

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD**R/SPECIAL CRIMINAL APPLICATION (QUASHING) NO. 1967 of 2026**

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TV TODAY NETWORK LIMITED & ANR.

Versus

STATE OF GUJARAT & ANR.

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Appearance:

MR. HRISHIKESH BARUAH, ADVOCATE with MR. MAYUR DHOTARE,
ADVOCATE and MR CHAITANYA S JOSHI(5927) for the Applicant(s) No. 1,2
MR. UTKARSH SHARMA, APP for the Respondent(s) No. 1

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CORAM:HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M. R. MENGDEY**Date : 13/03/2026****ORAL ORDER**

1. The impugned FIR has been registered against the Petitioners for the offence punishable under Sections 308(2), 126(2) and 356(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 ("BNS").

2. So far as the offence punishable under Section 356(2) is concerned, it pertains to defamation, and, in view of the provisions of Section 222 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, except the complaint being lodged by the aggrieved person, the concerned court is restrained from taking cognizance of the offence, and therefore, prima facie, the FIR could not have been registered for the offence of defamation.

3. Learned APP has submitted that despite the notice being issued to the Petitioners, and the same having been served upon the Petitioners, they have not remained present before the Investigation Officer.

4. Pursuant thereto, learned Advocate for the Petitioners submit that the Petitioners shall remain present before the Investigation Officer on Monday, i.e. 16th of March 2026.

4.1 In view of the above, if the Petitioners remain present before the Investigation officer, and thereafter, if the Investigation officer is desirous of taking any coercive steps against them, the Investigation Officer shall issue seven days prior notice to the Petitioners before taking any coercive steps against the Petitioners.

5. So far as the offence of defamation is concerned, the further process of the present FIR shall remain stayed qua the offence of defamation.

6. Issue Notice returnable on 22.04.2026. Learned APP waives service of Notice on behalf of the Respondent – State.

Direct service is permitted.

(M. R. MENGDEY,J)

J.N.W / 43

Original copy of this order has been signed by the Hon'ble Judge.
Digitally signed by: JAYANTILAL NARAYAN WAGHELA(HC00178), Principal Pvt. Secretary, at High Court of Gujarat on 13/03/2026 18:45:58