

To

The Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Prime Minister's Office,
Government of India,
South Block, New Delhi - 110011

Date: 10/05/2025

Subject: Urgent Demand for Immediate Investigation and Strictest Action Against Misleading and Sensational Visuals Broadcast by Television Channels from 6:00 PM on 8 May 2025 to 12:00 PM on 9 May 2025, Which Endanger National Security, Insult the Morale of Military Personnel and Their Families, Destabilize the Stock Market, and Damage India's Global Reputation

Hon'ble Sir,

I, Deepanshu Sahu, a vigilant citizen and advocate, am writing this letter with utmost concern and sensitivity to draw your immediate attention to the misleading, sensational, and irresponsible journalism perpetrated by certain television channels. This deplorable act is not only destroying the credibility of journalism but also jeopardizing national security, insulting the sacred sentiments of military families, tarnishing the global dignity of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), causing economic instability in the stock market, and severely damaging India's international reputation. Such misleading reports related to revered institutions like the Indian Army misguide the public, undermine India's global standing, and inflict unbearable mental agony on military families.

Gravity and Impact of the Issue:**1. Destruction of Journalistic Credibility:**

Channels such as *Zee News*, *Republic Bharat*, *Sudarshan News*, and *India Today* broadcast sensational and deceitful news for TRP and financial greed, which constitutes a gross violation of journalistic ethics and integrity. Such misinformation creates fear, confusion, and distrust among the public, irreparably damaging the credibility of journalism.

2. Threat to National Security:

These channels misuse visuals from the Indian Army's daily press conferences, presenting baseless and dangerous claims through ignorant individuals and fake defense experts. This undermines the Army's credibility, distorts sensitive national security information, and jeopardizes the sovereignty of the nation.

3. Insult to the Sentiments of Military Families:

Soldiers deployed in remote and sensitive areas face geographical and technical constraints, making regular communication with their families difficult. Misleading reports, such as exaggerated or fictitious claims about military operations, cause profound anxiety and emotional distress among military families. These families, already concerned for the safety of their loved ones, endure unbearable mental trauma due to such false reports, as they lack means to verify the status of their soldiers. This irresponsible journalism exploits and insults the sacred contributions of military families.

4. **Violation of NRIs' Dignity:**

My NRI friends have reported that their foreign colleagues mock them by sharing video clips from these channels. Global media outlets like *BBC*, *Al Jazeera*, and independent fact-checking organizations repeatedly debunk these channels' reports, leading to humiliation and embarrassment for Indians abroad. This tarnishes India's global reputation and deeply hurts the dignity of the NRI community.

5. **Economic Instability in the Stock Market:**

The misleading reports during this period created fear and uncertainty among investors, leading to significant declines in the stock market. For instance, on 8-9 May 2025, news of India-Pakistan tensions caused hundreds of points' drop in the Sensex and Nifty indices. Such volatility harms small and medium investors, prompts foreign investors to exit the market, and disrupts economic stability.

Requested Actions:

1. Immediate, thorough, and impartial investigation into the misleading, sensational, and harmful content broadcast by *Zee News*, *Republic Bharat*, *Sudarshan News*, *India Today*, and other similar channels.
2. Strictest penalties for channels violating journalistic ethics and the law, including hefty fines, license suspension, or complete cessation of broadcasting.
3. Strengthening regulatory bodies like the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) to ensure full accountability of electronic media.
4. Implementation of stringent and effective guidelines for digital and electronic media to impose an immediate and permanent ban on misleading content.

Legal Basis:

1. **Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995:** Allows for license suspension or equipment seizure for violations of the Programme Code.
2. **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021:** Provides a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism for misleading content on digital news portals.
3. **News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA):** Enforces ethics codes, with penalties including warnings, censure, or fines up to ₹1 lakh for violations.
4. **Indian Penal Code (IPC):**
 - **Section 153A:** Punishable for content promoting enmity.
 - **Section 505:** Punishable for rumors disrupting public peace.
5. **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting:** Holds authority to regulate broadcasting licenses and content guidelines (e.g., advisory on Pakistan-origin content dated 9 May 2025).

Prayer:

Hon'ble Prime Minister, your visionary and inspiring leadership has established India as a strong and respected nation on the global stage. Your office, a symbol of national unity, security, and pride, is uniquely capable of resolving this crisis. As a vigilant citizen and advocate, I humbly yet resolutely pray for immediate and strictest action against the deceitful, anti-national, and unforgivable acts of these television channels. This reprehensible journalism insults the sacred sentiments of military families, kindizes national security, and causes irreparable damage to India's global reputation. I have full faith that under your steadfast leadership and unwavering dedication to national interests, this issue will be addressed swiftly and effectively, further strengthening India's dignity, credibility, and national integrity.

I eagerly await your prompt attention and effective action.

Applicant:

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Note: Video clips of these media and organisations have been preserved and will be provided upon request during the investigation.

Enclosed Documents:

- Screenshots of misleading and sensational news visuals and headlines broadcast by the aforementioned channels.

CC:

1. Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001
2. Hon'ble Home Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, North Block, New Delhi - 110001
3. Hon'ble Defence Minister, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, South Block, New Delhi - 110011
4. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, South Block, New Delhi - 110011