



Current Affairs of the Day

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- OTT platforms will not have to register: Centre
- Content needs to be checked, says SC

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- Haryana's new job quota rule worries India Inc.



OTT platforms will not have to register: Centre

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has clarified that over-the-top (OTT) platforms will not have to register with the government, and no government nominee will be present in the self-regulatory body.

Highlights:

1. The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules of 2021 requires the streaming platforms to comply with a new three-tier self-regulatory complaint redressal system.
2. The statement said, “the rules focus on self-classification of content instead of any form of censorship”. The platforms were expected to develop a grievance redressal mechanism to tackle complaints about content.
3. He informed the representatives that the government would create an inter-departmental committee to look at complaints that remain unresolved at the self-regulatory level.
4. The Minister reasserted that the code of ethics had been brought in following representations from various cinema and TV bodies, stating that while there were regulations for them, none existed for the OTT industry.
5. “Thus, it was decided that the government would come out with progressive institutional mechanism for OTT players and develop a level playing field with the idea of self-regulation,” the statement added.

Under watch

On February 25, the government announced the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, which introduced a 3-tier grievance redressal mechanism for OTT platforms

TIER 1 A grievance cell

TIER 2 A self-regulatory body of the OTT platforms

TIER 3 An inter-ministerial panel to look into complaints if they are not resolved at the first two levels



The OTT platforms will have to self-classify content into five age-based categories- U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+ and A (Adult). Platforms would be required to implement parental locks for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher, and reliable age verification mechanisms for content classified as “A”.



Content needs to be checked, says SC

The Supreme Court on Thursday made it amply clear to over-the-top (OTT) platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video that it is in favour of “screening” the content shown by them.

Highlights:

1. It said some of the films hosted by the platforms were pornographic.
2. “Traditional film viewing has become extinct. Now, films and web series are viewed by the public on these platforms. We feel there should be some screening. There is pornography in some films,” the court observed.

Haryana's new job quota rule worries India Inc.

Warning that its move to reserve private-sector jobs for locals “spells disaster” for industrial development and private investment in Haryana, India Inc. has asked the State to “relook” the legislation, highlighting the lack of adequate availability of skilled manpower.

Highlights:

1. Industry sources said this may force a rework of their expansion plans in the State, adding that it could also provide a shield to some firms indulging in unethical practices to retrench the existing workforce.
2. The Governor, earlier this week, approved a Bill that reserves 75% of jobs in the private sector that pay less than ₹50,000 per month for candidates from the State.
3. “Investors and entrepreneurs need to source the best human resources available in the country to be competitive and successful. To force them into such a regressive straightjacket will force them to look beyond Haryana and this will ultimately hurt the interests of the State,” Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, said.
4. Mr Shankar added that the industry body believes the move was against the spirit of the Constitution, which gives citizens of India the freedom to work anywhere in the country.