



Date: January 22, 2022

To,

Kshipra Jatana

Group General Counsel, TV18 Broadcast Limited,

Express Trade Tower, Plot

No. 15 & 16, Sector 16A, Film City Noida,

Uttar Pradesh 201301

Email id: [complaint@nw18.com](mailto:complaint@nw18.com)

**Subject:** Complaint against the show '*Desh nahi Jhukne denge*' aired on January 18, 2022

Dear Madam,

We, at Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) are deeply concerned about the contents of the show titled '*Desh nahi jhukne denge - हिंदुओं के खिलाफ महागठबंधन?*' (Will not let the country bow – Grand Alliance against Hindus?) anchored by Aman Chopra that aired on News 18 India on January 18, 2022.

The complete show may be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z4kSO415-k>

At the outset, we would like to state that the said Hindi debate show had themes of communal divide throughout its narrative and did not try to mask this in any manner, with not just the participants of the debate but also the host of the show, actively participating in the communal diatribe.

The show was flagged off by the host with a communally polarizing question: *Hinduon ke khilaf Uttar Pradesh me Mahagathbandhan tayyar ho raha hai, aur jab 80 vs. 20 ki baat ki thi Yogi Adityanath ne toh wo sahi thi?* (A grand alliance is being formed in Uttar Pradesh against Hindus, and was Yogi Adityanath right when he said it is now 80 vs. 20?)

Even though the BJP spokesperson tried in the beginning to say that what the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister meant by "80 vs. 20" was that the Assembly election will be pitted with 80% of population who is pro-development on one side, and 20% which is against development of the state on the other, eventually the debate was steered towards the communal angle.

Here is what transpired throughout the show. We have extracted quotes of the host during the show, his reactions and some statements displayed during the show in text on a ticker which clearly point towards the narrative the show wanted to promote - spreading religious disharmony in the pre-election phase of UP.



### Extracts from the show

The host: “*Jis jis ne hinduon ke narsanghar ki baat kari sab logo ko party me ticket di ja rahi hai (picture of Priyanka Gandhi and Taukir Raza Khan and few others is displayed)*” (Whoever spoke of genocide of Hindus, all of them are being given a ticket by the (Congress) party)

A hate inciting and communally inflammatory video of Taukir Raza Khan where he can be seen threatening Hindus was played.

The host: “*Ye 80 k khilaf hai mahagathbandhan*” (This grand alliance is against the 80)

The ticker that was going on during the show:

“*15% Muslim 85% Hindu par bhari*” (15% Muslims overshadow 85% Hindus)

“*Jab Yogi Modi chale jayenge, tumhe kaun bachayega?*” (When Yogi-Modi leave, who will save you?)

“*Hinduon ke khilaf sab mil gaye hai?*” (Everyone has colluded against the Hindus?)

He then brought Taukir Raza Khan on air to get his side of the story about the speech he made. During this dialogue, Taukir Raza Khan questioned why was the host blaming the Congress for the speech that he made. He should have been arrested if he has done something wrong and if the host wants to bring up mistakes made by Congress and not harp on what he said.

Further Taukir Raza Khan mentioned that he admits that during the term of Yogi Adityanath, there were no riots in UP and he said that during Akhilesh Yadav’s term they committed riots everywhere. To this, the host responds, “*Yogi ji ke rehte danga nahi kar paa rahe ye dard hai aapka?*” (You could not commit riots during Yogi’s term, are you feeling hurt because of that?)

On the ticker, the following names are displayed on repeat with a description

Taukir Raza Khan: *Hinduon ke khilaf bhadkau bayan* (inflammatory speech against Hindus)

Nahid Hassan: *Kairana se Hindu palayan ka mastermind* (Mastermind of Hindu migration)

Mohram Ali: *Sahranpur Sikh dango ka aaropi* (Sahranpur Sikh riots accused)

Abu Azmi: *15% Muslim 85% Hindu par bhari* (15% Muslims overshadow 85% Hindus)

A ticker later also mentioned these names and accompanying text:

Rafiq Ansari: History sheeter

Aslam Chaudhari: Fraud

Haji Younus: Gangster

Amarpal Sharma: Murder

Madan Bhaiyya: Mafia



Assaduddin Owaisi: *Jab Yogi Modi chale jayenge, tumhe kaun bachayega?* (When Yogi-Modi leave, who will save you?)

When Samajwadi Party's Tariq Ahmed Lahiri called Yogi Adityanath a *Gunda* (criminal) on the show and went on debating with a BJP spokesperson Nupur, the host said, "*Wo accept kar rahe hai ki unko Hinduon se problem hai. Wo 80 ke khilaf hai.*" (He is accepting that he has an issue with Hindus. He is against the 80.)

During this heated exchange, Taukir Raza Khan's inflammatory speech and its extracts are transcribed and displayed repeatedly on the ticker. The host also says that since Samajwadi party has given ticket to Nahid Hassan, Mohram Ali and Tejinder Virk, if they get elected there will be a repeat of Sahranpur riots and Muzaffarnagar riots.

When Salman Nizami, Congress leader, was referring to what Taukir Raza Khan said in his speech and said ki "*galti ho gai*" (he committed a mistake), the host said, "*Galti toh ho nahi payegi na. Yogi raj hai, Lath padenge, dande padenge, bull dozer chalega. Galti nahi ho payegi*" (They will not be allowed to commit a mistake in Yogi-raj. They will be kicked, thrashed with sticks, bull dozers will come at (them). Such mistakes will not be permitted.)

Nizami said there are issues like unemployment and other development issues and said that despite the triple talaq law and Ayodhya judgement, no one from Muslim community raised his voice. To this the host responds, "*Baat hindu musalman ki hai hi nahi. Ye aadmi Hinduon k narsanghar ki dhamki de raha hai uska aap samarthan le rahe hai. Aapko Hinduon se problem hai.*" (The issue is not Hindu-Muslim. This Man (Taukir) is speaking of exterminating Hindus and you are accepting his support. You have an issue with Hindus.)

### **What the show entailed**

It is clear from the extracts we have mentioned above, that the debate show appeared more like a political campaign debate than a news room debate. The host is supposed to take a neutral stand, introduce a neutral theme and not side with a particular community to put any other community on the spot, but that clearly did not happen.

From the word go, as is apparent, the host Aman Chopra, was keen on leading the debate with the question of whether the Congress party and its alliance was meant to be against the Hindus of the state of UP. He repeatedly used the term "80 vs. 20" throughout the show pitting Hindus voters against Muslim voters of the state. As the anchor of show on a news channel, that is supposed to have a neutral and unbiased theme, the host did not even attempt to have any non-communal theme on the show. The narrative was not even put to question as to why, if at all, the election theme was pitting one religion against the other. The host let his biases and prejudices against the Muslim community cloud the role he is supposed to play in a debate show and made it evident that he was batting for the Hindu majority and was offended by the fact that some persons with a criminal background were included in the Congress party and its alliance members.

Throughout the show he insinuated that the Congress and Samajwadi Party were against the Hindus, an allegation vehemently denied by the spokespersons of the party present on the show. The political affiliation of the host was apparent in the show, and he made no attempts to mask the same. He kept reiterating through the show that the Opposition parties, including the Congress and SP, were against the Hindu population, making the election a communal battleground which the political parties are refrained from by the Election Commission but the host of the show kept insisting on making the election a communal issue.

This does not only violate the made guidelines issued by the News Broadcasting Digital and Standards Authority (NBDSA) from time to time of which the channel is a member but also stands in violation of our constitutional principles and the orders of the Supreme Court and our country's high courts from time to time.

Moreover, the show was also promoted on the social media handles of the channel by using the following poster that incites communal hate:



The Model Code of Conduct For The Guidance Of Political Parties And Candidates issued by the Election Commission of India prohibits political parties and their candidates from indulging in “any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic.”

Apart from this, the NBDSA's guidelines state that, “News broadcasters must not broadcast any form of ‘hate speech’ or other obnoxious content that may lead to incitement of violence or promote public unrest or disorder as election campaigning based on communal or caste factors is prohibited under Election Rules. News broadcasters should strictly avoid reports which tend to promote feelings of enmity or hatred among people, on the ground of religion, race, caste, community, region or language.”

The channel has acted in complete violation of this directive as well as Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards issued by the NBDSA and few other guidelines pertaining to maintenance of religious harmony. It further amounts to certain offences related to hate speech, misinformation and promoting enmity under the Indian Penal Code. As such, in view of the elaborate and detailed complaint made



herein above, we expect your channel to take responsibility of the grievances raised herein and act upon the same responsibly.

In view of this, it is in best interest, that you remove the above-mentioned content from all social media accounts of your channel and your own website, and issue a public apology for the misinformed reportage of communal nature. In an event we do not receive a satisfactory response from you, we will be compelled to submit a complaint to the NBDSA.

You are also put on notice that failure on your part to satisfy the complainants with an apology on your news channel may result in legal consequences for your channel at the appropriate fora, at your risk to costs.

Yours sincerely,

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary