

Arnab v. Navika: A Delhi court directs a police investigation into claims of defamation

Under Section 202 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), Patiala House court's Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM), Sidhant Sihag, directed the police to look into the matter.

In a defamation action brought by journalist Arnab Goswami's ARG Outlier Media Private Limited, a Delhi court on Tuesday directed the Delhi Police to search Times Now Group Editor-in-Chief **Navika Kumar**.

Under Section 202 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), Patiala House court's Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM), Sidhant Sihag, directed the police to look into the matter.

In order to ascertain if there are adequate reasons to continue, the clause permits a magistrate to order an inquiry in lieu of issuing process against the accused.

"We heard arguments over the summoning issue. The accused is said to reside outside of this court's jurisdiction. The Court directed that an inquiry be conducted in the current case under sections 202 CrPC and 225 BNSS, given the facts and circumstances.

The next hearing in this matter is scheduled on February 26.

Encourage AGG Outlier Media was represented by **Ayush Jindal**.

During the 9 PM primetime show "**The Newshour**" on January 18, 2020, Kumar was accused of making disparaging remarks against Goswami in relation to the alleged TRP fraud. This was the basis for the complaint.

Republic TV's parent company, ARG Outlier, contended that Kumar's program not only contained unsupported statements but also purportedly misrepresented the Mumbai Police chargesheet in order to disparage Goswami and Republic TV.

When the Mumbai Police claimed that several television broadcasters were falsifying their audience figures in October 2020, the purported TRP scam was exposed.

According to the Mumbai Police, several stations, such as Republic TV, Fakht Marathi, and Box Cinema, were paying people to keep their TVs turned to them even when they weren't viewing.

A Mumbai magistrate court granted the Mumbai Police's request to drop the case's prosecution in March 2025.

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