RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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Why Bollywood Keeps Pairing Hindu Women With Muslim Men

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma**

The author argues that recent Bollywood films repeatedly pair Hindu women with Muslim men and that their portrayals gloss over allegations of coercion and violence in interfaith relationships. She examines films such as Tara vs Bilal, Gangubai Kathiawadi and Atrangi Re, cites police complaints and reported killings, and draws parallels with Pakistani films.



A shot from the movie 'Tara vs Bilal'.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- In Tara vs Bilal, Tara Kaul is cheated and abandoned by Karan Sharma before Bilal Khan rescues her from his repeated abuse.
- Sharma identifies Gangubai Kathiawadi's interfaith romance as a fictional addition to a film otherwise largely following journalist Hussain Zaidi's written account.
- As a contrasting example, Sharma cites Ishaqzaade, where the Hindu male protagonist converts to Islam to marry a Muslim woman.
- The comparison with Pakistani cinema includes the Army-funded Kaaf Kangna, built around a romance between a Pakistani Muslim man and an Indian Hindu woman.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in January 2023. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.