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Paper Title: **Censorship in the Indian Film Industry: A Comparative Investigation of Cinematic Content Regulation in the United States and India**

Abstract: India and the United States are home to two of the most important film industries in the world. India and the United States are also the world's two largest democracies and both countries have explicit constitutionally protected rights to free speech and expression. Despite these constitutional protections, the United States and India each take a markedly different approach in regulating the content of their films. This combination of divergent regulations and controversies over recent censorship of films in India formed the basis for this research paper. Surprisingly we found that widespread support exists for India's current system of subjecting films to government certification. We also found that most content restrictions are not mandated by the Indian government, but instead are a result of social forces driven by a host of various divisive interest groups and by the changing mores of Indian society. As a policy matter, we propose that any change from India's current system to a system of industry self-regulation must originate from within the industry, which is quite unlikely to occur unless societal values begin changing more rapidly.