



# Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024

**For Prelims:** Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024, [Cinematograph \(Amendment\) Act, 2023](#), [Central Board of Film Certification \(CBFC\)](#).

**For Mains:** Regulating the film industry in India, Indian Movie Market and its significance for the Economy, India's competitiveness in the global film market.

[Source: PIB](#)

## Why in News?

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has introduced the **Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024**, replacing the outdated 1983 rules, in accordance with the [Cinematograph \(Amendment\) Act, 2023](#).

- The **Cinematograph (Amendment) Act of 2023** amended the **Cinematograph Act of 1952**, which governs the certification, exhibition, and censorship of films in India.

## What are the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024?

- **Aim:**
  - The rules aim to keep pace with emerging technologies and advancements in the film sector to ensure relevance and effectiveness.
- **Key Aspects in the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024:**
  - **Alignment with Online Certification Processes:**
    - The rules have undergone a comprehensive revision to align with online certification processes, ensuring enhanced transparency, efficiency, and ease of doing business for the film industry.
  - **Reduction in Certification Time-Lines:**
    - Time-lines for film certification processing have been reduced, with the adoption of complete digital processes to eliminate all transactional delays.
  - **Accessibility Features for Films:**
    - Movies and feature films are required to incorporate accessibility features for certification, making them inclusive for disabled persons as per the stipulated guidelines.
  - **Introduction of Age-Based Certification:**
    - The existing UA (Universal Adult) category has been further subdivided into three age-based categories: **UA 7+**, **UA 13+**, and **UA 16+**.
    - These age-based markers serve as **recommendations for parents or guardians** to determine whether the film is suitable for their children, promoting age-appropriate content consumption.
  - **Enhanced Gender Representation:**
    - The rules stipulate **greater representation of women in the [Central Board of Film Certification \(CBFC\)](#) Board and Advisory Panels, with one-third of the members** in the Board and preferably half being women.

- **System for Priority Screening of Films:**
  - Provision for priority screening of films has been introduced to expedite the certification process, particularly for filmmakers facing urgent commitments related to film releases.
- **Perpetual Validity of Certificates:**
  - The restriction on the validity of certificates for only 10 years has been removed, ensuring the perpetual validity of certificates issued by the [Central Board of Film Certification \(CBFC\)](#).
- **Recertification for Television Broadcast:**
  - Edited films intended for television broadcast are required to undergo recertification, allowing only films with Unrestricted Public Exhibition category certification to be shown on television.
- **Significance:**
  - The overhaul of the rules acknowledges the advancements in film technology and audience demographics over the past four decades.
  - Complementing the amendments to the Cinematograph Act in 2023, the new rules simplify the certification process, making it contemporary and globally competitive.

## Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

- The CBFC is a **statutory body** operating under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, entrusted with regulating the public exhibition of films as per the **Cinematograph Act 1952**.
  - Films can only be publicly exhibited in India once they have obtained certification from the CBFC, ensuring compliance with legal requirements and standards.
- The CBFC comprises non-official members and a Chairman, all appointed by the Central Government, with its **headquarters located in Mumbai**.
- Additionally, it operates nine Regional offices across India, each equipped with **Advisory Panels** to assist in the examination of films.
  - The Advisory Panels consist of members nominated by the Central Government from diverse backgrounds, serving for a term of 2 years.

## Film Industry in India

- The **Indian film industry is the largest in the world in terms of the number of films produced** and the most globalised industry in the world producing **more than 3,000 films annually in more than 40 languages**.
  - The three largest film industries in India are **Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil**.
- The Indian film industry, known for its vibrant and diverse cinema, had a market size of **over 172 billion Indian rupees in the year 2022**. This figure indicates a recovery trajectory, although the industry is still navigating the impacts of the [Covid-19](#) pandemic and the rapid growth of **video over-the-top (OTT) culture**.
  - Video streaming services, including OTT platforms, became very popular in India during the pandemic and lockdowns when people were confined to their homes.
  - The online video market in India has a mix of global and local players competing for over 400 million users.
- The jobs created by the television and film industry across the country were estimated to be **4.12 million in the financial year 2022**, up from about 2.36 million jobs in the financial year 2017.

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## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question

***Prelims:***

**Q. A recent movie titled The Man Who Knew Infinity is based on the biography of (2016)**

- (a)** S. Ramanujan
- (b)** S. Chandrasekhar
- (c)** S.N. Bose
- (d)** C.V. Raman

**Ans: (a)**

- 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' is a movie based on the biography of S. Ramanujan (1887-1920), an Indian mathematician, known for his immense contribution in mathematical analysis.
- He was a fellow of the Royal Society.
- **Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

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