



File No: T22/0576

**Australian Government****Classification Board****Decision Report**

Classification decisions are made in accordance with the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* (the Act), the National Classification Code and the Classification Guidelines.

**Production Details:**

Title:	THE KASHMIR FILES
Alternate titles:	
Producer/s:	TEJ NARAYAN AGARWAL / ABHISHEK AGARWAL / PALLAVI JOSHI / VIVEK AGNIHOTRI
Director/s:	VIVEK RANJAN AGNIHOTRI
Year of Production:	2022
Duration:	170 MINUTES
Version:	ORIGINAL
Format:	DIGITAL VIDEO
Country/ies of origin:	INDIA
Language/s:	Hindi
Application type:	FPE3
Applicant:	ATL MEDIA LTD

**Dates:**

Date application received by the Classification Board: 04 March 2022

Date of decision: 10 March 2022

**Decision:**

Classification:	R 18+
Consumer advice:	High impact themes and violence

## Synopsis:

The Kashmir Files is an Indian drama in Hindi language, dealing with the aftermath of the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 due to ethnic and religious violence. The story follows the life of Krishna, the only survivor from his family, who are killed by terrorists intent of driving Hindus from Kashmir.

## Reasons for the Decision:

In making this decision, the Classification Board has applied the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (the Classification Act), the National Classification Code (the Code) and the Guidelines for the Classification of Films 2012 (the Guidelines).

In the Board's view this film warrants an R 18+ classification as, in accordance with item 3 of the films table of the Code, it contains material that is unsuitable for a minor to see.

Pursuant to the Guidelines, this film is classified R 18+ as the impact of the classifiable elements is high. Material classified R 18+ is legally restricted to adults. Some material classified R 18+ may be offensive to sections of the adult community.

The classifiable elements that are high in viewing impact are themes and violence.

The examples described below do not represent an exhaustive list of the content that caused the film to be classified R 18+. The times given are approximations.

### THEMES and VIOLENCE

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Within the R 18+ classification there are virtually no restrictions on the treatment of themes. The film contains themes including scenes of brutal repression that are high in viewing impact. The film also contains violence that is high in viewing impact. The two elements are, at times, inextricably linked within the narrative of the film.

At 11 minutes, in a scene set in 1990, Krishna is an infant at home with his family. Armed men arrive and force their way into the house. His mother, Sharda, tells her husband to hide in a rice barrel. He empties rice from the barrel and hides himself. The leader of the armed group has been tipped off by a neighbour that Sharda's husband is hiding in the rice barrel, but he holds Sharda at gunpoint and demands to know her husband's whereabouts before firing his gun repeatedly at the rice barrel. Blood begins trickling from the bullet holes and staining the rice spilt on the floor. The man scoops up a handful of blood and rice and implicitly forces Sharda to eat it. This scene is revisited at 63 minutes and the forced eating of the bloodied rice is shown in more detail. The man places the bloodied rice in her hand and at gunpoint forces her to eat, while her distraught father and child watch.

At 66 minutes, explosions are seen around the city and casualties are being treated by hospital staff. A vehicle with terrorists arrives and the leader demands treatment, including a blood transfusion, for a wounded comrade. The men menace the staff with guns. When he tells the doctor the wounded terrorist's type is O-negative, the doctor replies that it is a rare type and they have none. He is ordered to take it from a patient. A nurse intervenes, saying "How can he use a patient's blood?" He slowly points his gun at the woman, and holds it there, terrifying all the staff. He fires a bullet through the woman's head, causing blood and brain matter to splatter onto the face of a man standing near her. Another staff member volunteers, "I am O-negative." He is connected directly to the wounded terrorist. When the transfusion is complete, the fanatical leader screams that no more "infidels" are to be treated and removes the blood line from his comrade. The blood flows from the donor onto the floor, until he begins to quiver and implicitly dies from blood loss.

At 157 minutes, terrorists dressed as Indian Army troops, round up the Pandit population, to lead them to "safety". When Krishna's grandfather correctly identifies them as terrorists, he is kicked to the ground and heavily beaten in front of the group, including his family. Sharda has the back of her clothing torn and is humiliated by being paraded in front of the group. A nervous woman vomits and blood bursts from her head as she is shot. At 162 minutes, Sharda is depicted in close up secured to the table of a large band saw. As Sharda prays, the leader of the terrorist group adjusts her head to ensure it is centred. The saw is turned on and blood spray spatters onto the face of an onlooker as Sharda is implicitly sliced by the saw. The scene is then depicted side-on in a middle distance shot as the band slices through the woman's body from the head down, cutting

her in half. The Pandits are then marched to a wall in front of a large hole. They are counted by a henchman, who reports, "15," to the leader. He then takes a pistol and executes them all, one at a time with a single shot through the head. The faces of the Pandits are viewed in close-up as they are executed and blood bursts from their foreheads. Shiva, a young boy who had been hiding, is dragged to the edge of the pit, and looks at the terrorist leader, terrified. He is then shot through the head, and he falls into the pit on top of the other bodies. The camera pans over the pile of corpses before lingering to depict the bloodied wound on Shiva's head.

In the Board's opinion, the cumulative impact of the themes and violence in the film exceeds strong and a classification of R 18+ is therefore appropriate, with consumer advice of high impact themes and violence best describing the most impactful content.

**Decision:**

This film is classified R 18+ with consumer advice of high impact themes and violence.

\*T-53-296337-s 47F

Title: THE KASHMIR FILESProducer(s): TEJ NARAYAN AGARWAL / ABHISHEK AGARWAL / PALLAVI JOSHI / VIVEK AGNIHOTRIDirector(s): VIVEK AGNIHOTRIApplicant: ATL MEDIA LTD**FILMS/COMPUTER GAMES**Classification: R18+ ☒ G ☒ PG ☒ M ☒ MA15+ ☒ R18+ ☒ X18+ ☒ RCConsumer Advice: High impact themes and violenceFile Number  
T22/0576

Panel Member

s 47F

Application Type  
FPE3Format  
DIGITAL VIDEODuration  
170Version  
ORIGINALCountry  
INDIALanguage  
HindiProduction Date  
2022

Viewing Room

Viewing Date

8/3/2022

**Classification matrix (films/computer games only)**

	None	G	PG	M	MA15+	R18+	RC
Themes							
Violence							<input type="checkbox"/> 1(a)
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/> 1(b)
Language			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/> 1(c)
Drug Use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Nudity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						

**Notes:**

Kashmir Pandit

Kishna Pandit

Sharda (her mother)

Prof. Menon

2:50-23 = 170

Laggs  
Sun watched  
no investigation

Article 370

\* Rice spilled + blood

Rice o lat.  
Harp

Signature

Date: 8/3/2022

s 47F



①

1-80

11 Jan. 1990

bastard

②

Shiva punched, kicked, by 3 thugs

③

4.48 → T takes child of side "She has <sup>very</sup> high fever"

(You know how bad the situation is, why did you come c/o?)

bullet hit forehead, blood spray from exit. C/U shows bloodied face, bullet hole in forehead

MA

Mother protects child from armed Pak. who "will marry her to his younger brother". shoots. blood spray on child's face, mother (C/U) has bullet hole in forehead "Convert, run, or die."

6 Shiva a friend ran  
Kishore = baby.

8 Men burn houses  
speaker calls for "Holy Jihad."

(2)

11 Mil. boy seep. blown up

(V) (T)

14 Wife held at gunpoint. Machine guns fire barrel, blood froth around of the body.

Bastard.

(L)

Father killed

22.50 Krishna, now adult am in

Prof. Man.

23.50 1989

41 Judge killed.

42 5 Military officers + civilians

machine gunned by ~~2 men~~ 2 x men on motorcycle. Indian flag replaced by Pak. flag. Blood. Bodies lie in pools of blood.

~~Abraham Dutt~~

[Abraham Dutt = lawyer advocate for India]



(3)

65

7/B to killing in rice barrel. Father begs  
Dr to come (from hospital)

Terrorists arrive at hosp. with wounded  
man - demand he be given blood.

O-neg Dr: "It's a rare type, we have none,  
then take it from a patient."

Nurse intervenes "How can he use a  
patient's blood?" She is shot thru head  
face bloodied. Male ~~then~~ standing behind  
is covered in viscera (brain matter).

He screams

Many volunteers his blood. "I'm O-Neg".  
when treatment finished

Female nurse Dr from treating Inf. del's  
pulls line from wounded man, and allows  
donor to bleed to death

7540 Mr Karl taken away

76 Women hide upstairs. Footsteps approach,  
they panic "fear, Ls" and Shout opens

the window above coal yard, falls to  
her death. Sound of hitting pavement,

body viewed from above, body on ground,  
blood around head

MA

(V)  
(7)ms

(7)



79. Truck carrying refugees: women, children, old men. pass forest with multiple <sup>(2)</sup> corpses hanging from trees (T)
84. Bastard (L)
112. Krishna's grandfather dies.
135. Krishna is given the Kashmiri files, detailing the atrocities
137. 20 7/8 to killing of Govt official. BBW to head (V)
142. K. is presidential candidate.
157. Terrorists dressed as Indian Army, round up Pandits. Father is (K's grandfather) is thrown to ground when he calls them out. is kicked and stomped on. Mother is taken "Bloody Hindu". He is shot multiple times with rifle (V)
160. Mother has top garment ripped off & paraded before group. (breast covered) Sexualized violence (V)
161. Woman vomits as shot in head: BBW. (V)
162. Mother is secured to band saw & implicitly killed while praying. Blood splatter to head of onlooker

(K)

162 Seen in distance shot - being sawn in  
half

(N)

163 Lined up against wall and counted. (15)  
All shot with pistol. Then head BBW.

Shiva is last. Identified as shot then  
head. All fall into mass grave

166 BBW to head in c/u (AA records) →

170 Ends



Title: **THE KASHMIR FILES**

Producer(s): **TEJ NARAYAN AGARWAL / ABHISHEK AGARWAL / PALLAVI JOSHI / VIVEK AGNIHOTRI**

Director(s): **VIVEK RANJAN AGNIHOTRI**

Applicant: ATL MEDIA LTD

**FILMS/COMPUTER GAMES**

Classification: **R 18+**



Consumer Advice: High impact themes and violence

**Classification matrix (films/computer games only)**

	None	G	PG	M	MA15+	R18+	
<b>Themes</b>						X	
<b>Violence</b>						X	<input type="checkbox"/> 1(a)
<b>Sex</b>	X						
<b>Language</b>			X				<input type="checkbox"/> 1(b)
<b>Drug Use</b>	X						
<b>Nudity</b>	x						<input type="checkbox"/> 1(c)

**File Number**  
T22/0576

**Panel Member**  
s 47F  
**Application type**  
FPE3

**Format**  
DIGITAL VIDEO

**Duration**  
170

**Version**  
ORIGINAL

**Country**  
INDIA

**Language**  
Hindi

**Production Date**  
2022 NS

**Viewing Room**

**desk**  
**Viewing Date**  
8/3/22

s 47F

Date: 8/3/22



1490

29 child playing cricket

30

(C) black  
one boxing gloves for

(C) big metal + metal

6 4 bloody dog

surface head

(C) 45 with fear black grey for back  
on shot in head falls

(C) 5 in shorts of in head shot on fetal screen  
covered on the

8 kitchen with house destruction

(C) 1000 dogs barking in a street

(TV) touch explosives

12 search of house

neighbor tips off police (excuse)

(I) 1300 gun + sound heard

(C) bands under sky

(C) rise tank shot black dogs

with cores in destruction

(Y) (C) old car LK some house to left & right

(C) instrument

60 far over blood stain - arches up blasted rice

(T) f old + cut blasted rice

1247 the kitchen files

kitchen present



(19) killed a tiger attack head well.  
Scary look of animals about attacks

(20) 229 no reason of epulis gone all  
24 with the place of my parents accident.  
Delhi 2010

27 200 mass graves

30 further details about the accident

(21) 1987 was report on kidnapping

(22) 322 on arrival for support station  
'our people are less they refuse to take me a hospital.'

(23) 78 killed in bomb day night.

(24) 1988 play just killed a judge.  
in 1988 dead in same

(25) 42 in shot in chest her son 5 bad situation girl scarred

(26) 100 run over by blood splatter on ground

(27) 165 war on civilization

44 the world is like human good for freedom

53 the world with good father about yesterday

55 one accident took my entire family away from me

(28) 1 accident?

(29) 51 took an epulis it was a suicide.  
blamed her rape

(30) 1 returned people

61 he was married.

'was my mother married as well?'

62 the cross place felt her the truth.



(Y) 64 militants 'convert' or leave leave in die  
 on shoots rice barrel (pick up bloody rice  
 (TV) 65 boy catches note eats rice fade cuts  
 body & crys hospital blood dead in  
 6500 explodes in town hospital blood dead in  
 doc called alert shooter he is with security  
 (TV) 66 nurse shot blood & gore splatter onto n's face  
 brown matter matted blood tears vision  
 9 (Y) 67 he will die in struggle on bed no dies call test (S)  
 in convulsions on bed dying blood matted on floor  
 20 assassinated in the streets  
 (Y) 72 marks in streets convert leave in die  
 f impaled cups from window  
 (Y) 76 f 1st dead on ground blood  
 78 f wounds on back of truck man killed by shot  
 (Y) 79 water bursts from trees  
 83 criticism of police & police men  
 (Y) 84 gas used  
 bloody  
 88 on told he could live everyday  
 92 old man impaled dies off camera  
 (Y) 95 reports down for sale by PISD  
 it looks like they have been left here to die  
 98 Rouse article 72  
 101 on tells f to carry him caught  
 102 interview with terrorist leader



- (V) 103 killed friends & relatives  
 killed son & sister  
 108 he nightmare about ideas of freedom  
 110 he's small & thin dies he cares  
 114 we'll never allow takeover & lose part of the country  
 119 asks speech  
 121 do I look like a terrorist or martyr  
 123 now been an actor of the song  
 129 I know who killed you - mother  
 131 I know who killed us parents  
 You guys are madmen -  
 You have been brainwashed.  
 137 describes all people & families  
 he gives Kashmiri seven books  
 138 montage of article: flowers of refugees  
 139 in shot blood splatter  
 141 free Kashmiri song  
 142 political rally tell us what you mean Kashmiri  
 143 'hol b-ichad'  
 151 cannot leave on deli  
 sew side  
 154 Red leaves he's speech  
 156 army demands idea of Pandits  
 maybe worked up  
 158 in a small field  
 - then a ground field - stamped out with gun  
 160 bloody hands



180

(10)

explains tells Shiva to flee  
do you want to eat rice with some soup & food?  
tens of shirt open at back

(10) 161

f shot & head dead splatter

162

(10)

table saw f placed on table - blood splatter on floor  
f surprised, + house in room - blood splatter on floor  
as shoes slipped

(10)

busan's  
live at head shot and splatters blood splatter + bodies fall in to

(10) 164

gave  
body shot & falls camera pans down corpse hangs on

163

body shot & falls  
camera pans down corpse hangs on

Dr. VIVEK RANJAN AGNIHOTRI

Prod. ZEE Studios

TEJ NARAYAN AGARWAL

ADARSH AGARWAL

PAULLO JOSH

VIVEK RANJAN AGNIHOTRI

170.23

ends



## Australian Government

### Classification Board

File No: **T22/0576**

Classification No: **296337**

Attention: **s 47F**  
**ATL MEDIA LTD**  
**34 Hindmarsh Drive**  
**Wyndham Vale VIC 3024**

## CLASSIFICATION CERTIFICATE FOR A FILM

*Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995*

I refer to an application under section 14 of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* (the Act) for the classification of the undermentioned film. I certify that in accordance with the Act the decision of the Classification Board for this film is detailed below:

Title: **THE KASHMIR FILES**  
 Running time: **170 MINUTES**  
 Producer: **TEJ NARAYAN AGARWAL / ABHISHEK AGARWAL /  
 PALLAVI JOSHI / VIVEK AGNIHOTRI**  
 Director: **VIVEK RANJAN AGNIHOTRI**  
 Production company: **ZEE STUDIOS / ABHISHEK AGARWAL ARTS**  
 Country of origin: **INDIA**  
 Classification: **R 18+**  
 Consumer Advice: **High impact themes and violence**

Classified films and associated advertising are required to display the classification markings and consumer advice as applicable. The requirements are set out in the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) (Markings and Consumer Advice) Determination 2014*. The Determination is available at [www.classification.gov.au](http://www.classification.gov.au) or by contacting the Classification Branch on (02) 9289 7100.

Certified

**s 47F**

**s 47F**

Date: 10 March 2022

**TITLE (and Known Alternative Titles)**  
THE KASHMIR FILES

**CLASSIFICATION: R 18+**

**Revocation of decision:**

Under section 21A of the Act, if the Board is of the opinion that a classified interactive film contains contentions material (whether activated through use of a code or otherwise) that was not brought to the Board's attention before the classification was made and if the Board had been aware of the material it would have given the film a different classification, the Board must revoke the classification.

**Review of Decision:**

Section 42 of the Act provides that certain persons, including the applicant for classification, may apply to the Classification Review Board for a review of the decision of the Classification Board. Generally, an application for review must be made within 30 days after the applicant received notice of the decision (section 43). More information about the review process is available at [www.classification.gov.au](http://www.classification.gov.au) or by contacting the Secretary to the Classification Review Board on (02) 9289 7100.

# Application for Classification of a Film for Public Exhibition

This form is to be used for an application for classification of a film for public exhibition under section 14 of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* (the Act).

## KASHMIR FILES

Applicant: ATL MEDIA LTD

Contact: s 47F

Phone: s 47F

Email: s 47F

### Details of the film

**File number** TBA

**Format:** Digital Video

**Title:** KASHMIR FILES

**Alternate title:**

**Producer:** TEJ NARAYAN AGARWAL, ABHISHEK AGARWAL, PALLAVI JOSHI, VIVEK AGNIHOTRI

**Director:** VIVEK AGNIHOTRI

**Production Co:** ZEE STUDIOS, ABHISHEK AGARWAL ARTS

**Language:** Hindi ENGLISH

**Country of origin:** INDIA

**Year of production:** 2022

**Comments:**

### Duration

**Duration to be classified:** 170 minutes

**Previously classified duration:**

### Expected release date

**Expected Australian national** 11/03/2022  
**release date (if available):**

### Fees

**Prescribed fee:** \$2,760.00

**Payment method:** Existing account balance



## Declaration

I declare that:

- I have submitted all material at my own risk and expense.
- I am aware that this application cannot be processed until I have supplied the Classification Board with:
  - a copy of the film (with compliant subtitles, if applicable)
  - an adequate synopsis in English
  - the prescribed fee.
- I understand that the Board has the right to determine the actual fee for the application, which may be different from that estimated in this application.
- I am authorising the department to debit my account, or the company's account, for the full value of the fee, determined by the Board.
- The information contained in the application is true and correct and is not false or misleading in any way.
- In the instance that I provide my media on a physical device, I will include a printed copy of the summary PDF by either post or courier.

The Classification Board will destroy the supplied copy of the film within 12 months from when an application is made, unless arrangements are made to retrieve the copy within 12 months (physical media items, at your own cost).

By post to:  
The Director  
Classification Board  
**Locked Bag 3,  
HAYMARKET NSW 1240**

OR

By courier to:  
The Director  
Classification Board  
**Level 5, 23-33 Mary St  
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010**

## Privacy Notice – *Privacy Act 1988*

The Department of Communications and the Arts is collecting personal information on this form to process an application for classification. This is authorised by s 14(1) of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995*.

If the personal information of the applicant and/or individual is not provided, the department may not be able to process the application.

The department places some or all of this information on the National Classification Database and gives some or all of this information to the Classification Board and, on review, to the Classification Review Board.

For more information about the department's privacy practices, including how to access or correct your personal information or make a complaint, see the privacy policy at [www.classification.gov.au](http://www.classification.gov.au) or contact our Privacy Contact Officer:

Privacy Contact Officer

Department of Communications and the Arts

Application for Classification of a Film for Public Exhibition

Call: 02 6271 1277

Email: [privacy@communications.gov.au](mailto:privacy@communications.gov.au)

**Synopsis:** The Kashmir Files is a heart wrenching narrative of the pain, suffering, struggle & trauma of Kashmiri Pandits, seen through the eyes of Krishna, the protagonist. The film questions eye-opening facts about democracy, religion, politics and humanity. The film tells the story of the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus in the early 1990's due to the Kashmir Insurgency.



## Australian Government

### Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

#### Application for Online Media Provision for Public Exhibition (PE) classification

##### Applicant Details

Contact Name:	s 47F
Contact Phone Number:	s 47F
Contact Email:	s 47F
Organisation:	ATL Media Ltd

##### Details of Application

Film Title:	Kashmir Files
Alternative Title:	NA
Scheduled Screening Date	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Scheduled Release Date:	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Reason for online media provision request:	NA

##### Provision of media

- Media can be provided digitally via our BOX Media platform in standard formats such as mp4 or via Digital Screener links.
- BOX provides a secure and easy option for submitting content.
- Information about using the Box Media platform can be found on the classification website at: [www.classification.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/box-platform-applicant-information.pdf](http://www.classification.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/box-platform-applicant-information.pdf)

##### Technical Details

I will be using the BOX Media platform:	YES	NO
I will require a direct upload link to BOX Media:	YES	NO
I will be providing my footage via online screening: <i>If yes, please provide the following screener details:</i>	YES	NO
Digital Screener Link:		
Digital Screener Password (if applicable):		
Will this have limited viewing sessions or an expiry?	YES	NO
If so, please provide the expiry date or number of sessions?		

- For technical assistance uploading media files to the BOX Media platform, please contact the client services team on [applications@classification.gov.au](mailto:applications@classification.gov.au)
- Individual MP4 files should be no larger than 5GB.
- If digital screening links are provided, they must be accessible via Chrome or Edge browsers.
- For security reasons, we are unable to add client software (such as Clear).
- Screening links must be available within a time window to be notified by the Client Services team.
- Screening links must allow at least five individual viewing sessions to accommodate a multi-person viewing panel.
- Passwords must be provided in advance of the notified screening time, and for confidentiality reasons, one-time logins cannot be tied to a pre-defined email address.

## Acknowledgment

- I acknowledge that the viewing of this media will be done on a device that does not replicate the cinema experience.
- I am aware that the application for classification is not valid until I have supplied the Classification Board with a copy of the film in an approved format, an adequate synopsis of the film, and payment of the application fee.
- I confirm that the information contained in this form is not false or misleading in any way.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ **s 47F** \_\_\_\_\_ (by/on behalf of the applicant)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **s 47F** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 03/03/2022 \_\_\_\_\_

This application will be considered and the Client Services Team will respond within 2 business days.