



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*Information is Empowering*  
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## CBFC culls Documentary

### Why in news?

\n\n

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has refused to clear a documentary on Amartya Sen called 'The Argumentative Indian' until words such as "Cow", "Gujarat", "Hindutva" and "Hindu Rashtra" are either expunged or beeped out.

\n\n

### What is the reason behind?

\n\n

\n

- The organisation, set up to protect the public from the excesses of cinema, now presumes to cull the thoughts of one of India's foremost public intellectuals.

\n

- In this case, the CBFC is upset over Sen's views on cow vigilantism and concomitant lynchings, the Gujarat riots and the project to spread Hindutva ideology.

\n

- So, CBFC says that the documentary **shouldn't jeopardize the security in Gujarat.**

\n

- "Gujarat" is not the first place name that the board has objected to. Nihalani had earlier issued a list of banned terms which included "Bombay".

\n

- The arbitrariness had caused the CBFC much embarrassment when the list was leaked.

\n

\n\n

### What does it imply?

\n\n

- \n
- CBFC, nowadays, is showing an unhealthy enthusiasm **for censoring rather than certifying**, which is the statutorily defined purpose.
- \n
- The matter is already being painted as a **move to curb free speech**.
- \n
- This government has been seen to be impatient with its critics.
- \n
- It has even allowed a disabling environment to develop which favours authorised versions, and **it curbs or trashes alternative opinions**.
- \n
- It is having a stifling effect on creative expression in cinema, reflecting the attenuation of the public discourse.
- \n
- This hounding of authors and filmmakers has been **damaging for democracy**.
- \n

\n\n

## **What is CBFC?**

\n\n

- \n
- It is a **statutory body** under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952.
- \n
- Films can be publicly exhibited in India only after they have been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification.
- \n
- The Board consists of non-official members and a Chairman (all of whom are appointed by Central Government).
- \n
- It functions with headquarters at Mumbai and has nine Regional offices.
- \n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Indian Express**

\n



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*Information is Empowering*

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative