

**The Times of India**

**Title :** Now, child rights panel wants film stalled by censors

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The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has objected to the film 'Nil Bate Sannata', set for release on Friday, taking exception to its depiction of corporal punishment on children in the classroom on the ground that it violates child rights.

NCPCR member Priyank Kanoongo has written to the Central Board of Film Certification and the ministry of information and broadcasting with a request to not release the film in the interest of "protection of child rights".

"Prima facie, on perusal of the trailers of the film, it has been observed by the commission that instances of corporal punishment being meted out to children in classroom have been depicted in the scenes available on YouTube and trailers in theaters," the letter said.

"Promotion and depiction of corporal punishment in an acceptable form in visual media is blatant violation of child rights," it said. The commission took suo moto cognisance of the matter and said it was not "permissible" to release the film.

"It has been observed that there is gross violation of child rights and hence, it is not permissible to release the film in the best interest of protection of child rights until reviewed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights," the letter said.

The film has received applause at the BFI London Film Festival and the Silk Road International Film Festival in China, where its lead actor Swara Bhaskar received the best actress award.

HC: Hear out gurdwara body in Santa film case

The Delhi high court has asked the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to hear the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) complaint that the upcoming film 'Santa Banta Pvt Ltd' makes fun of the Sikh community. Justice J R Midha issued the order after the court was informed by the government that DSGMC can have a meeting with the CBFC chairman in Mumbai regarding the film, which is scheduled for release on April 22. TNN

Times View

Those in authority in India seem to have some strange notions about what a film-maker's job is. At various points in time, they have been asked not to depict tobacco consumption, not to use caste names in their songs and so on. Now we have a film being reviewed to see whether it takes the right attitude towards corporal punishment of children. It is time we recognised that inculcating politically or morally acceptable attitudes is not the duty of those who make films. Putting such constraints on them is bound to shackle their creativity and a society that shackles creativity is poorer for having done so.