBSA Guidelines were sufficient for reporting such matters. NBSA decided to inform Mr. Surya Pratap Singh Rajawat, Advocate, accordingly.

Complaint dated 20.3.2016 filed by Mr. Ranjan regarding violation of NBA Guidelines “Sponsored Feature” telecast without tagging it as an advertisement/sponsored feature.

The complainant stated that on 27.2. 2016, ABP News around 4.40 pm had aired a sponsored feature of advertisement of Delhi Government without tagging it as “Sponsored Feature”, which reflects a wrong message to viewers. Since the complainant did not receive a response from the broadcaster to his complaint, he approached the NBSA for redressal of his complaint.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, response of the broadcaster and also viewed the CD. NBSA noted that the broadcaster had used the “disclaimer” only at the beginning of the programme for a very short period and the tag “sponsored feature” was not continuously shown during the programme. NBSA decided to warn the broadcaster and inform them that any future transgressions would be viewed seriously.

NBSA also decided that to clear any ambiguity in Clause 6 of the “Norms & Guidelines on Paid News” dated 24.11.2011, regarding the requirement to have “sponsored feature” throughout the programme, NBSA decided the said Clause be appropriately amended to read as follows:

6. Every news broadcasting organization shall disclose conspicuously and continuously in an appropriate manner during the entire broadcast of a program, on their television channel/s and on their website/s, including during a news, current affairs, sports, entertainment or promotional broadcast as to whether the content of such broadcast has been paid for by or on behalf of the Entity that is subject matter of such broadcast in any manner whatsoever ; and whether such broadcast is an “advertorial” or other media marketing initiative.

NBSA decided that the amended Guidelines be circulated to the Members/Editors/Legal heads of NBA for their information and compliance. The complainant also be informed of the decision of NBSA. With these actions, the matter was closed.

Complaint dated 14.4.2016 from Mr. Manish Kumar Singh against NDTV India regarding airing of news on the Hyderabad University’s Students protest on 25.3.2016

The complaint is that in the above programme there were two news anchors and one of them asked the reporter “will you tell us the caste of victim” and another anchor put his question in a different way and wanted to know if “the victim was a Dalit or Maha Dalit”. According to the complainant, by asking such questions they were trying to damage the unity of India and had committed a kind of “deshdroh”.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint, response from the broadcaster and also viewed the CD. NBSA found no violation of any Standards or Guidelines in the broadcast and therefore decided that no action was called for on the complaint. NBSA therefore decided to close the matter and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Complaint dated 22.4.2016 filed by Ms. Sukhbinder Kaur, residing in Italy regarding telecast of news on ABP News (22.2.2016 & 23.2.2016, News 24 on 23.2.2016 & Samachar Plus on 24.2.2016)

The complainant alleged that ABP News on 22.2.2016 & 23.2.2016 and News 24 on 23.2.2016 carried a one sided false version of her parents that she was being ill-treated by her in-laws for dowry. She alleged that such incorrect and one sided news without taking her version brought disrepute to her in laws family, who are residing all over the world. She stated that she is a TB patient and this kind of news coverage has put her in mental agony and she has become more sick. She desired that channel should take her version and truth should be known to all.

Decision

NBSA noted that the broadcasters have breached the principles of self regulation relating to “impartiality & objectivity in reporting and ensuring 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”. NBSA after deliberations decided that an opportunity be given to Ms. Sukhbinder Kaur for two minutes to give her version, on the said broadcasts. NBSA decided that the broadcasters shall by a written notice/call letter give the complainant the opportunity to give her version for being telecast for a period of two minutes. The version offered by the complainant shall be restricted only to the clarifications she wish to offer and nothing objectionable shall be stated against the broadcasters. NBSA will indicate the date and time of broadcast. The broadcaster shall submit proof of compliance by submitting a compact disc containing the telecast with particulars of the date and time of the telecast, which is to be submitted within one week of telecast. After the CD containing the version of Ms. Sukhbinder Kaur is submitted by the broadcasters, the matter will be closed.

Complaint dated 10.5.2016, from Mr. Arun K.P. regarding programme aired on People channel on 9.5.2016, at 11 am, 11.30 am, 3 pm & 3.30 pm

The complaint was about wrong information aired in the programme on People TV on 9.5.2016 about the educational qualification of the Prime Minister of India. NBSA noted that the complaint was sent to the broadcaster on 14.6.2016. In reply the broadcaster informed that they had already sent a reply on 9.6.2016 to the complainant, which was forwarded by NBSA to the complainant on 29.6.2016. There was no response from the complainant.

Decision

NBSA noted that since the broadcaster had responded to the complainant and there was no further response from the complainant, the matter be closed.

Complaint dated 30.5.2016, from Mr. Swadesh Agrawal regarding showing Gilgit, Balistan as the integral part of Pakistan

The complaint related to a programme on Aajtak on 30.5.2016 from 9 pm to 9.30 pm wherein the channel showed POK (Gilgit, Balistan) in the map of Pakistan, when the same is an integral part of India.

Decision

NBSA considered the complaint and the response and decided that the channel should be warned to be more careful in showing any map which affected the integrity of India and they should ensure that such mistakes do not happen in future. With these observations, NBSA decided to close the matter and inform the channel and the complainant accordingly. NBSA also decided that since this is a sensitive issue, an Advisory be issued to member broadcasters of NBA that when the map of India is used in any programme, they should only use the authorised map of India issued by the Survey of India.

Complaint dated 27.5.2016, from Media Incharge, BJP Delhi Pradesh regarding programme titled “Acchhe Din” on ABP News Channel on 24.5.2016

The complaint is that in the above programme a man called “Deepak” was shown with his family claiming to be a lower middle class man with a monthly income of Rs. 25,000/-. He claimed to be living in a rented

house and doing a private job. It was stated by the complainant that after watching the story, the background of Mr. Deepak was checked through their cadre and it came to their knowledge that he was a hard core political worker associated with AAP; that he lived in a four storey house in Gautam Nagar and worked as a property dealer, and that he had a share in a photo studio run by his family in a shop in the same area. It was therefore contended that the news story was fictitious. The complainant alleged that the staff reporter connived with AAP and fed a wrong report or it could be a “paid news or some other deal between ABP and AAP. In both cases it must be a management’s decision”. The Delhi BJP strongly protested against the broadcast of such a politically motivated story and insisted that ABP must apologize for running the story.

Decision

After considering the compliant, response and the rejoinder from both sides and also viewing the CD of the alleged programme and the follow up story, NBSA found that the channel had not violated any Regulations/Guidelines of NBA/NBSA. NBSA also noted that the follow up story was well researched and the report was balanced. NBSA, therefore, decided to close the complaint and inform the complainant and the broadcaster accordingly.

Hearing of Complaints (Summary of Orders passed by NBSA)

Telecast of dead body of Ms. Sunanda Pushkar in the programme News Today at Nine on Headlines Today channel on 6.1.2015

NBSA at its meeting held on 9.7.2015, viewed the above programme where close-ups of the dead body of Ms. Sunanda Pushkar and body parts were repeatedly shown and decided to initiate suo motu action under its Regulations as the broadcaster had violated “Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage dated 10.2.2009”, which states that “The dead must be treated with respect. Close-ups of dead or mutilated bodies should not be shown ...” NBSA decided to issue a show cause notice and decided that the broadcaster along with concerned reporter/editor/producer, who cleared the story, be called for a hearing before the NBSA.

At the hearing the representatives of the broadcaster reiterated what was stated in their response to the show cause notice and contended that showing the dead body was in public interest and that the extent to which the body could be shown was within editorial discretion. They also stated that in the absence of any specific guideline regarding reporting of matters under investigation, they took extreme caution in showing the dead body and no private parts were shown in the broadcasts.

NBSA was of the view that the manner in which the close-ups of the dead body and parts thereof were repeatedly shown was violative of the following Guideline: “The dead must be treated with respect. Close-ups of dead or mutilated bodies should not be shown ...” NBSA was of the view that showing the alleged injuries once or twice in the context of the reportage would have been acceptable, but the repeated broadcast of close-ups of the body and body parts were not justified or warranted.

NBSA therefore decided that the broadcaster be directed to air an apology on its channel on the date, time and as per the text given by NBSA.

Alleged violation of content by Zee Kalinga TV News Channel

NBSA considered a report of the Electronic Media Monitoring Committee (EMMC). It stated that Zee Kalinga TV News channel on 3.3.2015, while reporting an alleged incident in which a sixth standard student

from Mathili Bandhaguda School in Malkangiri district of Odisha was sexually abused by a school teacher, had telecast unedited visual showing the face of the victim, and revealed her identity; that telecasting such visuals showing her face and disclosing the name of her school amounted to denigration of the victim who is a minor; and that revealing the identity exposed her to the social stigma of being a rape victim, which may adversely affect her life.

NBSA upon viewing the alleged broadcast noted that the broadcaster had not adequately blurred the face of the victim and had repeatedly showed the visuals of the rape victim, which was unnecessary and avoidable and served no purpose in the context of the report of the incident being broadcast. NBSA therefore decided that the broadcaster be called for a hearing. At the hearing the counsel for the broadcaster confirmed that while they had taken all precautions to blur the face of the victim so as to hide the identity of the victim, due to some technical glitch, the blurring was not effective in two or three places in the video clip. The broadcaster tendered an unconditional apology and assured that in future they would take adequate precautions while telecasting such sensitive issues. NBSA noted that in view of the admission of the error and unconditional apology and assurance to take precautions in future, the matter be closed, subject to the broadcaster confirming the apology and assurance in writing. The NBSA directed the broadcaster to submit the same in writing, which they agreed to submit by 15.1.2015. The hearings thereafter concluded.

Complaint dated 6.6.2015 from Mr. Gursimran Singh regarding alleged use of abusive language against Sikh community by the anchor of ABP News, in a broadcast on 5.6.2015

The complaint was that while reporting an incident of violence arising out of the removal of poster of Bhindranwale by the Jammu police on the occasion of the Martyr's Day (Shahidi Diwas), the broadcaster had used the words "Sikh Dangai", which was objectionable. The complainant strongly objected to the mention of the community name, while describing the perpetrators of the violence as 'Dangai'. NBSA considered the complaint, response and also viewed the programme. It decided that the broadcaster and the complainant be called for a hearing.

The broadcaster at the hearing stated that they were merely reporting this incidence of violence like any other news story and in the process their reporter was attacked and their vehicle torched by the protesters. The phrase in question was not meant to refer to any particular community. It was used to factually describe the assailants at that time. It was stated that no offence to the community was intended and if any hurt was caused to anyone by the inadvertent use of the phrase, it was regretted. The broadcaster also agreed to confirm the same in writing.

NBSA considered the explanation and the circumstances in which the perpetrators were described with reference to their community. NBSA was satisfied that the description was not intended to show any disrespect to the community. In the circumstances, it was decided to close the matter subject to the broadcaster clarifying what was stated by the anchor, in writing.

NBSA further noted that the use of words describing/identifying the perpetrators with reference to religion or caste showed lack of sensitivity. NBSA decided to draw up guidelines/advisory relating to use of name of castes/communities/religions as adjectives. The intention is to bring to the notice of the broadcasters that the anchors/channels should not categorise the wrongdoers/accused in any incident or rumoured incident, in particular riots, mob-violence and violent crime, by describing

them as belonging to any religion/community/caste unless the facts and situation of the news report necessitated it (as for example stating “dalit” children were burnt, where it is necessary to mention the word “dalit” to show that they were victims of a caste conflict). These guidelines would further reinforce the spirit of the existing NBA Guidelines dated 13.12.2012, “to prevent communal colour in reporting crime, riots, rumours and such related incidents.” It was also decided that while drawing up/amending the guidelines, NBSA may also look into any relevant Guidelines of Prasar Bharti/Press Council of India.

Complaint from Mr. Govind Gopal against telecast of alleged objectionable programme ‘DNA’ by Zee News TV Channel

Mol&B, forwarded a complaint dated 12.10.2015, received from one Mr. Govind Gopal, regarding DNA programme telecast on 7.10.2015 (9 pm to 10 pm) on Zee News wherein the channel had shown the women candidates who were participating in UP Panchayat elections. These women were described as “illiterate” and were ridiculed for not answering certain general knowledge questions. They were also depicted in an insulting manner.

NBSA considered the complaint, response from the broadcaster and also viewed the programme. NBSA was of the *prima facie* view that the broadcaster, by its tone used, the visuals shown, the remarks made with question marks, and the background soundtrack showing ridicule, had clearly ridiculed and disparaged the women candidates who were contesting the Panchayat elections; and that the programme violated the Guidelines of NBA/NBSA relating to objectivity, neutrality, fairness, good taste and decency. NBSA therefore decided that notice be issued to the broadcaster and it be directed to appear before NBSA for a hearing. During the hearing, the broadcaster’s counsel submitted that the object of the programme was clear from the message of the Anchor at the end of the program, which was to bring to light the problems during the Panchayat elections held in the State of Uttar Pradesh, one of which is where the seats reserved for women candidates, normally, the erstwhile male members make their womenfolk (wife/sister/daughter) to contest the Panchayat election irrespective of the fact that they may lack education and minimum basic knowledge. It was submitted that they did not have any intention to either ridicule, insult or denigrate any particular individual or gender, and the intention was to bring out the exploitation of the policy for reservation for women candidates.

NBSA pointed out that testing of knowledge ought to have been more objective, with reference to local issues relevant to Panchayats, i.e. availability of water, sanitation, electricity, roads, schools and medical facilities etc.; that the manner in which the questions were asked about who is the Chief Minister of UP and who is the Prime Minister of India, and the derisive laughter at the answers, delivered a message that the object of the programme was to merely ridicule the lack of general knowledge and alleged ignorance of the women contesting Panchayat elections, thereby indicating a gender prejudice. The broadcaster reiterated that the object of the programme was not to hurt any one’s feeling, but to show the reality. The Counsel for the broadcaster submitted that even though there was no intent on part of Zee News of hurting/ridiculing/denigrating any individual or gender, in view of what was explained by NBSA that the programme was likely to have hurt the sentiments of women in general, and women contesting elections in particular, the broadcaster would express its regret; and that it will be careful in future to ensure that women are not ridiculed or made the object of derision. NBSA decided to accept expression of regret and close the matter on receipt of such letter expressing regret. Thereafter, inform the Mol&B accordingly.

Complaints relating to Times Now Report on the interview with the accused in an eve-teasing allegation, broadcast on 24.8.2015 by Mr. Tony T. Thadathil, Mr. Vinayak Bindal, Mr. Hara Kumar Varma and Mr. Abhishek Majumdar

The four complaints relate to a news report telecast by ‘TIMES NOW’ on 24.8.2015 in connection with an alleged eve-teasing incident at Delhi. The complaints against the channel are about the manner in which a Times Now reporter virtually chased and interviewed the reluctant Mr. Sarabjit, accused in the complaint lodged by Ms. Jasleen Kaur, adopting an aggressive, intimidating and browbeating style and the telecast of the interview with tag-lines treating the accused as guilty. The complainants have alleged that the broadcaster has breached the Code of Ethics relating to impartiality, neutrality and objectivity in reporting and violated the Guidelines relating to reportage. NBSA considered the aforesaid complaints and also viewed the CD of the interview. As it appeared to NBSA that the reporter’s attitude and behaviour while interviewing Mr. Sarabjit, and the comments made by her while “interrogating” him lacked objectivity and assumed that Mr. Sarabjit was guilty, even though the matter was still under investigation, NBSA decided that the broadcaster along with the reporter who reported the incident and the complainants be called to appear before the NBSA, making it clear that the enquiry by NBSA was not about the guilt or innocence of Mr. Sarabjit, but about the manner of conducting the interview by the reporter and the manner of telecast by the broadcaster.

The complainants and broadcaster were called for a hearing. Only Mr. Tony T. Thadathil was present at the hearing.

NBSA considered the submissions and contentions of the complainants and the broadcaster in the light of the interview with the accused that was telecast and the tag lines used during the telecast. NBSA noted that it was a clear case of the broadcaster holding the media trial and declaring the accused as guilty of eve-teasing.

NBSA found that the interview of the accused by the broadcaster’s reporter and its telecast violated Sections (1) (2) and (3) of the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards and Guidelines (1), (2) and (3) of Specific Guidelines Governing Reportage and Guidelines (4) and (6) of Specific Guidelines for Reporting Court Proceedings. The broadcaster was warned to be more careful while broadcasting programmes/news reports about matters pending trial/investigation.

Taking note of the assurances held out and partial remedial action taken by the broadcaster, NBSA decided to impose only following sanctions/fine upon the broadcaster:

- (a) The broadcaster shall, prior to the 9 pm news on full screen in large font size with a clearly audible voice-over (in slow speed) express regret for the said telecast on their channel Times Now.
- (b) The broadcaster is imposed a fine of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only).
- (c) The video of the said programme, if hosted, on the website of Times Now or any other links should be removed immediately and confirmed to NBSA.

Complaints by the Vice Chairman & Assistant Engineer, Bulandshahar Development Authority against a news item telecast on ETV Uttar Pradesh/Uttarakhand on 8.1.2016 & 14.1.2016 regarding construction of a mall in Bulandshahar

The complaints dated 28.1.2016 and 16.2.2016 by the Vice Chairman (Mr. Shailendra Chaudhary) and the complaints dated 28.1.2016 and 16.2.2016 of the Assistant Engineer (Mr. M.L. Mitra) of Bulandshahar Development Authority (for short ‘BDA’ or ‘the Authority’) relates to the broadcast on ETV UP regarding

the controversy surrounding the construction of MMR Grand Mall, Bulandshahar (“Mall”). The said news story reported that initially when the building plan was being approved, the building was approved for two adjacent plots, but the completion certificate was issued by the BDA for only one plot of land (combining both plots); and that though the parking lot of the Mall was not constructed as per the approved building plan, the Mall had been granted a completion certificate. The report has also alleged misdeeds and irregularities by the Vice Chairman (and Assistant Engineer) of Bulandshahar Development Authority, by naming them. The complainants alleged that the broadcasts were objectionable and defamatory; that the report was one sided, inaccurate and incorrect and made without verification of facts and without giving an opportunity to them to give their versions/views on the matter.

NBSA considered the complaints and the response of the broadcaster and called both parties for a hearing. Both parties appeared before the NBSA and made their submissions. NBSA also considered the written submissions of both the parties. As the questions whether there were any violation of the building rules or whether there were any irregularities or illegalities in the grant of permissions and approvals by BDA in regard to the constructions or whether there was any illegal demand or extortion against the channel’s reporter, were out its purview, NBSA decided to consider only the question whether there was any violation of broadcasting Standards, Regulations and Guidelines of NBA/NBSA. On consideration, NBSA found that the broadcaster had not given sufficient opportunity to the Vice Chairman BDA & Mr. M.L. Mitra, Assistant Engineer BDA, to present their views/explanations in regard to the charges against them. The broadcaster, no doubt, has submitted call detail records of the reporter’s mobile phone (No. 9412592107) in support of its contention that the reporter had tried contacting Mr. M.L. Mitra thrice that is once on 20.12.2015 and twice on 21.12.2015 before the broadcast. The very short duration of these calls to mobile No. 8191002901 stated to be that of Mr. Mitra and the absence of any attempt to contact Mr. Shailendra Chaudhary and absence of any material like letters/e-mails addressed to the complainants, demonstrated that the reporter did not make sufficient effort to get their views before telecasting the report of alleged corruption and loss of revenue to the exchequer. NBSA also found that there was no basis for use of the sensational and unwarranted tag lines broadcast on 8.1.2016 and 14.1.2016. NBSA found that the broadcaster had breached the principles of self-regulation relating to “impartiality & objectivity in reporting and ensuring neutrality”, as also the regulations that “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”. There is also violation of the Advisory on the use of Adjectives and Hyperbole dated 8.5.2012, which requires the news channels to desist “from using adjectives, which colour verified facts/news with personal opinions of journalists’ and the caution to the channels that they should bear in mind that “news media have no claim to any special privilege or licence to malign any person or organisation”.

NBSA after deliberations decided that:

- (1) The channel be warned that any future transgression would be viewed seriously.
- (2) The broadcaster be directed to provide an opportunity to each of the complainants, to give their versions on the allegations which were telecast on 8.1.2016 and 14.1.2016 on ETV Uttar Pradesh/Uttarakhand.

Complaint dated 30.1.2016, from Prof. Anuradha Roy, Department of History, Jadavpur University regarding media trial by ETV News Bangla in December, 2015

The complainant alleges in her complaints dated 30.1.2016 and 3.2.2016 that she and two of her colleagues were put on a severe media trial by ETV News Bangla from 2nd December, 2015 onwards on the basis of a complaint lodged by a student (who had attempted to commit suicide and survived). He and his mother then claimed that he was driven to attempting suicide due to the injustice and inhuman behaviour of three of his teachers. The complainant alleged that without ascertaining the full facts and the merit of the claim made by the student and his mother, ETV News Bangla channel went on and on for more than a month, defiling and degrading the three teachers (including the complainant) in its programmes like ‘*Hok Ramtanu*’ and ‘*Sada-Kalo*’ and also as part of their regular newscast, apart from their recap of the Pick of the News of 2015. The complainant stated that on 5.1.2016, the report of the Fact Finding Committee set up by the University was made public and that it categorically stated that charges against the complainant were not at all tenable, while the other two were perhaps partly guilty but the guilt did not amount to abetment to suicide. After the report was made public, the channel stopped the campaign and went silent about the incident. She demanded justice and action against the news channel as the broadcast had violated the ethical norms of NBA that a broadcaster should ensure impartiality and objectivity in reporting, ensure neutrality and ensure privacy.

NBSA considered the complaint, response and also viewed the CD. NBSA was of the *prima facie* view that the channel had, without proper verification of facts and without ascertaining the views of the University and the Professors who were being reported upon, repeatedly aired the programmes, violating the principles relating to impartiality and objectivity in reporting, neutrality and privacy.

NBSA therefore issued a show cause to the broadcaster and also directed the complainant and the broadcaster to appear before the NBSA for a hearing. Both parties appeared before the NBSA and made their submissions

NBSA considered the complaint, response, submissions and the material placed by both sides. NBSA noted that there is no doubt that public interest requires that the problems faced by students with disability to be highlighted. But that does not mean that a media trial can be held, showing the complainant (one of the teachers of the student) in bad light holding her guilty of inhuman treatment of the student or prejudice against the student, or to hold her responsible for the travails of a failed student, by treating mere accusations of the student and his mother as proof. There was no attempt to get the version of the complainant. The broadcaster was clearly in breach of the NBA Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards, Specific Guidelines relating to impartiality and objectivity in reporting, neutrality and privacy which require: “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”....“news channels must strive to ensure that allegations are not portrayed as fact and charges are not conveyed as an act of guilt”.

NBSA after deliberations decided to impose the following sanctions/fine upon the broadcaster:

- (a) The broadcaster shall, prior to the 9 PM news air 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 ETV News Bangla, which will be followed by the version of the complainant.

- (b) The broadcaster is imposed a fine of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One lakh only) for violation of the broadcasting Standards and Regulations,
- (c) The video of the said programme, if hosted, on the website of ETV News Bangla or any other links should be removed immediately and confirmed to NBSA.

Regarding alleged violation of the content by “ETV MP Chhattisgarh News Channel” on 7.8.2015

Mol&B forwarded the CD containing recordings of the content carried by ETV MP Chhattisgarh TV Channel on 7.8.2015 and the EMMC Report containing its analysis and comments on the programme aired. The Report of the EMMC stated that the channel had telecast a special programme namely “Vampire” based on the stories on vampires in an exaggerated manner, purporting to disclose secrets relating to vampires. During the whole programme, the channel had used scary and horrifying clippings from Hollywood films on vampires. The broadcast also included a clipping of a couple living like vampires in real life by drinking the blood of each other by cutting their hand. In short, it was apparent that the object of the programme was to credibilise the existence of vampires and to promote blind faith in occult, vampirism and superstition. The visuals were also disturbing and revolting.

NBSA considered the complaint, response and also viewed the CD. NBSA was surprised to note that a news channel at a prime hour (18:26:34 hrs), when there would be substantial viewership including young children, was showing a highly exaggerated horrifying programme with false content advocating blind belief in superstition and occult, and trying to pass off Hollywood movie scenes as depictions of vampirism which had truth and scientific research backing. NBSA noted that the programme violated the Principles of Self Regulation relating to “Refraining from Advocating or Encouraging Superstition and Occultism” & “Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage” relating to “Accuracy, Good Taste, Supernatural, Occultism & Paranormal & Children’s interest”.

NBSA therefore issued a show cause notice to the broadcaster for wilful violation of the above guidelines and directed it to file a response and also to appear before the NBSA.

The broadcaster’s representatives at the hearing informed NBSA that its intention was to educate the viewers on the subject. He however, conceded that the programme was not made in an appropriate manner to convey the intended object. He stated that a notice was issued to producer of the programme for violation of the NBA Guidelines and that he subsequently left the organization. The broadcaster admitted that it was a mistake and it was not an appropriate programme to be run on the news channel, particularly around 6.30 pm when there would be substantial viewership including young children.

After considering the matter, NBSA was of the view that showing a highly exaggerated horrifying programme with false content advocating blind faith in superstition and occult, and trying to pass off Hollywood movie scenes as depictions of vampirism as if there was truth and scientific research backing for vampirism showed lack of editorial checks and inadequate supervision. NBSA held that the broadcaster was in breach of Principles of Self Regulation relating to “Refraining from Advocating or Encouraging Superstition and Occultism” & “Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage” relating to “Accuracy, Good Taste, Supernatural, Occultism & Paranormal & Children’s interest”.

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

- (a) The broadcaster shall, express regret for the said telecast on their channel ETV MP/Chhattisgarh
- (b) The broadcaster is imposed a fine of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh only)
- (c) The video of the said programme, if hosted, on ETV MP Chhattisgarh or any website or any other links should be removed immediately and confirmed to NBSA.

Complaint filed by Kerala Govt. Medical Officers' Association [KGMOA], Thiruvananthapuram District Branch represented by Dr. Sheena G. Soman, District President, and Dr. Aisha S. Govind, CMO, General Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram, regarding breach of Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards in the programmes Dhim Tharikida Thom (30th & 31st October, 2015), Vakra Dhrishti (28th October, 2015); News scrolls from 27.10.2015 to 30.10.2015 on Mathrubhumi News Channel.

NBSA noted that the complainants had stated that a complaint dated 2.11.2015 was filed by Dr. S. Prameela Devi, State President, KGMOA, against the broadcaster for attempts to defame lady doctors and Kerala Government Medical Officers Association in its programmes broadcast from 27.10.15 to 31.10.15. It is alleged that the broadcasts violated the privacy of 23 lady doctors, through their biased reporting and resorted to sting operations, apparently to take revenge for the unfortunate but medically unavoidable death of their cameraman, which the broadcaster perceived as being due to the negligence of a doctor (Dr. Aisha S. Govind). The complainant stated that the broadcaster failed to use proper discretion when reporting against women and depicted lady doctors as “murderers and criminals”. The complainants stated that though the autopsy report and the Expert Committee exonerated the concerned doctor from any negligence, the broadcaster continued to defame the concerned lady doctor and the Association of doctors in Kerala, who tried to get justice for the doctor against media distortion of facts; threats to further defame the General Hospital, Trivandrum, through press reports and sting operations against doctors continued. The doctors demanded that a formal apology should be published through press and media and that the unethical sting operations with intent to harass the doctors should be stopped. They requested that justice be given to them by punishing the broadcaster for not ensuring impartiality and objectivity in reporting; unable to ensure neutrality in their programs “Dhim Tharikida Thom”, “Vakradrishti” and news scrolls.

NBSA considered the complaint and the response of the broadcaster and also viewed the broadcasts. NBSA was of the view, *prima facie*, that the broadcaster had breached the guidelines relating to impartiality, neutrality, and objectivity by not giving an opportunity to the doctor(s), who were being blamed for medical negligence to give their views but chose to make a programme ridiculing the doctors. The regulations require that “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”...“news channels must strive to ensure that allegations are not portrayed as fact and charges are not conveyed as an act of guilt”. The complainants and the broadcaster were therefore directed to appear before the NBSA for a hearing.

Both parties appeared before the NBSA and made their submissions.

After hearing and considering the submissions, NBSA is of the view that as per Regulations 7.2 read with Regulation 8.4.3 of the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations, it is not permissible or appropriate for the NBSA to take up matters which are already sub judice; and therefore NBSA was unable to entertain and

decide the complaint. NBSA therefore treated the matter as closed for the present, reserving liberty to revive the complaint before the NBSA if necessary, on conclusion of the Court proceedings. The parties were also informed accordingly and the end of the hearing.

Telecast of alleged objectionable news reports by NDTV 24x7 and NDTV India TV Channels on lynching of a man in Nahan, Shimla, allegedly for smuggling cattle on 16.10.2015, at 17:28 and 18:27 hrs.

Mol&B informed NBSA that NDTV 24x7 and NDTV India channels had telecast objectionable news reports on 16.10.2015 (at 17:28 and 18:27 hrs), in the context of an incident involving a man being beaten to death in Nahan, Shimla, allegedly for smuggling cattle.

NBSA considered the complaint, response and viewed the footage. It noted that the major part of the report was a phone interview with the Superintendent of Police, Nahan. It noted that though the SP, Nahan, while confirming the incident of lynching, did not attribute it to any religious outfit or group, the channels (NDTV 24x7 & NDTV India) prominently displayed headlines on the screen that “Bajrang Dal, Gau Rakhsha Dal men allegedly attack 5, lynch one”; “Police probe alleged hand of groups Gau Rakhsha Dal, Bajrang Dal”; “FIR registered, police probing alleged Bajrang Dal”; “FIR registered Bajrang Dal, Gau Rakhsha Dal hand being probed”; “आरोपी कथित तौर पर बजरंग दल, गौरक्षा दल के”, thereby attributing that some religious groups were behind the lynching.

NBSA was of the view that the broadcaster appeared to be in breach of Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage relating to “Accuracy”, “Objectivity” & “Racial & Religious Harmony”. Therefore, NBSA decided to issue a show cause notice to the broadcaster for violation of the above guidelines and directed them to file a response and also to appear before the NBSA. The representatives of the broadcaster appeared before the NBSA.

NBSA again viewed both the broadcasts in the presence of the representatives of the broadcasters, at the hearing. NBSA noted that the report consisted of a telephone interview with SP, Nahan; though no reference was made by SP, Nahan of any religious outfit or group being responsible for the incident, NDTV 24X7 (English channel), without any verification, had prominently displayed headlines on the screen attributing the lynching to some religious groups, which was unwarranted. On the other hand, the report on “NDTV India” (Hindi channel) was balanced, the reporter’s statements were careful and guarded, even though in the headlines attributed the lynching to religious outfits, which had no confirmation from the SP, Nahan.

NBSA was of the view that both the channels NDTV 24x7 and NDTV India had violated the “Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage relating to accuracy, objectivity and racial and religious harmony”.

NBSA decided that the broadcaster (both channels) be directed to air its regret/apology for attributing the lynching to some named religious groups, apparently without verification of facts. The content of the apology and the date and time of the broadcast would be given to the broadcaster by NBSA.

Complaint from Mr. Kulbhushan Mehta regarding telecast of a objectionable content of news report on News 24 channel on 28.9.2015 from 11.16 to 11.20 am (and not on 27.9.2015)

Mol&B forwarded a legal notice dated 10.10.2015, received from Mr. Kulbhushan Mehta, Advocate, on behalf of Lok Janshakti Party (represented by Mr. Vinod Nagar, President of the party for Delhi Pradesh

and Member Parliamentary Board of the party), wherein it was alleged that News 24 channel had telecast a news programme on 27.9.2015, with breaking news text “cheating/defrauding of people” about his client without any proof of the allegations.

NBSA viewed the CD and noted that the broadcast appeared to be one sided and lacked objectivity/ neutrality, as some allegations levelled by apparently disgruntled elements were telecast without taking the views of the other side. Therefore, it decided to issue a show cause notice to the CEO for non-submission of response and also to respond to the violation of the NBSA Guidelines with regard to the said broadcast and also directed the broadcaster to appear before the NBSA.

The representatives of the broadcaster appeared before the NBSA and made their submissions.

NBSA considered the matter. It noted that on receipt of an official communication from the Lok Jan Shakti Party clarifying that the protest by the demonstrators was baseless and was done with a view to malign the reputation of the party, their editorial Board took the decision not to telecast the news report any further. NBSA was however of the view that while the broadcaster may have taken action not to telecast the news report any further, the broadcaster has breached the principles of self regulation relating to “impartiality & objectivity in reporting and ensuring neutrality”.

NBSA decided that the broadcaster be directed to submit an expression of regret to NBSA that it would be careful in future and adhere to the principles of self regulation relating to “impartiality & objectivity in reporting and ensuring neutrality”. NBSA decided to close the complaint on receipt of such letter expressing regret.

Note: Full text of the above Orders are available on the NBA website www.nbanewdelhi.com

Advisories issued by NBSA

Apart from its role of deciding complaints, a very important role of the NBSA is to lay down principles and norms for improving broadcasting standards to provide guidance to Member broadcasters. During the year, the following Advisories were issued and circulated to the Members and Editors for compliance:

1. Advisory dated 12.5.2016, regarding “Making of alleged fake news by Aajtak TV channel involving a child who was kicked by a Minister”.
2. Advisory dated 9.7.2016, regarding Coverage of Dr Zakir Naik Videos and Coverage of clashes in Jammu & Kashmir.
3. Advisory dated 15.7.2016 regarding coverage of Dr. Zakir Naik Press Conference via Skype.
4. Advisory dated 18.8.2016 regarding correct use of map of India in news/current affairs programmes.

The above Advisories are annexed to the Report.

May 12, 2016

All Members of NBA

Re: Letter dated 15.1.2016 received from the Under Secretary (BC.II), MoI&B regarding “Making of alleged fake news by Aajtak TV channel involving a child who was kicked by a Minister” : Advisory to Members

The above complaint and the response given by the broadcaster were considered by the NBSA at its meeting held 11.3.2016. As decided at the meeting, the complaint, response from the broadcaster and the decision taken by NBSA with regard to the complaint are being forwarded for your information and compliance.

Complaint

MoI&B vide its letter dated 15.1.2016 had brought to the notice of NBA that it had come across creation of some ‘fake news’ by Aajtak TV. It stated that some TV channels and social media sites had shown a stringer/reporter of Aajtak TV channel inciting a boy (who was involved in an incident in which a Minister of State of Madhya Pradesh allegedly kicked the boy, earlier reported by the media), with an offer of liquor and money to make some ‘tutored’ statement on the incident. The footage showed that the boy was being aggressively prompted to make a statement as suggested by the reporter, much against his will. It was disturbing to see a traumatised child being subjected to inducements with attempts of coercion, to put words into his mouth and extract a particular description of an event suggested by the stringer. Even as the child was visibly sobbing and crying, the stringer of the channel was building up pressure on him to speak out ‘his lines’ followed by an offer of liquor. MoI&B stated that the stringer was “making’ fake news and appeared to have compromised the basic principles of journalism, which has been prominently enunciated by NBA in their Guidelines/Regulations. MoI&B requested action against Aajtak Channel, as it had violated the ‘Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards of NBA” and the provisions of the “Guidelines for media reporting on Children” of NCPCR (duly approved by Hon’ble High Court of Delhi and circulated by MoI&B in 2012 and in turn circulated by NBA to its member channels) for compliance. MoI&B was of the view that even though Aajtak had not telecast the doctored and tutored version of the child, the very fact that its stringer was making attempts to ‘create’ news, raised the fundamental issue of journalistic ethics and methodology of TV reporting adopted by the electronic media. MoI&B has therefore requested that the issue be examined in the larger perspective of ethics in journalism. Along with letter dated 15.1.2016, MoI&B had also submitted transcript of the programme aired on Zee News channel on 4.11.2015, showing the alleged incident involving the stringer and the boy, along with Ministry’s internal comments, which stated: “चूँकि आज तक ने बच्चे की वो बाईट नहीं दिखाई है, जो कि उसे स्ट्रिंगर द्वारा वीडियो में कहने के लिए सिखाया गया था। ऐसे में आज तक के खिलाफ केबल टेलीविजन नेटवर्क नियमावली 1994 के उल्लंघन का मामला नहीं बनता है।”

Response of Broadcaster

The broadcaster stated that the statement of the boy was not aired by their channel Aajtak. It further stated that it believes in fair, impartial, objective and independent journalism and has always endeavoured to abide by the journalistic norms enshrined in the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards laid down by

the News Broadcasters Association (NBA). The broadcaster informed NBA that on coming to know about the conduct of this stringer, necessary action had been taken against the concerned stringer and his service contract with TVTN has been terminated.

Decision

NBSA noted with concern that the manner in which the stringer of Aajtak attempted to induce and tutor the child to make a statement was reprehensible conduct deserving criticism, as they violate the very basis of responsible and ethical journalism. NBSA was of the view that the action of any person representing or acting on behalf of a broadcaster, be it an editor, anchor, reporter or stringer, to coerce or browbeat someone, that too a child, with the object of obtaining any statement or allegation, was condemnable; and the fact that the statement obtained by such unethical means was not used, did not in any way mitigate the seriousness of the wrong conduct.

However, as the broadcaster has submitted that the action of the stringer was not with its knowledge, concurrence or authority and that the services of the stringer concerned had already been terminated for his unethical conduct, NBSA decided as follows:

- (i) To record and convey its displeasure to the broadcaster about the despicable incident involving its stringer, as it affects the credibility of the electronic media.
- (ii) To record and convey its concern about the lack of ethical training and journalistic integrity, disclosed by the incident.
- (iii) To direct the broadcaster to submit a photo copy of the termination letter issued to the stringer concerned, within one week of receipt of NBSA's letter communicating this decision.

NBSA also decided to inform all members that manufacturing, doctoring, tailoring, tutoring or creating any kind of false or fake news or any attempt to do so by any editor, anchor, reporter, stringer, employee or associate of a broadcaster, or any attempt to coerce, threaten and browbeat any person or institution, to extract false or distorted statements or allegations will be considered as serious misconduct on the part of the broadcaster, irrespective of whether any 'feed' or 'report' so generated/created is aired or not. It also decided to remind the broadcasters to brief, teach and inculcate ethical standards to its new employees (anchors, reporters and stringers) and also to hold refresher sessions about the same for the existing employees periodically.

Regards,

Sd/-

Annie Joseph

For & on behalf of NBSA

CC: Editors & Legal Heads of NBA

July 9, 2016

All Members & Editors of NBA

**Re: 1. Coverage of Dr. Zakir Naik Videos
2. Coverage of clashes in Jammu & Kashmir**

We have been requested by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MoI&B) to request Members/Editors of NBA to exercise restraint while covering both the above issues.

In the case of coverage of Dr. Zakir Naik Videos, MoI&B has requested that Members/Editors of NBA be requested to kindly not to air any controversial videos of Dr. Zakir Naik in their programmes. Similarly, in view of the extremely sensitive situation in Jammu & Kashmir, MoI&B has requested not to carry any “live” footage of the current clashes in J&K, in national interest.

MOI&B has informed that they would be issuing Advisory in this regard.

Members are requested to kindly bear in mind the NBA Guidelines on “Telecast of News Affecting Public Order”. Copy attached for information (Not attached. Available on NBA website).

Regards,

Sd/-

Annie Joseph

Secretary General

Encl: As above

July 15, 2016

All Members & Editors of NBA

Re: Coverage of Dr. Zakir Naik Press Conference via Skype

We have been requested by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to request Members of NBA that since you may have already carried the Press Conference of Dr. Zakir Naik via Skype today on your respective channels, the members be requested, in national interest, not to air the Skype Press Conference in the subsequent news/programmes as it would give unnecessary publicity.

This is for your information please.

Regards,

Sd/-

Annie Joseph

Secretary General

August 18, 2016

Members & Editors of NBA

Re: Advisory regarding correct use of MAP of India in news/current affairs programmes

NBSA quite often receives complaints regarding the incorrect use of the Map of India by member broadcasters in their various news and current affairs programmes.

NBSA, at its meeting held on 12.7.2016 decided that since this is a sensitive issue, an Advisory be issued to member broadcasters of NBA that when the Map of India is used in any news and current affairs programmes, **they should only use the authorised Map of India issued by the Survey of India, which is available on their website (Sample Map available on their website is enclosed).**

Members are also requested to bear in mind the relevant statutory provisions of law with regard to the use of the Map of India.

You are also requested to kindly circulate the Advisory with enclosure to all editorial staff and in particular to producers to avoid incorrect use of the Map of India, violation of which is an offence.

A copy of this Advisory along with enclosure may also be kindly circulated internally by email to all production staff and also be prominently displayed in the news rooms for easy access to all editorial personnel and producers.

This is for your information and necessary action.

Regards,

Sd/-

Annie Joseph

For & on behalf of the

News Broadcasting Standards Authority

CC: Legal Heads of NBA

Encl: As above

भारत की सही अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सीमाओं वाला मानचित्र ऐसा दिखता है।
यदि कोई व्यक्ति/संस्था इन सीमाओं को गलत तरीके से प्रस्तुत करें,
तो यह कानूनी अपराध है, **Section 69A, IT Ammendment Act, 2000**
Section 2, Criminal Law Ammendment Act, 1961
जिसके अन्तर्गत ऐसे व्यक्ति/संस्था को दण्ड/कारावास देने का भी प्रावधान है।



Projection : Lambert Conical Orthomorphic
Datum : Everest

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भारत के गलत अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सीमाओं वाले मानचित्रों के सम्बन्ध में
वैबलिंग सहित सूचना इस ई-मेल पर दें – ibd.dli.soi@gov.in
सूचना देने वाले का विवरण गुप्त रखा जायेगा।
उपरोक्त दर्शित मानचित्र मात्र आपकी जागरूकता हेतु है।

CIN: U22211DL2007NPL165480

Proxy Form

[Pursuant to Section 105(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 19(3) of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014]

Name of the Company: News Broadcasters Association

**Regd. Off: Juris House, Ground Floor, 22, Inder Enclave, Paschim Vihar,
New Delhi – 110 087**

Name of the Member:

Registered address:

E-mail Id:

I _____, authorised representative of the above named Member Entity of NBA, do hereby appoint:

1) Mr./Ms _____ R/o _____
_____ having email id _____ or failing him/her

2) Mr./Ms _____ R/o _____
_____ having email id _____ or failing him/her

3) Mr./Ms _____ R/o _____
_____ having email id _____ or failing him/her

and whose signature(s) are appended below as my/our proxy to attend and vote (on a poll) on behalf of member entity at the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on Wednesday, the 21st September, 2016, at 12.00 noon at Committee Room - 1, Annexe Building, India International Centre, 40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi – 110 003, and at any adjournment thereof in respect of such resolutions as are indicated below:

Resolution No:

1. To receive, consider and adopt Audited Financial Statement, Reports of Board of Directors and Auditors.
2. To re-appoint M/s S.S. Kothari Mehta & Co., Chartered Accountants, as Statutory Auditors of the Association and fix their remuneration.
3. To appoint Dr. Bhaskar Das as a Permanent Director of the Association, not liable to retire by rotation, in terms of the provisions of Article 17 of the Articles of Association.
4. To appoint Mr. Rahul Joshi as a Permanent Director of the Association, not liable to retire by rotation, in terms of the provisions of Article 17 of the Articles of Association.
5. To appoint Mrs. Anuradha Prasad as a Director of the Association, liable to retire at the next Ordinary General Body Meeting, in terms of the provisions of Articles 16 & 22 of the Articles of Association.
6. To appoint Mr. M.V. Shreyams Kumar as a Director of the Association, liable to retire at the next Ordinary General Body Meeting, in terms of the provisions of Articles 16 & 22 of the Articles of Association.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2016



Signature of Member's Representative _____

Signature of Proxy holder(s) _____

Note: This form of proxy in order to be effective should be duly completed and deposited at the Registered Office of the Association, not less than 48 hours before the commencement of the Meeting.



CIN: U22211DL2007NPL165480

Attendance Slip

News Broadcasters Association
Regd. Off: Juris House, Ground Floor,
22, Inder Enclave, Paschim Vihar,
New Delhi – 110 087

(To be filled in BLOCK LETTERS)

Name and Address of the Member Entity: _____

Name of the Authorised Representative of Member Entity _____

Name of the Proxy _____

(To be filled in if proxy form has been duly deposited with the Association)



I hereby record my presence at the 9th Annual General Meeting of the News Broadcasters Association held on Wednesday, the 21st September, 2016, at 12.00 noon at Committee Room - 1, Annexe Building, India International Centre, 40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi – 110 003.

 Signature of Member Representative/Proxy
 (To be signed at the time of handing over this slip)

(Please fill attendance slip and hand it over at the entrance of the Meeting Hall)

Chairperson & Members on the News Broadcasting Standards Authority



Justice R.V. Raveendran
[Former Judge of Supreme Court of India]
Chairperson

Independent Members



Nitin Desai



Dr. S.Y. Quraishi



Leela K. Ponappa



Vijayalaxmi Chhabra

Editor Members



Manika Raikwar Ahirwal



Hemant Sharma



Rajiv Khandekar



Navika Kumar

NewsBroadcastersAssociation



News Broadcasters Association

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New Delhi – 110 087

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Email: nba@nbanewdelhi.com
Website: www.nbanewdelhi.com