



October 27, 2009

To All Editors of NBA

Re: Coverage of Delhi - Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express held Hostage

Your attention is drawn to Rule 6 of Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage dated 10.2.09 which relates to covering of incidents which impinges on issues of national Security. The same is reproduced below:

6. National Security

- 6.1 Broadcasters should not disclose confidential information of operations involving national security.
- 6.2 Broadcasters should use due discretion in reporting on operational methods used by perpetrators of serious offences against the State during the occurrence of the event.
- 6.3 Live interviews with perpetrators should not be aired.
- 6.4 Reporting of events which erodes public confidence in the capacity of national institutions meant to protect them should be avoided during the occurrence of the event.
- 6.5 Broadcasters should not reveal technical details of operations, to prevent information relating to strategies and operations of security agencies becoming known to the perpetrators.

We are drawing your attention the above Guideline in the context of the ongoing coverage by all news channels of the Delhi – Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express being held hostage near Jhargram just a few hours ago with over 1200 passengers on board, in regard to which we have also received communications from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting calling upon our Members to exercise restraint.

In view of the above, you are advised to kindly bear in mind the foregoing self adopted guidelines both in letter & spirit in regard to reportage of the incident.

Regards

Sd/-

Annie Joseph
Secretary General, NBA

CC: All Members & Legal Heads of NBA