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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**New Delhi: February 13, 2012** ..... The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) notes with anguish the frequent arbitrary action of cable operators to switch off cable without assigning any reason. Recently, the audio of news channels was switched off in Punjab.

Similarly, it is understood that a novel method was chosen to black out television news channels when electricity was switched off in Athani and Belgavi in Karnataka to ensure that the reporting of the incidents in Karnataka Assembly could not be telecast.

These arbitrary actions, the NBA stated, was a direct attack on the right to freedom of speech and expression enshrined as a fundamental right under Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution.

The NBA condemns such illegal and arbitrary actions by cable operators or the powers that be and urges the government to take cognizance of the same and also take necessary action against such cable operators and individuals.

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**Annie Joseph**  
**Secretary General**