

October 2, 2010

All Editors of NBA

This is in continuation of our Guidelines/Advisory dated 16.9.10 & 18.9.10, regarding the reporting of the news relating to the Ayodhya judgement. By and large the reporting of the news relating to the Ayodhya judgement delivered by the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on September 30, 2010, was satisfactory even though some of the programmes telecast thereafter did not strictly adhere to the Guidelines in this behalf; this has been brought up with the concerned persons also with a view to prevent any such repetition.

It is necessary to reiterate the earlier Guidelines pertaining to reporting of any news/programmes relating to the Ayodhya matter. This is essential to ensure maintenance of peace, tranquility and harmony and to promote goodwill amongst the people of all sections of the Society.

Some additional Guidelines requiring strict compliance are as follows:-

- 1. The Guidelines issued earlier in this behalf will continue to operate and would govern the telecast of all news/programmes relating to the Ayodhya matter (**Copies attached**).
- 2. Any further discussion/programme of the merits of the Allahabad High Court judgement dated September 30, 2010 is not warranted for the present.
- 3. Telecast of any news/programme must not give any impression of bias or prejudice in favour of, or against any community.
- 4. Extreme care should be taken to ensure that no opportunity is given to anyone to express any extremist view through the media in order to influence the viewers.

Compliance of these and earlier Guidelines is being monitored.

The material relating to the programmes on the subject are being examined separately.

All Broadcasters are advised to preserve all the programmes telecast in relation to the Ayodhya matter, including scripts for examination, if necessary.

Issued under Orders of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority

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Annie Joseph For and on behalf of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority

Encl: As above

CC: All Members & Legal Heads of NBA