RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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Shashi Tharoor's Claim of a War on Bollywood

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar**

The authors argue that Shashi Tharoor's examples fail to establish a coordinated campaign against Bollywood. They discuss the narcotics raids and complaints against streaming shows as separate events and challenge his account of Bollywood's pluralism by pointing to recurring portrayals of Hindu and Muslim characters.



Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Tharoor linked the supposed campaign to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2019 photograph with industry figures, citing the absence of Bollywood's three Khan superstars.
- The authors ask what connects narcotics raids with cases over allegedly offensive portrayals. They argue that grouping separate disputes cannot establish a coordinated campaign.
- The rebuttal recalls Maharashtra blocking the release of a film about Muhammad and asks whether Tharoor applies the same standard when Hindus object to a portrayal.
- The authors challenge Tharoor's output figure, pointing out that the estimate of 2,000 films a year refers to production across about 20 Indian languages.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar in October 2021. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.