

Ekta Kapoor and Shobha Kapoor Face POCSO Charges Over Objections Raised Against 'Gandi Baat'



Renowned producers Ekta Kapoor and her mother Shobha Kapoor have landed in hot water after a complaint was filed against them under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The charges stem from an episode of their popular web series Gandi Baat on the OTT platform ALTBalaji, where the duo is accused of showcasing inappropriate content involving minors.

The complaint alleges that in Season 6 of Gandi Baat, explicit scenes featuring underage girls were streamed, violating moral and legal boundaries. According to the complainant, these offensive scenes were aired between February 2021 and April 2021 on ALTBalaji, sparking outrage among viewers.

Though Gandi Baat has always pushed the boundaries of erotic content, its latest installment appears to have crossed a line. The legal complaint specifically focuses on a particular episode where minors were allegedly involved in objectionable scenes. While the controversial episode is no longer available for streaming on ALTBalaji, the damage has been done, and the Kapoors now face serious legal repercussions under the stringent POCSO Act, which protects minors from any kind of sexual exploitation.

This controversy could be a major blow to Ekta Kapoor, who has been a trailblazer in the Indian OTT content space, often known for her bold storytelling and risqué themes. However, this time, her penchant for pushing the envelope might have resulted in unforeseen consequences. The web series Gandi Baat has seen success with six seasons, but this scandal could taint its legacy.



Adding fuel to the fire, the complaint points out that certain scenes from one of the episodes directly breached the guidelines set by the POCSO Act, involving inappropriate content concerning minors. Furthermore, the series is also said to have violated the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 by showcasing tobacco-related content in a way that allegedly disrespects national icons.

As of now, neither Ekta Kapoor nor Shobha Kapoor has issued any official statement regarding these accusations. The case has come to light shortly after a significant judgment by the Supreme Court in September 2024. The court had strongly condemned the circulation, viewing, and publishing of obscene content involving minors, calling it a serious crime. The ruling overturned a previous judgment by the Madras High Court, reinforcing stricter measures to protect children from exploitation in digital content.

Stay tuned for updates as this legal drama unfolds, and see how the entertainment queen handles this real-life challenge. Will this affect ALTBalaji's bold content strategy, or will Ekta Kapoor manage to navigate this storm just like her many television plot twists?