

Nature in Bollywood: Dream vs. Reality

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After decades of romanticizing nature in Bollywood films, India values a European, idealized version of nature, disregarding the climate change crisis destroying the environment in its own country. Featured on the left of the collage are pictures from various Bollywood films such as *Veer-Zara* and *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*. Regardless of the location of the film, the pictures feature the protagonists in a dream sequence commonly frolicking in green fields or gazing longingly in the Swiss Alps. These depictions present a sublime, untouched landscape, only shown in European countries such as Switzerland in Bollywood. For instance, in the romance song "Tujhe Dekha To" in *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, the sequence takes place in various locations, prominently Switzerland. In stark contrast, on the right of the collage are darker, less saturated, pictures of pollution and climate change in India. Although over the last century, climate change in India has only gotten progressively worse, with a rise in global temperature 0.85 degrees Celsius, the Indian government and overall many countries across the globe have done very little to combat this imminent danger. As a result of an increase in population in India's biggest city New Delhi, air pollution has gotten so bad, thick smog hides national landmarks and causes car crashes because people cannot see. The Vox video "What makes Delhi's air so deadly", further explains the current state of air pollution in India. Comparing the pictures of Bollywood movies stars in colorful sari's side by side with pictures of everyday people covering their mouth to walk outside, the expectation and idea of nature in India is far different from the reality of it due to climate change.

Works Cited

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