RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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Khajuraho Carvings Are No Defence for Temple Kissing Scenes

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

The author argues that Khajuraho's erotic carvings do not justify filming a kiss in a functioning Hindu temple. She cites worshippers' customs, competing interpretations of the carvings and examples of filmmakers cutting or cancelling scenes after objections involving a dargah or mosque.



A still from the web series A Suitable Boy

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Vikram Seth's 1993 novel includes a kiss between the couple. The adaptation changed the setting to a temple, adding the feature that prompted the complaint.
- The authors point to the restraint practised at heavily visited temples, where devotees dress modestly and observe standards of behaviour during worship.
- The makers of Namastey London deleted a scene at the Ajmer dargah after its attendants objected that Katrina Kaif's knee-length dress was too short.
- Plans to shoot at Kapurthala's Moorish mosque were cancelled after local objections. The Tannu Weds Manu filmmakers had intended to shoot a market scene.

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SCAN TO SUPPORT

Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar in December 2020. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.