

## SC's Order on 'Padmavat'

\n\n

### Why in news?

\n\n

\n

- The Supreme Court has stayed the notifications and orders by certain States to prohibit the exhibition of the movie Padmaavat.

\n

- Click [here](#) to know the controversy with the movie.

\n

\n\n

### What is the rationale?

\n\n

\n

- There were apprehensions that states were sympathising with fundamentalist elements for protecting the vote banks.

\n

- Notably, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have been explicit in voicing support for the protestors who have clearly violated the law.

\n

- However, these were legally masked as “law and order issues” to curtail freedom of expression.

\n

- Freedom of speech is indeed subject to reasonable restrictions (like public order) under article 19.

\n

- But governments should not succumb to the use of “violent threats and intimidations” by fringe groups.

\n

- The SC has thus ruled that states have to balance between the twin responsibility of protecting free speech and maintaining law and order.

\n

- States cannot choose between the two or compromise one for the other as both are important state duties.

\n

\n\n

### **Is the call for a ban justified?**

\n\n

\n

- The film does not claim any historical accuracy and the protestors taking offence have not even seen the film.

\n

- Despite this, several cuts were already suggested by a special panel formed by the CBFC to re-examine the film after initial certification.

\n

- This was in addition to the filmmakers agreeing to change the name of the film from Padmavati to Padmaavat.

\n

- Notably, Padmaavat was the actual title of the medieval fictional poem which the movie is based on.

\n

- Given these responses for public sentiments, a further call for a ban seems irrational.

\n

\n\n

### **What lies ahead?**

\n\n

\n

- The state machinery should keep it responsive but not subdued to the fundamentalist attitudes in the society.

\n

- The state institutions should take serious note of the SC order to balancing between their varied roles to uphold the constitutional principles.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*