

News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority

Order No. 227 (2026)

Complainant: Mr. M. Chakravarty

Channel: NDTV.com

Article: "Elon Musk Was Once Asked Who Would Lead DOGE. His Reply Was..."

Date of Publication: 29.05.2025

Since the complainant did not receive a response from the broadcaster, on 27.06.2025, the complaint was escalated to the second level of redressal, i.e., NBDSA.

Complaint dated 11.06.2025

The complainant stated that the impugned news report was factually incorrect and amounted to the dissemination of fake news. The line in the news report stating "*Elon Musk has announced his departure from the Trump administration after serving as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) for the last four months*" was incorrect, as Elon Musk was not the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Amy Gleason is and was previously the official head/administrator.

The same can be verified by numerous official court filings by the US Government and through Amy Gleason's LinkedIn Profile. The complainant reiterated that Elon Musk was a Special Government Employee of the US Government, not DOGE Head/administrator. Consequently, the complainant alleged that the impugned news report had violated the principles of Impartiality and objectivity in reporting and Corrigendum under the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards.

Decision of NBDA at its meeting held on 11.02.2026

NBDSA considered the complaint and the impugned article. In view of the broadcaster's failure to respond to the complaint at the first level of redressal, the Authority decided to call the complainant and the broadcaster for a hearing.

On being served with the notices, the following persons were present at the hearing on 01.05.2026:

Complainant

1. Mr. M. Chakravarty

Broadcaster

1. Mr. Nikhil Guiliani, Legal



Submissions of the Complainant

The complainant submitted that his grievance pertained to an article published on NDTV India that contained a minor factual discrepancy. The article stated that Elon Musk headed the Department of Government Efficiency, which was factually inaccurate, as Amy Gleason, not Elon Musk, is the head of DOGE.

Submissions of the broadcaster

The broadcaster submitted that the complaint appeared to be more in the nature of feedback than a complaint. In the article, Elon Musk has been referred to as the Head of the Department of Government Efficiency because he was leading this initiative, which was entirely his responsibility. It was in this context that the term "Head" was used.

Moreover, two press releases issued by the Government of India support this designation. A press release from the Ministry of External Affairs regarding Mr. Musk's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13.02.2025 described Mr. Elon Musk as the Head of the US Department of Government Efficiency and CEO of Tesla. The designation was merely a technical term; therefore, there was no factual error in the article. The terminology is consistent with the government's press release.

Decision

NBDSA considered the complaint, reviewed the article, and the submissions made by both parties during the hearing.

NBDSA noted that the sole grievance of the complainant with the impugned article was the reference made to Mr Elon Musk, who was referred to as the "Head of Department of Government Efficiency". It was also noted that the broadcaster had stated it had referred to Mr Musk, as such, since he was the one leading the Department of Government Efficiency. Further, the Government of India itself had referred to Mr Musk as the Head of the Department of Government Efficiency in its own press releases. In view of the above, NBDSA held that no violation of the Code of Conduct was made out in the article.

Accordingly, NBDSA decided to close the complaint and inform the complainant and the broadcaster.

NBDSA directs NBDA to send:

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

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



Justice A.K Sikri (Retd.)
Chairperson

Place: New Delhi

Date: 28-05-2026