

Name of the Paper : MAIL TODAY

Published at : Delhi

Date : 21 NOV 2009

Government issues 26/11 guidelines for the media ^{MTD 21}

THE CENTRE has 'advised' the media, especially TV channels, against replaying disturbing visuals of the 26/11 attack.

The information and broadcasting (I & B) ministry on Friday issued an advisory asking the media to exercise caution and avoid telecasting or printing images of blood and emotional distress while crafting programmes marking the anniversary of the Mumbai strike.

"It is likely that special programmes, talk shows and inter-

views would be telecast to highlight (26/11 attack), to pay tribute to the victims as well as to the brave security personnel," the advisory read.

It noted: "Investigations and trials of (carnage) are in progress. It is, therefore, important to ensure a balanced and responsible coverage in any special programme to be telecast. Replays disturbing visuals showing scenes of blood and gore or images of dead or seriously wounded or the emo-

tional distress of victims/hostages and their families may bring back dreaded memories of the tragic incident. These may indirectly fulfil the basic design of the terrorists to spread fear and insecurity in the minds of people."

The I & B ministry had issued similar directives while Mumbai was held ransom by terrorists a year ago. With the images of the violence being telecast repeatedly on TV, the government faced public anger over its fail-

ure to preempt the strikes.

Friday's advisory added: "While the media in our country has always been in the forefront of the crusade against terrorism by building strong public opinion and consensus against the senseless acts of terrorists, it is necessary to continue to display a high degree of maturity and sensitivity while covering events of terror and terror-related issues, especially in the case of Mumbai terror attack."

Mail Today in New Delhi