

GOVERNMENT PROPOSES CHANGE IN FILM CERTIFICATION



Issue

The draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2021 was released by the centre for comments by the public till July 2.

Background

Films released in the public are certified by the certification board. The new amendment will give powers to the central government to review already released films.

Details

- The Cinematograph Act of 1952 will be amended by the new bill. The revisionary powers can over-ride Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) decisions.
- These revisionary powers of the centre can be used if Section 5B(1) (principles for guidance in certifying films) will be violated.
- The Ministry will only be revising the decisions of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) if the situation is serious.
- Under the current provisions in the act, the centre cannot use revisionary powers on films that have been already certified by Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

Significance

The new provisions have come after the central government abolished Film Certificate Appellate Tribunal, which acted as a last point of appeal for films that were not given certification.

Age certification

- Currently, films are age-certified into 'U', 'U/A' and 'A' for unrestricted public exhibition, parental guidance and adult category respectively.
- The new provisions will sub-divide certification further into U/A 7+, U/A 13+ and U/A 16+ under the new IT rules for streaming.

Other provisions

- The bill also aims at punishing piracy. Current law does not have any measures to punish or fine individuals involved in piracy.
- The validity of the film certificate will be extended for a life time. Under the current rules, certification of films is valid for 10 years.

NOTES

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