

## **Guidelines to prevent communal colour in reporting crime, riots, rumours and such related incidents**

These Guidelines are in addition to those already issued. The main purpose of these Guidelines is to ensure the prevention of erosion of the secular ethos of the India polity.

1. In broadcasting the commission of crime etc., it must be borne in mind that any communal colour to it has no relevance and, therefore, any reference to the community of the accused corrodes our secular fabric.
2. It must also be remembered that any communal colour in reporting such news or in the programmes does irreparable harm to the community, even when the trial ends in an acquittal of the accused. The damage done to the plural society, meanwhile, can not be remedied.
3. In reporting all such news/programmes the focus must only be on the objective facts of the incident. Great care is required in this behalf, particularly when the accused belong to a minority community.
4. Care should be taken not to reveal the names of the accused and the arrested with their photographs, visuals and details of their families to ensure that the reporting does not violate a citizen's right to privacy or expose him/her to any harm.
5. In particular while reporting the victims of any such incidents, care should be taken to prevent description of their identity based on their caste, religion or any other distinction.

Place : New Delhi

Dated: December 13, 2012