

## **Uttarakhand High Court Holds Writ Petition Not Maintainable for Restoration of YouTube Account Suspended Over Copyright Strikes**

In *Swati Alias Smriti Negi v. Union of India & Ors.* (2026:UHC:6805), the Uttarakhand High Court declined to entertain a writ petition seeking restoration of a YouTube channel that had been deleted following three alleged copyright strikes.

The petitioner contended that her YouTube account had been deleted without notice or an opportunity of hearing and sought directions for restoration of the channel and removal of the copyright strikes.

The Court, however, noted that the petitioner had entered into an agreement with YouTube governed by specified terms and conditions. Since the grievance arose from the alleged violation and enforcement of those contractual terms, the Court held that the dispute was essentially contractual in nature.

The Court further reiterated that the public law remedy under Article 226 of the Constitution cannot ordinarily be invoked for resolving contractual disputes. It therefore declined to grant the relief sought through a writ petition and granted liberty to the petitioner to pursue such other remedies as may be available in law.



**Key takeaway:** The decision highlights the limits of writ jurisdiction in disputes involving private digital platforms. Where suspension or termination of an online account arises from contractual terms and platform policies, the appropriate remedy would ordinarily lie outside the public law jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.



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