

News

The Center's response to the Supreme Court's request to regulate explicit content on OTTs is sought.

The Center, X Corp, Netflix, Amazon, Ullu Digital, ALTBalaji, MUBI, Google, Apple, and Meta were all served with notice by the Court.



In a plea seeking measures to restrict the broadcasting of sexually explicit or improper content on Indian social media and over-the-top (OTT) platforms, the Supreme Court on Monday requested the Central government's answer [**Uday Mahurkar v. Union of India**].

Additionally, notice was sent to X Corp, Netflix, Amazon, Ullu Digital, ALTBalaji, MUBI, Google, Apple, and Meta by a bench of **Justices BR Gavai and AG Masih**.

The Court did, however, add that its ability to get involved in the case might be restricted.

"This is for the executive or legislative branch. We are currently being accused of intruding into the legislative and executive branches. In any case, notification will be given,"

Justice Gavai stated.

Today, Solicitor General of India (SG) **Tushar Mehta** represented the Central government. The Court has mandated that the remaining respondents receive notice.

"The exhibition of various offensive, obscene, and indecent content on social media and over-the-top (OTT) platforms is a significant worry raised by the appeal. According to SG, a plea cannot be interpreted negatively. It is argued that part of the material is twisted. According to SG, certain rules already exist, while others are being considered. As a result, we give respondents notice," the Court's order stated.

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, speaking on behalf of the petitioner today, expressed worry about the unsuitable content that is freely accessible online.

"No checks are being made on this. Jain stated, "I have also provided a comprehensive list, including seconds and other details, of what is displayed on social media platforms without any inspections.

"I'm not interpreting it negatively. The fact that kids are exposed to all of this worries me. Two men cannot even sit together and watch some ordinary programs because of the obscene language and other elements. In response, SG Tushar Mehta stated, "The only requirement they have is that it be for '18 plus' (audience)."

Concerns about youngsters being exposed to unsuitable content were also raised by the Court.

"Yes, we have seen children being given phone etc...to keep them busy for sometime," he said.