

No. DM/5/2025-DM
Government of India
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
'A Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Date: 22.04.2025

To,

1. Online Curated Content Publishers (OTT platforms)
2. Self-regulatory Bodies of OTT platforms

Subject: Advisory on adherence of Indian Laws and the Code of Ethics prescribed under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media, Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to invite your kind attention to a order dated 19.12.2024 (copy enclosed) passed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in the matter of Akshat Baldwa & ANR vs Maddock Films Private Limited and Ors. regarding compliance with Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media, Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 in respect of movies released on OTT platforms.

2. In this regard, it is stated that Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media, Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 provide for a Code of Ethics for the Digital News publishers and publishers OTT platforms, and a three level institutional mechanism for redressal of grievances relating to violation of the Code of Ethics. Further, the Rules provide that the Self-regulatory Bodies of OTT platforms shall oversee and ensure the alignment and adherence by the OTT platforms to the Code of Ethics.

3. As regards disabled friendly accessibility features on OTT platforms, the code of ethics inter-alia provides that every publisher of online curated content shall, to the extent feasible, take reasonable efforts to improve the accessibility of online curated content transmitted by it to persons with disabilities through the implementation of appropriate access services.

4. Accordingly, in light of the above provisions and Hon'ble Delhi High Court's order dated 19.12.2024, it is advised that the OTT platforms fully comply with the various provisions of applicable laws including Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Code of Ethics prescribed under IT Rules, 2021 while publishing content on their platforms. The Self-regulatory Bodies of OTT platforms are also

advised to ensure that content published by OTT platforms are fully compliant with various provisions of applicable laws of the land.

5. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Encl: As Above.

Yours faithfully,



(Amarendra Singh)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tel No. 011-23381592



\$~1

* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 16802/2024

AKSHAT BALDWA & ANR.

.....Petitioners

Through: Mr. Amar Jain and Ms. Shehreen
Gauri, Advocates.

versus

MADDOCK FILMS PRIVATE LIMITED AND ORS.

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Harshvardhan Jha, Mr. Aman
Pathak and Mr. Sumeet Mishra,
Advocates for R-1 & 2.

Mr. Sandeep Kumar Mahapatra,
CGSC with Mr. Tribhuvan and Mr.
Ishaan Malhotra, Advocates for R-3.
Mr. Vedansh Anand, G.P. for UOI.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJEEV NARULA

ORDER

19.12.2024

%

1. Mr. Harshvardhan Jha, counsel for Respondents No. 1 and 2 assures that Same-Language captioning, shall also be made available on the OTT platform of Respondent No. 4 with respect to the two films "*Stree 2: Sarkate Ka Aatank*" and "*Auro Mein Kahan Dum Tha*". He states that the same shall be done within a period of eight weeks from today. Let an action taken report to this effect be filed by Respondents No. 1, 2 & 4.

2. Further Respondent No. 3 is also directed to file a response/counter affidavit explaining the steps undertaken by them for framing the guidelines for improving disabled friendly accessibility features under the OTT

9:0



platforms. Let the same be done within a period of four weeks from today.

3. Respondent No. 1 is also directed to ensure that all the movies released on OTT platforms fully complying with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code), Rules, 2021. To this effect, they may issue appropriate instructions to the stakeholders.

4. Renotify on 4th April, 2025.

SANJEEV NARULA, J

DECEMBER 19, 2024

as