

Ministry of I&B takes Action against Obscene Content on OTT Platforms

18 OTT Platforms Blocked for Obscene and Vulgar Content After Multiple Warnings from Union Minister Anurag Thakur 19 Websites, 10 Apps, 57 Social Media Handles of OTT platforms blocked nationwide Content in violation of IT Act, Indian Penal Code, and Indecent representation of Women (Prohibition) Act

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

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The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) has taken action in coordination with various intermediaries, to block 18 OTT platforms publishing obscene, vulgar, and, in some instances, pornographic content. 19 websites, 10 apps (7 on Google Play Store, 3 on Apple App Store), and 57 social media accounts associated with these platforms have been disabled for public access in India.

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Shri Anurag Singh Thakur has repeatedly emphasized the responsibility of the platforms to not propagate obscenity, vulgarity and abuse under the guise of 'creative expression'. On 12th March, 2024, Shri Thakur announced that 18 OTT platforms publishing obscene and vulgar content have

been taken down.

The recent decision was taken under the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000 in consultation with other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, and domain experts specializing in media and entertainment, women's rights, and child rights.

List of OTT Platforms

Dreams Films	Voovi	Yessma	Uncut Adda	Tri Flicks	X Prime
Neon X VIP	Besharams	Hunters	Rabbit	Xtramood	Nuefliks
MoodX	Mojflix	Hot Shots VIP	Fugi	Chikooflix	Prime Play

Nature of Content

A significant portion of the content hosted on these platforms was found to be obscene, vulgar, and portrayed women in a demeaning manner. It depicted nudity and sexual acts in various inappropriate contexts, such as relationships between teachers and students, incestuous family relationships, etc. The content included sexual innuendos and, in some instances, prolonged segments of pornographic and sexually explicit scenes devoid of any thematic or societal relevance.

The content was determined to be *prima facie* in violation of Section 67 and 67A of the IT Act, Section 292 of the IPC, and Section 4 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

Significant Viewership

One of the OTT apps amassed more than 1 crore downloads, while two others had over 50 lakh downloads on the Google Play Store.

Additionally, these OTT platforms extensively utilized social media to disseminate trailers, specific scenes, and external links aimed at attracting audiences to their websites and apps. The social media accounts of the concerned OTT platforms had a cumulative followership of over 32 lakh users.

Social Media Platform	Number of Accounts
Facebook	12
Instagram	17
X (formerly Twitter)	16
YouTube	12

Constant Engagement with OTT Platforms

The Ministry of I&B consistently conducts sensitization efforts with OTT platforms and their self-regulatory bodies established under the IT Rules, 2021 through meetings, webinars, workshops, etc.

The Government of India remains committed to fostering the growth and development of the OTT industry. Several measures have been undertaken in this regard, including the introduction of the Inaugural OTT Award for Web Series at the 54th International Film Festival of India, collaboration with OTT platforms in the media and entertainment sector, and the establishment of a light touch regulatory framework with an emphasis on self-regulation under the IT Rules, 2021.

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