

**National Human Rights Commission  
Media and Communication Wing**

\*\*\*\*\*

Date: 09<sup>th</sup> April 2026

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India invites short films for its 'Short Film Competition-2026', which aims to recognise the creative efforts towards promotion and protection of human rights. The film may be in any technical format. These may be in any Indian language with subtitles in English or in English.

The prize money for the first, second and third best film will be **₹ 2 lakh, ₹ 1 lakh 50 thousand and ₹ 1 lakh respectively. The Commission, in addition to three cash awards, certificates and trophies, may also consider giving a "Certificate of Special Mention" along with a cash prize of ₹ 50 thousand each to a maximum of four (4) films, if so, recommended by the jury.**

**The terms and references of the Competition are as follows:**

**(i). Who can compete:** Any Indian citizen can send his/ her entry. There is no bar on the number of films sent by an individual for competing in the NHRC's Short Film Award Scheme. However, each application should have one film only, and films sent once for the NHRC's competition may not compete again under this scheme of the Commission. The film(s) being sent for this competition should not be on social media platform(s). Applicants must also attach a valid proof of identity issued by a Government authority, such as an Aadhaar Card, Voter Identity Card, PAN Card, Driving License, or any other government issued ID.

**(ii). Entry Fee:** There is no entry fee.

**(iii). Theme of the film: Human rights issues\*.** Each entry should accompany a brief theme and synopsis of the film.

**(iv). Language of the film:** Any Indian language with subtitles in English or in English.

**(v). Duration of the film: The short film should not be less than 3 minutes or more than 10 minutes.**

**(vi). Film format:** Short films may be in any form (fiction, documentary, animation etc.) shot with any device or camera set-up (in MP4 format, Full HD (1080p) or (1920x1820p). Preferably, the size of the short film being sent for the competition should not be more than 2 GB.

**(vii). Title & Credits:** Each film should depict its title and credits, including the names of the producer, writer and director.

**(viii). Jury:** The Commission will decide the selection process and constitute a Jury to select the winners.

**(ix). Distribution of Award:** The onus will be on the applicant that he/ she is the only authorized representative to send the entry for the Award Scheme. The award for the film will be given to the applicant only. The award money will be transferred online in the name of the applicant. The NHRC, India will, in no way, be

responsible for any dispute arising out of it. The award money may be transferred in the name of a company or a production house only if it is stated to be so by the applicant in his application form.

**(x). Undertaking:** The applicant in the proforma application will have to give an undertaking as follows:

“I, \_\_\_\_\_ son/daughter of \_\_\_\_\_, resident of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby declare that as the ‘Applicant’, I have the right to send the film, as per details given above, for competing in the NHRC’s Short Film Competition-2026. I have read all the terms and conditions of the Competition and agree with them and give the NHRC, India the right to use the film for any purpose it deems fit including uploading on its website/ social media. In case of any dispute over my entry, the onus will be on me only to deal with the issue at my end and not the NHRC, India.”

**(xi). Lodging & boarding:**

**(a).** The NHRC will invite only the applicants of the award-winning films to receive the awards in New Delhi at a date to be conveyed in due course of time. Only the applicant of the award winning film will be reimbursed only to & fro economy class airfare by the shortest route from the airport of embarkment and disembarkment **OR** by the shortest route train travel in 2nd AC to reach New Delhi to attend the award ceremony. They will have to make their own arrangements for their stay in Delhi.

**(b).** For reimbursement, production of receipts towards payment for the economy class to & fro airfare **(along with the boarding passes)** or train ticket (2nd AC). **The ticket compulsorily be purchased from any of the three Government Authorised travel agencies as mentioned below:**

- (i)** M/s Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited (BLCL),
- (ii)** M/s Ashok Travels & Tours (ATT), and
- (iii)** Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC).

**(xii). Method to apply:**

**(a).** The applicant should have a Gmail account with Google Drive access.

**(b).** Duly filled-in application form along with requisite documents, film and its theme and synopsis should be uploaded in the folder of Google Drive with the title “Short Film Award-2026, <name of applicant/ Production house>”. The link of the folder of Google Drive should be forwarded through Email on NHRC email: nhrshortfilm@gmail.com (No hard copy of application or DVD/Pen drive is required). The applicant must write his/ her complete postal address, telephone and mobile number in the Email.

**(xiii). Mode of dispatch:** Entries can be sent online only.

**(xiv). Last date:** The entries received after the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2026 will not be entertained.

**(xv). Screening Rights:** The NHRC, India will have the right to use the awarded

films for any purpose it deems fit including uploading these on its website/ social media. An undertaking in this regard, as given in the application form, must be duly signed and scanned copy should be uploaded. However, the participants may continue to have their rights on their films and may be free to participate in any other competitions/ festivals without restricting the NHRC, India from using it.

**(xvi). Invalid entries:** Incomplete forms and entries not fulfilling the terms and conditions as above will be treated as invalid and may not be considered for the competition. However, the NHRC, India may not return them.

**(xvii).** Entries with **nudity content will be rejected.**

**(xviii).** In case of any controversy on a matter not mentioned in the above terms and conditions, the organisers will decide upon appropriate actions. **The organisers' decision shall be final and binding.**

**(xix). Results:** The results of the competition will be announced via a press release, X handle Post and will also be uploaded on the website of the Commission, i.e., [www.nhrc.nic.in](http://www.nhrc.nic.in)

**(xx). Posters of the film:** The applicant whose film is shortlisted for the award will require to send a coloured poster (A3 size) of the film depicting the title of the film, brief theme in English and names of the main crew, only in soft copy.

**\*The themes of short films should be broadly based on various socio-economic, cultural and political rights. The film could be a documentary, dramatization of real stories or a work of fiction, in any technical format, including animation, within the ambit of right to life, liberty, equality and dignity and covering issues specific to bonded and child labour, women and children's rights, rights and challenges of elderly persons, rights of persons with disability, manual scavenging, right to healthcare, issues of fundamental freedoms, human trafficking, domestic violence, human rights violation due to police atrocities, custodial violence and torture, socio-economic disparities, rights of Nomadic and Denotified Tribes, prison reforms, right to education, right to clean environment including environmental hazards impacting life on planet earth, right to work, right to equality before law, right to food and nutritional security, rights of LGBTQI+, human rights violations due to displacement on account of either man-made or natural calamity, celebrating human rights and values in Indian diversity, development initiatives improving life and living standards, etc.**

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Digitally signed by  
JAIMINI KUMAR SRIVASTAVA  
Date: 09-04-2026 16:23:52

**(Jaimini Kumar Srivastava)**  
Deputy Director (M&C)  
National Human Rights Commission

**\*\*Application Form for NHRC's Short Film Competition-2026  
(All entries are to be made in capital letters)**

Name of the Applicant	
Father's/ Mother's name	
Nationality	
Proof of the Identity of the Applicant. Please tick mark (√) As applicable & attach self attested photocopy.	<b>Either Aadhar Card/ Voter ID/ PAN Card/ Driving License/ or any other valid proof of identity issued by a Govt. Authority.</b>
Postal address with pin code along with telephone/ Mobile numbers and e-mail address.	
Occupation (if a student, please write so)	
Title of the short film	
Theme & Synopsis of the short film <b>(Please attach a separate sheet)</b>	
Duration of the short film <b>(should not be less than 03 minutes or more than 10 minutes)</b>	
Language of the Short Film	
Whether having subtitle in English? Please write "Yes/ No"	
Whether the film carries title credits? Please write "Yes/ No"	
Is the film being sent for the First time to the NHRC Competition? Please write "Yes/ No"	
In which capacity the Applicant is sending the entry; Please write Director/ Producer or other	

### Undertaking

I, \_\_\_\_\_, son/ daughter of \_\_\_\_\_, resident of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby declare that as the 'Applicant', I have the right to send the film, as per the details given above, for competing in the NHRC's Short Film Competition-2026. I have read all the terms and conditions of the Competition and agree with them and give the NHRC, India the right to use the film for any purpose it deems fit including uploading on its website/ social media. In case of any dispute over my entry, the onus will be on me only to deal with the issue at my end and not the NHRC, India.

Signature of the applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the applicant \_\_\_\_\_