

No. M-21021/17/2020- US(Films)
Government of India
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
A Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated: 14.12.2023

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

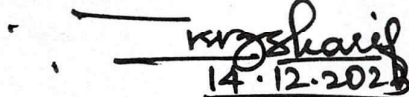
Subject: Streamlining and transforming the ecosystem of various Awards and Decorations instituted by the Ministry of I&B and its Media Units - reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer the matter pertaining to Rationalization of Awards conferred by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in Film Section.

2. In this regard, a committee was constituted under the chairship of AS (I&B) for Rationalization of Film Awards. The report submitted by the Committee has been adopted by this Ministry. A copy of the report is enclosed.

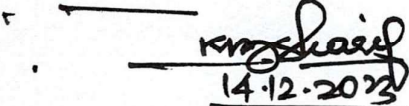
3. This is issued with the approval of competent Authority.

Encl: As above.


14.12.2023
(Md. Zahid Sharif)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tele: 23382487

To,

1. All Committee Members
2. NFA Cell, Sirifort Auditorium, New Delhi
3. Director (Admin), Ministry of I&B - in reference to Admin-II, ID No. No. A-50013/96/2019
4. MD, NFDC
5. Spare copies


14.12.2023
(Md. Zahid Sharif)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

REPORT ON RATIONALISATION OF AWARDS CONFERRED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

1.0 The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting confers various film awards to promote and recognize excellence in Indian cinema. The following awards for the Indian film industry are conferred on different occasions:

1. National Films Awards, organized annually.
2. International Film Festival of India, organized annually in Goa during November.
3. Mumbai International Film Festival, organized biennially in Mumbai.
4. International Children's Film Festival, organized biennially.

1.1 The Ministry constituted a Committee to review and rationalise the Film Awards given by the Ministry on various occasions. The Committee met several times, mostly online, and deliberated on the awards conferred in all the above mentioned occasions and examined the need for rationalization of the awards. Due to the expert members being busy professionally, some members could not attend all the meetings of the Committee. But they shared their views freely and regularly. The Committee noted that these awards were instituted over a period and have focused upon different themes, talents, and film crafts from time to time. As the Film Festivals and the National Film Awards evolved over a period of time, there was a need to review the relevance and usefulness of the award categorization in the current landscape of the film industry. The Committee looked at categories of film awards and the nomenclatures used in various countries and film festivals around the world. It also examined the relevance of cash awards in the present day scenario of film making.

1.2 Accordingly, after deliberations, the recommendations of the Committee on all the above awards are placed below in four parts:

PART 1- NATIONAL FILMS AWARDS

2.0 The National Film Awards (NFA) were established in 1954 to promote cinematic excellence in India. The awards encourage the production of films of aesthetic & technical value and social relevance contributing to the understanding and appreciation of cultures of different regions of the country in cinematic form, thereby also promoting unity and integrity of the nation. The relevance of the awards is thus, reiterated.

2.1 The National Film Awards are the most prestigious film awards in the country. These awards cover all the language film industries of India. These are also the most high profile engagement of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting with the Indian Film Industry located in various States/UTs across the country. The commitment of the Ministry to promote excellence in cinema and to support the film industry in creating this excellence is manifested through these awards. Various film crafts have been identified under the National Film Awards for recognition at the highest level. The National Film Awards are conferred by the Hon'ble President or the Hon'ble Vice President at an official function organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at New Delhi. Considering the importance and the relevance of the awards, the Committee recommends that the National Film Awards may continue.

2.3 When the awards were initiated in 1954, these were given for the films released in 1953. Over the years, the awards have seen different award categories and nomenclatures. Several technical crafts have also been added to the award categories. Gradually, the number of awards has been increasing. The Report examines the significance of the awards and seeks to rationalize the existing categories. It will also make suggestions on improving the mechanism adopted to arrive at the final selections.

2.4.1 The annual National Film Awards are conferred under the following sections:

- (i) Feature Film
- (ii) Non Feature Film
- (iii) Best Writing in Cinema
- (iv) Dadasaheb Phalke Award is also conferred on this occasion.

2.5 Every year, after seeking entries for the NFA for the previous year, the Ministry constitutes juries for each of the above mentioned (i) to (iii) sections separately, comprising of people distinguished in the field of cinema, allied forms of art and humanities. For the Feature Film section, there is a two-tier selection process. The entries are shortlisted by five regional panels and then winners of the awards are decided by a national panel. The Non-Feature Film section and the Best Writing on Cinema has juries specific to the award. The selection for the Dadasaheb Phalke award is based on there commendations of a Committee of eminent film personalities, specially constituted for the purpose. No entries are invited for this award.

2.6 The Committee feels that there is a need to rationalize the awards and bring them in consonance with the latest trends in Indian cinema and global best practices. The Committee also feels that the cash component of the awards may also continue and may be suitably enhanced. The Committee makes its recommendations regarding all the sections of the National Films Awards, along with its observations.

2.7 CATEGORY: FEATURE FILM

Existing Category	Existing Prize (In the addition to the Certificate)	Recommendations
1. Best Feature Film	Producer - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 2,50,000 Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 2,50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Producer - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000 Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000
2. Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director	Producer - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 1,25,000 Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 1,25,000	May be retained and renamed as “Best Debut Film of a Director” and be given only to the Director. The award money may be increased. Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000
3. Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Producer - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Producer - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000 Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000

4. NargisDutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration	Producer - Rajat Kamal and Rs.1,50,000 Director - Rajat Kamal and Rs.1,50,000	Awards at no. 4, 5, 6 may be clubbed and renamed as Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values. The award money may be increased. Producer - Rajat Kamal and Rs.2,00,000 Director - Rajat Kamal and Rs.2,00,000
5. Best Film on Social Issues	Producer - Rajat Kamal and Rs.1,50,000 Director - Rajat Kamal and Rs.1,50,000	
6. Best Film on Environment Conservation/ Preservation	Producer - Rajat Kamal and Rs.1,50,000 Director - Rajat Kamal and Rs.1,50,000	
7. Best Children's Film	Producer - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 1,50,000 Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 1,50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Producer - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000 Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000
8. Best Animation Film	Producer - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 1,00,000 Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 1,00,000 Animator/Animation Director /Designer/Supervisor – Swarna Kamal and Rs.1,00,000	Categories at no. 8 and 27 may be clubbed under a new category named Best AVGC Film. The award money may be increased. The awards may be for- Best Film in AVGC: i.Best Animation Film Producer - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000 Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000 Animator/Animation Director /Designer/Supervisor – Swarna Kamal and Rs.3,00,000 ii.Best Visual Effects Best VFX Supervisor - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
9. Best Direction	Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 2,50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000
10. Best Actor	Actor - Rajat Kamal and Rs.50,000	May be retained and renamed as “Best Actor in a Leading Role”. The award money may be increased. Actor - Rajat Kamal and Rs.2,00,000
11. Best Actress	Actress - Rajat Kamal and Rs.50,000	May be retained and renamed as “Best Actress in a Leading Role”. The award money may be increased. Actress - Rajat Kamal and Rs.2,00,000

12. Best Supporting Actor	Supporting Actor - Rajat Kamal and Rs.50,000	May be retained and renamed as “Best Actor in Supporting Role”. The award money may be increased. Supporting Actor - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
13. Best Supporting Actress	Supporting Actress - Rajat Kamal and Rs.50,000	May be retained and renamed as “Best Actress in a Supporting Role”. The award money may be increased. Supporting Actress - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
14. Best Child Artist	Child Artist - Rajat Kamal and Rs.50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Child Artist - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
15. Best Male Playback Singer	Male Playback Singer - Rajat Kamal and Rs.50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Male Playback Singer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
16. Best Female Playback Singer	Female Playback Singer - Rajat Kamal and Rs.50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Female Playback Singer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
17. Best Cinematography	Cameraman - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Laboratory processing the film (in case of 35 mm format) - Rajat Kamal and Rs.50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Cinematographer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
18. Best Screenplay i. Best Screenplay (original) ii. Best Screenplay (adapted) iii. Best Dialogue Writer	Screenplay writer (original) - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Screenplay writer (adapted) - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Dialogue Writer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	Retained i. Best Screenplay (original) ii. Best Screenplay (adapted) iii. Best Dialogue Writer Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 each
19. Best Audiography i. Location Sync Sound Recordist (for sync sound only) ii. Sound Designer iii. Recordist of the Final Mixed Track	Location Sound Recordist - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Sound Designer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Recordist of the Final Mixed Track - Rajat Kamal and Rs.50,000	The 3 categories may be clubbed and renamed as Best Sound Design. The award money may be increased. Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 – Sound Designer

20. Best Editing	Editor - Rajat Kamal and Rs.50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Editor - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
21. Best Production Design	Production Designer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Production Designer - Rajat Kamal and Rs 2,00,000
22. Best Costume Designer	Costume Director - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be retained as “Best Costume Design”. The award money may be increased. Costume Designer - Rajat Kamal and Rs 2,00,000
23. Best Make-up Artist	Make-up Director - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be retained as “Best Make-up”. The award money may be increased. Make-up Artist- Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
24. Best Music Direction i. Best Music Director (Songs) ii. Best Music Director (Background Music) iii. Best Music Director (Background Score)	Music Director (Songs) - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Music Director (Background Music) - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Music Director (Background Score) - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	i. Music Director (Songs) award category to be retained. The award money may be increased. Music Director (Songs) - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 ii. ii & iii Sub-categories may be clubbed and the Award may be renamed as “Best Background Music”. The award money may be increased. Music Director (Background Music) - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
25. Best Lyrics	Lyricist - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Lyricist - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
26. Special Jury Award- To be given at the sole discretion of the Jury to a Film or to an Individual, not already covered by the Awards	To film or to an individual - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000	May be discontinued. However, there may be “Special Mention by the Jury.” There may be a maximum of 2 “Special Mentions” in the entire Feature Film section that may be given at the sole discretion of the Jury to a suitable Film or to an Individual, not already covered by the Awards. A Certificate may be awarded for a “Special Mention.”
27. Best Special Effects	Special Effects Creator - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	As per the revised category at Sl. No. 8
28. Best Choreography	Choreographer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Choreographer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000

29. Best Action Direction (Stunt Choreography)	Stunt Choreography - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Stunt Choreographer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
30. Best Feature Film in each of the language specified in the Schedule VIII of the Constitution	Producer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 1,00,000 Director - Rajat Kamal and Rs.1,00,000	May be retained and renamed as Best (name of the language) Feature Film. The award money may be increased. Producer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 Director - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 (Award may be given only if a film is found suitable and is worthy of a national award).
31. Feature Film in each of the languages other than those specified in Schedule VIII of the Constitution	Producer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 1,00,000 Director - Rajat Kamal and Rs.1,00,000	May be retained and renamed as Best (name of the language) Feature Film. The award money may be increased. Producer - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 Director - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 (Award may be given only if a film is found suitable and is worthy of a national award).

2.8 Observations of the Committee regarding Feature Film awards

- i. NFA is given at the national level and must maintain highest standards of excellence, and therefore, if an award category does not deserve a winner, the award may not be given.
- ii. Similarly, with regard to the Best Feature Film category for each of the languages specified in Schedule VIII of the Constitution and Best Feature Film category in languages not listed in the Schedule VIII, only the most deserving films may be recommended by the jury for the awards that are of high aesthetic value & exhibit artistic excellence. If there is no award-worthy film, the award should not be given.
- iii. Only one Award may be given in each category. Shared Awards may be given only under exceptional circumstances to maintain the prestige of the awards.
- iv. The categories of Best Feature Film in each of the languages in Schedule VIII and other than those specified in Schedule VIII of the Constitution need to be distinguished from the National and the overall Best Feature Film Award. Therefore, the awards in this category may be renamed as Best (name of the language) Feature Film. For example, Best Tamil Feature Film, Best Manipuri Feature Film, etc.
- v. The Expert members of the Committee suggested that the major technical departments of the film craft- such as Sound, Editing, etc. may also be represented in the national panel, so that all categories of awards can be evaluated judiciously. This may be considered by the Ministry.
- vi. It was noted that the cash awards vary from category to category. After deliberations, it was felt that a uniform cash award for the Swarna Kamal winner

- may be kept at Rs. 3,00,000/- and for the Rajat Kamal winner may be kept at Rs. 2,00,000/-.
- vii. The jury for NFA consists of a central panel and five regional panels with specified States allotted to each regional panel. As per extant Regulations, each regional panel recommends up to 30% of films applied in the languages allotted to that panel. As the number of applications received for the awards every year keeps going up, the central panel has to watch a larger number of films every year, which implies that the screening time for the central panel goes up to 4 weeks @ 4-5 films every day. Due to the requirement of such a long commitment, some active and reputed film makers convey regrets regarding joining the central panel due to their ongoing projects, as they are unable to devote much time exclusively for the screenings in Delhi. It is therefore, recommended that the number of films to be selected by each regional panel may be in numbers instead of a percentage of the entries. Each regional panel may thus send upto 10 feature films or up to 30% of the entries received for that region, whichever is less, so that the central panel receives a total of 50 films, which it can watch in 2-3 weeks @ 3 films per day, including daily deliberations on each film. This will make the selection process rigorous and more meticulous. This will also ensure that-
- An equal number of films is selected from each region and no region gets an advantage to send more films to the central panel on account of percentage of applications.
 - The range of active and distinguished film makers available for the central panel is likely to be much wider if the number of days they have to dedicate to the selection process is lesser.
 - The central panel can watch 3 films a day and devote sufficient time for daily deliberations. These daily deliberations take up a large amount of time in certain cases. If the number of films sent to the central panel is too large, then they end up watching up to 4-5 films a day, which is very exhausting for the panel members.
- viii. The central panel consists of a chairperson, members, and chairpersons of the five regional panels. During deliberations, it emerged that the chairpersons of the regional panels, after having recommended 30% of their films to the central panel, tend to further promote the films recommended by their own panel. To have a wider participation of persons of eminence in the regional and central panels, it is recommended that central panel may not include the chairpersons of the regional panels.
- ix. The Committee noted with regret that despite strict instructions of the Ministry and ethical commitment towards jury duty, certain members do not maintain confidentiality regarding the selection process and the deliberations of the panels. The Ministry may pass strict instructions to maintain the secrecy of the awards during the deliberations of the panels.

2.9 CATEGORY NON-FEATURE FILM

Existing Category	Existing Prize (In addition to certificate)	Award Rationalization
1. Best Non-feature film	Producer – Swarna Kamal and Rs.1,50,000 Director – Swarna Kamal and Rs.1,50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. All formats of Non Feature films- documentary, short, animation- will be eligible for this category. Producer - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000 Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000
2. Best Debut Non-feature film of a Director	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 75,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 75,000	May be retained and renamed as “Best Debut Film of a Director” and given only to Director. The award money may be increased. Director - Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000
3. Best Anthropological / Ethnographic film	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	Categories at 4 and 5 may be retained. Categories at 3 and 6 to 12 may be clubbed into two categories. The award money may be increased. 1. Best Documentary 2. Best Non Feature Film Promoting Social and Environmental Values For all these categories- Producer- Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 Director - Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
4. Best Biographical /Historical Reconstruction/ compilation film	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	
5. Best Arts/Culture film	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	
6. Best Science & Technology film	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	
7. Best Promotional film	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	
8. Best Environment film including Agriculture	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	
9. Best film on Social issues	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	

10. Best Educational film	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	
11. Best Exploration/Adventure film (to include sports)	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	
12. Best Investigative film	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	
13. Best Animation film	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Animator – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 Animator – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
14. Special Jury Award	To a film or to an individual – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 1,00,000	May be discontinued.
15. Short Fiction Film	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be retained as Best Short Film (upto 30 mins). The award money may be increased. Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
16. Best film on Family values	Producer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be discontinued.
17. Best Direction	Director – Swarna Kamal and Rs. 1,50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Only to Director – Swarna Kamal and Rs. 3,00,000
18. Best Cinematography	Cameraman – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000 Laboratory processing the film – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Cinematographer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 1,00,000
19. Best Audiography	Re-recordist of the final mixed track – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	19 & 20 may be clubbed and retained as “Best Sound Design”. Sound Designer – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000
20. Best On-location Sound Recordist	On location Sound Recordist – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	
21. Best Editing	Editor – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Editor – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 2,00,000

22. Best Music Direction	Music Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs. 50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Music Director – Rajat Kamal and Rs.2,00,000
23. Best Narration/Voice Over	Best Narrator/Voice Over Artist – Rajat Kamal and Rs.50,000	May be retained. The award money may be increased. Narrator/Voice Over Artist – Rajat Kamal and Rs.2,00,000
24. Best Script	-	New category may be introduced. Script Writer-Rajat Kamal and Rs.2,00,000
Note- Special Mention There may be Special Mention by the Jury. There may be a maximum of 2 Special Mentions in the entire Non-Feature Film section that may be given at the sole discretion of the Jury to a suitable Film or to an Individual, not already covered by the Awards. A Certificate may be given to such awardee.		

2.10 Observations Regarding Non-Feature Film Awards

- i. The Awards in the Non-Feature Film section are given to promote cinematic excellence in the production of documentary films, short films, animation films, etc. This is a very important section for the film industry as most independent film makers produce non-feature films on real-life subjects. Most of these films do not get theatrical release and therefore deserve support from the Government.
- ii. It was felt that there is no award for the Best Script in the Non-Feature Film section. Considering the critical role played by the script in a film, an award for the Best Script may be introduced.
- iii. It was noted that the cash awards vary from category to category. After deliberations, it was felt that a uniform cash award for the Swarna Kamal winner may be kept at Rs. 3,00,000/- and for the Rajat Kamal winner may be kept at Rs. 2,00,000/- in both the Feature and Non-Feature sections.
- iv. The Committee has attempted to club most of the thematic categories into fewer and specific themes in an effort to rationalize and realign the awards in this section. Most thematic categories may be done away with in the Non-Feature Film category except for the subjects of biographical/historical reconstruction, arts and culture, and social and environmental issues, since cultural heritage and sustainable lifestyles for a sustainable world are the essential values to be promoted. Rest of the themes can be covered in the other award categories.
- v. As per international best practices, the non-feature film award categories may broadly be-
 - a. Best Documentary Film
 - b. Best Short Film
 - c. Best Animation Film
 - d. Individual and technical awards.

2.11 CATEGORY: BEST WRITING ON CINEMA

Sl. No.	Category of Award (2)	Existing Prize	Award Rationalization
1.	Best Book on Cinema (prize money shared equally between Publisher & Author)	Author(s) – Swarna Kamal and Rs. 75,000 Publisher – Swarna Kamal and Rs. 75,000	Both may be retained. Cash Award may be enhanced to Rs 1,00,000 each
2.	Best Film Critic	Critic – Swarna Kamal and Rs. 75,000	

2.12 Observations Regarding Best Writing On Cinema

- With a view to rationalize the awards, the Committee deliberated whether the awards on Best Writing on Cinema could be clubbed with the literature awards given by the Sahitya Akademi. It was noted that the Sahitya Akademi Awards go to the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the major Indian languages recognized by the Akademi. These awards are for promotion of languages and literature, and are not thematic. Therefore, the Best Writing on Cinema award will not fall under the mandate of the Sahitya Akademi.
- The Committee recommends the continuation of the awards and also requests the Government to nudge literary excellence in writings on the subjects related to cinema through other means as well.
- So far, the NFA Regulations allow only writings published in Indian newspapers, magazines and journals to be eligible for the award of the Best Film Critic. In view of the expansion of the digital world, a lot of quality writing on the subject of cinema appears through digital publishing. It is recommended that critical studies, reviews or articles on cinema published digitally may also be included in the eligibility conditions.

2.13 CATEGORY: DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD

Sl. No.	Category of Award	Existing Prize	Award Rationalization
1.	Dadasaheb Phalke Award (presented every year to one of the Indian film personality for his/her outstanding contribution to Indian Cinema)	Swarna Kamal, Cash Prize of Rs. 10,00,000 and a Shawl	May be retained. Swarna Kamal, Cash Prize of Rs. 15,00,000 and a Shawl

2.14 Observations on the Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Dadasaheb Phalke Award is the most prestigious award in Indian cinema, given for a lifetime of achievement. The Committee recommends that the cash award in this category may be increased to Rs. 15,00,000/-

2.15 CATEGORY: AWARD FOR THE MOST FILM FRIENDLY STATE

In the last few years, an award for the Most Film Friendly States has also been conferred during the National Film Awards function. This award is given to the top 3 States/UTs in the country that have extended the best services and facilitation to the filmmakers in their State through policies, incentives and other initiatives. The Committee felt that all the States should promote film facilitation actively through major policy measures and therefore the Ministry should release a Ranking of the States based on their performance in respect of ease of filming. Accordingly, it is recommended that the award for the Most Film Friendly State may be discontinued as it specifies only the 3 top States, whereas the other States do not get to know about their relative position in ease of filming. It is recommended that a Ranking of States may be issued on an annual basis instead of conferring an award to just 3 States.

3.0 PART 2- AWARDS GIVEN DURING INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA (IFFI)

Sl. No.	Existing Category	Existing Prize	Award Rationalization
1.	Best Film	i. A Cash prize of INR 40 lakh to be shared equally between the Director and Producer	The Award may continue
		ii. Director gets the Golden Peacock + Certificate + cash component of Rs. 20 lakh (shared).	
		iii. Producer gets the Certificate + cash component Rs. 20 lakh (shared).	
2.	Best Director	i. Silver Peacock ii. Certificate iii. Cash prize of INR 15 lakh	The Award may continue
3.	Best Actor (Male)	i. Silver Peacock ii. Certificate iii. Cash prize of INR 10 lakh	The Award may continue
4.	Best Actor (Female)	i. Silver Peacock ii. Certificate iii. Cash prize of INR 10 lakh	The Award may continue

5.	Special Jury Award (to a film or an individual)	i. Silver Peacock ii. Certificate iii. Cash prize of INR 15 lakh Award goes to the Director for the Film. In case of individual, it goes to the individual concerned.	The Award may continue
6.	Award for Best Debut Feature Film of a Director	i. Silver Peacock ii. Certificate iii. Cash prize of INR 10 lakh	The Award may continue
7.	Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema	i. Cash prize of INR 10 lakh + ii. Certificate + iii. Shawl + iv. Medal (Silver Peacock) + v. Scroll	May be retained and renamed as “Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in World Cinema”. The cash award may be retained as it is meant to honour the international auteurs who are at the top of their game. The intent of the Award is to invite them to visit India to receive the award personally.
8.	Indian Film Personality of the Year Award	i. Cash prize of INR 10 lakh + ii. Certificate + iii. Shawl + iv. Medal (Silver Peacock)	May be retained and renamed as “Special Recognition for Contribution to Indian Cinema” The Award was instituted in 2013 as “Centenary Award” on the occasion of 100 years of Indian Cinema. It may be renamed and continued with all its components. The cash award may be retained as it is an honour and should be given to a very senior film personality, who may or may not any longer be active in films.
9.	ICFT UNESCO-Gandhi Medal Award (Recommended by a jury nominated by ICFT UNESCO)	i. Certificate ii. Medal given by ICFT UNESCO.	1. The Award may continue 2. Certificate 3. Medal given by ICFT UNESCO.

3.1 Observations Regarding the Awards in IFFI

- All International Film Festivals in the world have Competition Categories and awards for the Films are selected by a Jury. The Awards add to the prestige of the Festival and incentivise the film makers to apply for the Awards. The Awards are a way of recognition of talent. Therefore, the Awards must continue, along with their components.
- In essence, IFFI has only 6 Awards for Films- Best Film, Best Actor Male, Best Actor Female, Best Debut Director and Special Jury Award. 2 Awards are for lifetime achievement of an Indian and an International Film personality. 1 Award is sponsored and selected by ICFT UNESCO.
- The Awards given in prominent international film festivals were also studied while undertaking the exercise for rationalizing the IFFI Awards.
 - Cannes Films Festival has 33 Award categories
 - Venice International Film Festival has 20 Award categories
 - Berlin International Film Festival has 8 Award categories
- The mandate of each Film Festival is specific; some focus more on the Competition, some on the Market, some on different genres like Shorts, Feature, Documentary, Children films, etc. And therefore, the Awards promote that mandate. IFFI has scope for more Awards, for which, IFFI has to enhance its mandate and focus.
- ICFT UNESCO- Gandhi Medal Award is given to a film which has an ethical component, high aesthetic value & exhibits artistic excellence in screenplay, in film technique and music. It may also be continued.

4.0 PART 3- AWARDS GIVEN DURING MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (MIFF)

Sl No	Existing Category	Existing Prize	Award Rationalization
International Competition			
1	Best Documentary Film	Golden Conch and cash prize of INR 10 lakh Cash prize is shared equally by Producer and Director	May be retained and renamed as Best International Documentary Film
2	Best Short Fiction Film (upto 45 mins)	Silver Conch and cash prizes of INR 5 lakh Cash prize is shared equally by Producer and Director	May be retained and renamed as Best International short film Duration of the Short Fiction may be up to 30 mins instead of 45 mins.

3	Best Animation Film	Silver Conch and cash prizes of INR 5 lakh Cash prize is shared equally by Producer and Director	May be retained and renamed as Best International Animation Film.
National Competition			
4	Best Documentary Film (above 60 mins)	Trophy and cash prize of INR 5 lakh	To be merged on the pattern of International Competition and renamed as “Best Indian Documentary Film”. Duration may not be mentioned. May continue with Silver Conch and cash prize of INR 5 Lakh (to be shared equally between the Producer and the Director)
5	Best Documentary Film (up to 60 mins)	Trophy and cash prize of INR 5 lakh	
6	Best Short Fiction Film (up to 45 mins)	Trophy and cash prize of INR 3 lakh	May be retained and renamed as Best Indian Short Fiction Film with Silver Conch and cash prize of INR 3 lakh (to be shared equally) Duration of the Short Fiction may be up to 30 mins instead of 45 mins.
7	Best Animation Film	Trophy and cash prize of INR 3 lakh	May be retained and renamed as Best Indian Animation Film with Silver Conch and cash prize of INR 3 lakh (to be shared equally)
8	Sponsored Award: Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari Award for Best Debut Film	Trophy and cash prize of INR 1 lakh	May be retained.
9	Sponsored Award: IDPA Award for Best Student Film	Trophy and cash prize of INR 1 lakh	May be retained.

Technical Awards common for International & National Competition			
10	Best Cinematographer	Certificate & Cash Prize of INR 3 lakh	May be retained.
11	Best Editor	Certificate & Cash Prize of INR 3 lakh	May be retained.
12	Best Sound Designer	Certificate & Cash Prize of INR 3 lakh	May be retained.
Special Awards			
13	V Shantaram Life Time Achievement Award for contribution to documentary movement in India (Not Awarded Posthumously)	A trophy & cash prize of INR 10 lakh	May be retained.
14	Special Jury Award: Pramod Pati Award for Most Innovative/ Experimental Film	A trophy & cash prize of INR 1 lakh	May be retained as “Pramod Pati Award” for Most Innovative/ Experimental Film
15	Special Award for Best Short Film on India@75 (up to 15 min) (for Indian film makers only)	Trophy and Cash prize of INR 1 lakh	May be retained. The award may have a Special Theme for every edition, as per the priority Missions of the Government of India.
16	FIPRESCI Award	Trophy	To be retained & Cash prize of INR 1 lakh to be awarded.

4.1 Observations Regarding MIFF

- During MIFF 2022, 808 Entries from 30 countries - 650 films in National Competition and 158 films in International Competition were received. The film festival is very popular amongst Indian and international documentary and short film makers.
- MIFF focuses on 3 types of genres of films: Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation. So all the three categories need to be awarded.
- Documentary/Short/Animation film making is often done by small budget and independent film makers because documentaries/Shorts/Animation films are not screened in cinema halls as these are not revenue generating. These days, the digital platforms have provided an avenue for showcasing the documentaries/shorts/animation films. These genres need promotion and support by the Government. Therefore, continuation of cash awards is recommended.

- Prize money of Golden Conch and Silver Conch Awards is shared equally between Director and Producer. The existing practice may continue.
- There are 4 Award Sections: International Competition, National Competition, Technical Awards, Special Awards. All these may continue.
- After rationalization, the same Award categories have been proposed for the International and National sections, except for the Sponsored Awards.
- **Changes proposed in International Section:** None
- **Changes proposed in National Section:** There are 2 existing categories of Documentaries- (i) above 60 minutes, and (ii) Up to 60 minutes. Both have been clubbed into 1 category, that may be renamed as “**Best Documentary Film**”. The rest of the awards may be retained. The consideration is to have similarity of categories in both International and National sections.
- There are only 3 basic **Technical Awards**- Best Cinematographer, Best Editor and Best Sound Designer. These are awarded to the individuals. These may continue.
- The following **Special category** awards may continue:
 - **Shri Pramod Pati** Award for Most Innovative/ Experimental Film: Shri Pramod Pati (1932-1975) was the acclaimed documentary filmmaker working with Films Division, who changed story-telling in Films Division documentaries from being narrative-driven and didactic to non-narrative storytelling techniques and had a broad range of influences from both India and the West. This award honours the legendary Indian film maker and recognizes international talent. Therefore, the International Special Jury Award in his name may continue. The Award may be renamed as “Pramod Pati Award”.
 - **Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari Award** for Best Debut Film is given by Govt. of Maharashtra. It may continue, as Maharashtra is the venue of MIFF.
 - **IDPA Award:** Indian Documentary Producers’ Association- IDPA- is the single largest association of producers of Documentaries, Advertising films, Animation films, Short Fiction Films and TV programmes in India, and has been in existence since 1956. IDPA works for documentary and short film makers by providing a platform for the short filmmaking fraternity. The Association supports in the organisation of the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF). The Sponsored Award by them for the Best Student Film with a cash award of Rs. 1 lakh may continue. No GOI funds are used for this.
 - **V Shantaram Life Time Achievement Award** is for veteran documentary film makers. This is like the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for feature films. This may definitely continue. It should not be given posthumously.
 - **Special Award** for Best Short Film is for the best film on government programmes. It may be retained.
- In conclusion,
 - 3 main Award categories in the International and National Sections each may be-
 - Best Documentary,
 - Best Short Fiction and
 - Best Animation Film.
 - There will be 3 Technical Awards.
 - The rest are 5 Sponsored Awards/Special Jury Award, out of which 2 are sponsored. These may continue.

5.0 PART 4- AWARDS GIVEN DURING INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA (ICFFI)

5.1 There are three Award Categories in ICFFI:

1. International Competition
2. Asian Panorama
3. Little Directors

5.2 AWARDS FOR COMPETITION INTERNATIONAL

Sl. No.	Existing Category	Existing Prize	Award Rationalization
1.	Best Feature Film	i. Golden Elephant trophy ii. Cash prize of INR 1.5 lakh	May be retained. The award may be conferred on both the Producer and Director (shared), as per the practice in other Awards in NFA and IFFI. Cash Award may be enhanced to Rs. 3,00,000 each.
2.	Best Director of a Feature Film	i. Golden Elephant trophy ii. Cash prize	May be retained. Cash Award may be enhanced to Rs. 3,00,000.
3.	Best Screenplay of a Feature Film	i. Golden Elephant plaque ii. Cash prize	May be retained with a Cash Award of Rs 3,00,000.
4.	Best Short	i. Golden Elephant trophy ii. Cash prize of INR 75 thousand	May be retained. Cash Award may be enhanced to Rs. 3,00,000.
5.	Best Film selected by Children's Jury	i. Golden Elephant trophy ii. Cash prize of INR 1.5 lakh	May retained. Cash Award may be enhanced to Rs. 3,00,000.
6.	Best Animation Feature Film	i. Golden Elephant trophy ii. Cash prize of INR 1.5 lakh	May be retained. Cash Award may be enhanced to Rs. 2 lakh.
7.	Best Animation Short	i. Golden Elephant trophy ii. Cash prize of INR 75 thousand	May be retained. Cash Award may be enhanced to Rs. 3,00,000.
8.	Best Animation Series (New Category)	-	May be introduced to promote creation of Animation series amongst children. May be conferred the Golden Elephant Trophy and a cash award of Rs.3,00,000.
9.	Best Child Artist (New Category)	-	May be introduced. May be conferred the Golden Elephant Trophy a Cash Award of Rs.3,00,000.

5.3 Observations Regarding International Competition

- The Awards go to the Producer, except those specially mentioned for Best Director and individual awards.
- As per practice, there is no limit on the number of **Special Mentions** by the Jury, due to which the total number of Awards in the Festival goes up to 39. This practice may be discontinued as it reduces the prestige of the Awards.
- There are two Juries: Jury International and Children's Jury International. The International Children's Jury consists of child delegates attending ICFFI and has 5 children aged 8 to 16, with at least 3 members to be girls. The practice may continue. .
- Being a Children's Film Festival, an award category for the Best Child Artist may be introduced.
- Keeping in mind the emphasis of the Government on the AVGC sector, a new category has been proposed to be introduced for Animation sector- for the Best Animation Series.
- Due to proliferation of Distribution Platforms, animation content is not restricted to films or short films. A large number of animation series are extremely popular with the children in all age groups, including pre-school children. Award category will encourage better quality content in this genre. A relevant evaluation criteria may be set by the Festival authorities. For ex., as it may not be possible for a jury to watch unlimited episodes, for the sake of efficiency, only first 10 episodes (or the best 3 Episodes) of an Animation Series may be evaluated for the competition.
- The amount of cash award was deliberated. It was noted that while all winners get the same trophy- Golden Elephant, and the cash award may be enhanced to Rs. 3.00 lakh for all categories.

5.4 AWARDS FOR COMPETITION ASIAN PANORAMA

Sl. No.	Existing Category	Existing prize	Proposed category
1.	Best Feature Film	i. Golden Elephant trophy ii. Cash prize of INR 1.5 lakh	May be discontinued.
2.	Best Feature Film Director	i. Golden Elephant plaque	May be discontinued.
3.	Best Short	i. Golden Elephant trophy ii. Cash prize of INR 1.0 lakh	May be discontinued.
4.	Best Short film selected by Children's Jury	i. Golden Elephant trophy ii. Cash prize of INR 1.0 lakh	May be discontinued.
5.	To all films presented in this section	Certificate of Participation	May be discontinued.

5.5 Observations Regarding Asian Panorama

- The Films in this category have to be produced in Asia.
- The Asian Panorama is restrictive as it overlaps with the category of Competition International. Since the Festival has the category of International Competition, another international competition category restricted only to Asia **may be discontinued** and the emphasis may be on one international section only.

5.6 AWARDS FOR COMPETITION LITTLE DIRECTORS

Sl. No.	Existing Category	Existing Prize	Proposed category
1.	Best Film by Children	Golden Elephant trophy	May continue.
2.	Best Film Runner up Little Directors	Silver Elephant plaque	May be discontinued.
3.	Special Mentions	Plaques at the discretion of the Jury	May be discontinued.

5.7 Observations Regarding Little Directors Competition

- Films made by individual children/groups of children aged 6 to 16 with the core team of Director, Cameraperson, editor, etc. below the age of 16 are eligible for the award in this category.
- There are no cash awards in the category of Competition Little Directors, and the same may be continued. No Cash prize may be given in this category.
- The five member Jury is composed of eminent personalities from the field of film-making and education.
- Currently, there are 2 awards for the Best Film for Little Directors, where the Golden Elephant and Silver Elephant Trophies are given. All Film Festivals have only One Award for the Best Film, but ICFFI has two categories for the Best Film by Little Directors to promote young talent. Only the Best Film Award may be retained and no Runners Up award may be given. Special Mention for the Best Film is also not required as it dilutes the prestige of the Best Film Award. Currently, there is no limit to number of Special Mentions to be made by the Jury.

5.8 AWARDS RECOMMENDED TO BE DISCONTINUED

S.No.	Existing Category	Existing Prize
Asian Panorama – Feature		
1.	Best Film Feature (by child jury)	i. Golden Elephant Trophy ii. Cash Prize INR 1.5 lakh
2.	2nd Best Film Feature	i. Golden Elephant Trophy ii. Cash Prize INR 1.0 lakh
3.	Special Mention By Jury	i. Certificate
Asian Panorama – Short		
4.	Best Director	i. Golden Elephant Plaque
5.	2nd Best Film Short	i. Golden Elephant Trophy
6.	Special Mention By Jury	ii. Certificate
Competition International Live Action - Short		
7.	Best Director	i. Golden Elephant Trophy
8.	Best Actor	i. Golden Elephant Plaque
9.	Best Film Short - Live Action (by child jury)	i. Golden Elephant Trophy ii. Cash prize INR 75 thousand
10.	2nd Best Film Short - Live Action	i. Golden Elephant Trophy
11.	Best Screenplay	i. Golden Elephant Plaque
12.	Special Mention By Jury	i. Certificate
Competition International Animation– Short		
13.	Best Director	i. Golden Elephant Trophy
14.	Best Film Short – Animation (by child jury)	i. Golden Elephant Trophy ii. Cash prize INR 75 thousand
15.	2nd Best Film Short - Animation	i. Golden Elephant Trophy
16.	Best Screenplay	i. Golden Elephant Plaque
17.	Special Mention By Jury	i. Certificate
Competition International Animation – Feature		
18.	Best Director	i. Golden Elephant Trophy
19.	Best Film Feature–Animation (by child jury)	i. Golden Elephant Trophy ii. Cash prize INR 1.5 lakh
20.	2nd Best Film Feature - Animation	i. Golden Elephant Trophy ii. Cash prize INR 1.0 lakh
21.	Best Screenplay	i. Golden Elephant Plaque
22.	Special Mention By Jury	i. Certificate
Competition International Live Action - Feature		
23.	Best Actor	i. Golden Elephant Plaque
24.	2nd Best Film Feature - Live Action	i. Golden Elephant Trophy
25.	Special Mention By Jury	i. Certificate
Little Director		
26.	Special Mention By Jury	i. Certificate

6.0 Conclusion

In 2022-23, more than 10,000 films were certified in India. These include Indian feature films, foreign feature films, documentaries, shorts, animation films, music videos, etc. The numbers are impressive and are testimony to the creative freedom exercised by filmmakers, demonstrating a wide engagement of the film industry with the society. The number of cinemas screens however, has not increased in the country in the last few years, particularly after the pandemic. Many feature films and most non-feature films do not go for a theatrical release. Fortunately, due to the proliferation of digital platforms and OTT platforms, films have found more avenues for distribution and the possibilities of the filmic content reaching out to the public has become much easier. Still, navigating the distribution ecosystem is tough for an small and independent film maker. The Committee recommends that the entire cinema landscape in the country should be encouraged and incentivised in various ways and the awards regime is one of the most effective ways of doing it.

The Committee, accordingly, submits its Report on the rationalization of the film awards conferred by the Ministry.

Ms. Neerja Sekhar
(Chairperson & AS, I&B)

Mr. Priyadarshan
(Member)

Mr. Vipul Shah
(Member)

Mr. Prasoon Joshi
(Member)

Mr. Haobam Paban Kumar
(Member)

Mr. S. Nallamuthu
(Member)

Mr. Prithul Kumar
(Member & JS, Films)

Mr. Kamlesh Kumar Sinha
(Member & Director, Finance)
