GOOGLE PLANS PILOT ON RUMMY APPLICATIONS

Relevant for: Science & Technology | Topic: IT, Internet and Communications

Google on Thursday said it will conduct a pilot programme to enable distribution of daily fantasy sports (DFS) and rummy apps by local developers to users in India via its application store, Play Store.

Currently, real money online rummy and daily fantasy apps, including Dream 11 and Mobile Premier League, are banned from Google Play Store as they violate the platform's policy on gambling.

While the gaming industry has welcomed the step, they have termed inclusion on just two game formats as "discriminatory" and "misuse of dominance".

The company has invited applications for the pilot programme, which is expected to run for a year from September 28.

"We are constantly exploring ways for local developers to build successful businesses and offer delightful experiences on Google Play. Through this pilot programme, we are taking a measured approach that will help us collate learnings and retain an enjoyable and safe experience for our users," a Google spokesperson said.

Roland Landers, CEO of All India Gaming Federation, said the move by Google is a progressive step, but it needs to be inclusive.

Echoing similar views, Saumya Singh Rathore, co-founder of gaming platform WinZO, said it's unreasonable to allow only rummy and fantasy games while foreclosing the door for all other skill-based games that cumulatively form a bigger user base of over 500 million users in India.

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