

INCA Awards 2026 Nominations Spark Debate Over Fees



Assam Rising, Guwahati, March 26: The Indian National Cine Academy (INCA) has unveiled the nominations for its inaugural INCA Awards, presented by Kalyan Jewellers, marking an ambitious attempt to celebrate cinematic excellence across India's diverse film industries. Covering twelve languages, including Assamese, Bengali, Odia, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi, the awards feature 25 categories, blending both lan-

guage-specific and pan-Indian recognitions. While top honours such as Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor, and Best Actress will be awarded separately for each language, the remaining 21 categories—including technical and creative fields like cinematography, editing, production design, and background score—will be judged collectively across industries. The nominations are led by high-profile films such as Dhurandhar with 17 nods, Lokah Chapter One:

Chandra with 15, and Kantara: Chapter 1 with 13. Notably, Assamese film Rudra, directed by Roopak Gogoi, has made a strong impact by securing 11 nominations, placing it among the top contenders. The awards ceremony is scheduled to take place in Mumbai on April 16, 2026, and is expected to draw leading filmmakers, actors, and producers from across the country. Backed by the Producers Guild of India as chief patron, the initiative aims to

create a unified platform for Indian cinema. However, the announcement has not been without controversy. Concerns have surfaced over the nomination process, particularly the initial requirement of a Rs 6,000 submission fee for eligible films released in 2025. Although the fee was later waived, many filmmakers—especially from Assam—feel disadvantaged, suspecting that early applicants may have had an edge. Questions have also been raised

about certain nominations and the decision to merge technical categories across industries rather than recognising each region individually.

Adding to the criticism, a social media error by INCA, where an incorrect image was used for an Assamese nominee, has further fueled doubts about the organisation's attention to regional representation. These developments come in the wake of recent controversies surrounding award shows in Assam, highlighting ongoing concerns about transparency, fairness, and the commercialisation of recognition platforms. With only seven Assamese films nominated out of over 20 releases in 2025, industry observers argue that such awards may reflect influence and visibility as much as merit. As anticipation builds, the debate continues over whether such platforms genuinely uplift regional cinema or merely capitalise on it.

'Operation Sindoor' Film Announced on 2025 Military Strikes



Mumbai, March 26: Film producer Bhushan Kumar and filmmaker Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri on March 26 announced their upcoming feature film Operation Sindoor, based on India's targeted military strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir following the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack. The film will be directed by Agnihotri and jointly produced by Kumar's T-Series along with IAm Budha Productions. It is adapted from

the book Operation Sindoor: The Untold Story of India's Deep Strikes Inside Pakistan by K. J. S. Dhillon. Describing the project as rooted in a "defining moment of strategic resolve," the makers said the film aims to depict the events that followed the 2025 attack in Jammu and Kashmir, where 26 people, mostly tourists, lost their lives. Kumar emphasized the responsibility behind the project, calling it a story that "demands to be told with honesty and courage," adding that it goes beyond cin-

ema to present a larger narrative. Agnihotri, known for films like The Kashmir Files and The Tashkent Files, said extensive research has been conducted in collaboration with various wings of the Indian Armed Forces to ensure authenticity. He noted that the film seeks to explore the complexity and precision of the military operation, presenting aspects not widely known to the public. Further details regarding the cast and release timeline are expected to be announced in the coming months.

Def Leppard's Shillong Concert Strikes a Nostalgic Chord with Fans

Shillong, March 26: Shillong witnessed a night where nostalgia and live music blended seamlessly as legendary British rock band Def Leppard performed at the RBDSA Sports Complex in Umroi, Ri Bhoi district. The concert, part of their India tour, turned into an immersive experience for fans who have long held the band's music close to their hearts. The evening opened with a grounded performance by Trance Effect, whose raw and authentic sound set the tone for the night. As the crowd slowly gathered, the atmosphere reflected Shillong's deep-rooted connection with music—unhurried yet deeply attentive.



When Def Leppard took the stage, frontman Joe Elliott led the band with effortless command, supported by guitarists Phil Collen and Vivian Campbell,

bassist Rick Savage, and drummer Rick Allen. The setlist moved fluidly from high-energy tracks to reflective moments, drawing the audience deeper into

the performance. A simple greeting—"Khublie Shillong"—bridged the gap between band and audience, before crowd favourites like "Let's Get

Rocked" ignited the venue. However, it was "Love Bites" that became the emotional core of the night, evoking memories for longtime listeners.

Among those present was Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, whose presence underscored the significance of Shillong hosting the opening leg of the tour. As the concert concluded with electrifying numbers like "Pour Some Sugar on Me," the boundary between performer and audience seemed to dissolve. More than just a performance, the night reaffirmed Shillong's identity as India's rock capital—where music is not just heard, but deeply felt.

'Dhurandhar 2' Storms Box Office, Crosses ₹1000 Crore in Record Time

Mumbai, March 26: Ranveer Singh's latest release Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge has taken the global box office by storm, crossing the ₹1000 crore mark within just a week of its release on March 19, 2026. Directed by Aditya Dhar, the action-spy drama has re-written multiple records, setting new benchmarks for Indian cinema. The film began its journey with a historic ₹44 crore in paid previews—the highest ever for an Indian film. It continued its

momentum with a staggering ₹145 crore on its opening day in India, surpassing previous records held by blockbusters like Pathaan, Jawan, Animal, and Stree 2. Globally, Dhurandhar 2 raced to ₹500 crore in just three days, making it the fastest Indian film to achieve the milestone. Its opening weekend collection in India stood at ₹384 crore, overtaking the previous highs set by Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan and Allu Arjun's Pushpa 2: The Rule. The film has also emerged as the highest-

grossing release of 2026 so far, leaving behind Varun Dhawan's Border 2. In a significant feat, its domestic earnings within the first weekend have already surpassed the lifetime India collections of Aamir Khan's Dangal and Salman Khan's Bajrangi Bhaijaan. With its phenomenal run showing no signs of slowing down, industry watchers are now keenly observing how many more records Dhurandhar 2 will shatter in the coming weeks.

Boman Irani's Viral Video Pokes Fun at Trump's 'Iranis' Remark

Mumbai, March 26: Actor-director Boman Irani has set social media abuzz with a humorous video responding to a remark by former US President Donald Trump about speaking to "Iranis." Sharing the clip on Instagram, Irani used his signa-

ture wit to connect the comment to himself and fellow personalities Smriti Irani and Aruna Irani. The actor jokingly suggested that the three of them had been "beckoned" for peace talks, sparking laughter among fans online. In the video, Irani playfully offered his

support for global peace efforts, stating he was "ready" to help in any way. However, he added a comic twist by setting a condition—he would not travel to Washington for discussions. Instead, he invited the delegation to Mumbai's Dadar Parsi Colony,

promising warm hospitality. "We'll treat them to whatever they like, feed them dhansak and custard, and even bring a gas cylinder," he quipped, blending humour with cultural references. The lighthearted take, set against the backdrop of tensions in West

Asia, quickly went viral, with users praising Irani's ability to bring levity to a serious subject. Known for his impeccable comic timing, the actor once again demonstrated how humour can resonate widely, even when touching upon global issues.

New 'Harry Potter' Series Teaser Revives Magic for a New Generation

Mumbai, March 26: A return to the wizarding world is drawing closer as the first teaser for the upcoming Harry Potter television series rekindles the sense of wonder that defined a generation. Opening at Privet Drive, the footage revisits the lonely beginnings of Harry Potter, now portrayed by Dominic

McLaughlin, capturing the character's early isolation before his journey into a magical world unfolds. The teaser follows familiar milestones—from the arrival of the Hogwarts letter to Harry's first encounter with Rubeus Hagrid, played by Nick Frost. Iconic sequences like Platform 9¾ and the Hogwarts Ex-

press return with a refreshed visual tone, blending nostalgia with a modern cinematic approach. Friendship remains at the core, with early glimpses of Harry's bond with Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, played by Alastair Stout and Arabella Stanton respectively. The teaser also showcases the Sorting Hat

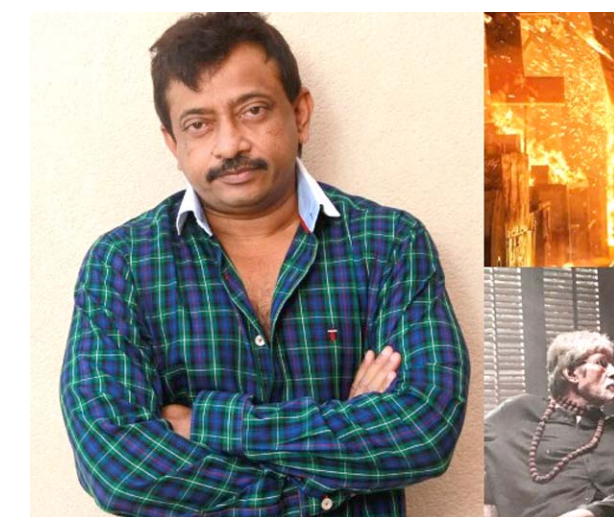
ceremony, Quidditch matches, and a snow-covered Hogwarts. The adult cast introduces fresh interpretations, including John Lithgow as Albus Dumbledore, Janet McTeer as Minerva McGonagall, and Paapa Essiedu as Severus Snape. Based on the books by J. K. Rowling, the series is helmed

by writer Francesca Gardiner and director Mark Mylod. Planned as a decade-long adaptation, each season will explore one novel in depth. Set to premiere on Christmas Day 2026 on HBO Max, the series aims to revisit the beloved story with greater detail while honoring the legacy of the original films.

Ram Gopal Varma Plans 'Syndicate' Inspired by Dhurandhar 2 Success

Mumbai, March 26: Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma has expressed admiration for the success of Dhurandhar 2, revealing that the film has significantly influenced his creative direction. Taking to X, Varma shared insights into his upcoming project Syndicate, which he says will draw inspiration from the storytelling style of Aditya Dhar. Describing Syndicate, Varma said the film will explore a chilling premise: what happens if India's law and order collapses in a single day. He likened it to a horror film not due to supernatural elements, but because of the terrifying realities of human behaviour. According to him, the story will revolve around a

powerful and dangerous organisation threatening the very fabric of the nation. Varma also reflected on how Dhurandhar 2 has reshaped his perspective as a filmmaker. He remarked that the film represents a new benchmark, prompting him to rethink his past work and approach cinema with a renewed vision. "I want to be a reborn director," he wrote, highlighting how evolving experiences continuously redefine creative standards. Sharing personal anecdotes, Varma spoke about his shifting aspirations over the years—from wanting to be an autorickshaw driver to exploring different career paths before settling into filmmaking. He also cited literary influences



such as Enid Blyton, James Hadley Chase, and Frederick Forsyth. Known for films in-

spired by The Godfather, Varma admitted that Dhurandhar 2 has now set a

new creative benchmark, pushing him toward a fresh cinematic phase with Syndicate.

'Mardaani 3' Set for OTT Release After Theatrical Run

Mumbai, March 26: Rani Mukerji's much-anticipated film Mardaani 3 is gearing up for its digital premiere following its run in theatres. The third installment in the popular Mardaani franchise continues the story of fearless cop Shivani Shivaji Roy, a role that has become synonymous with Mukerji's powerful screen presence. While the makers are yet to officially announce the streaming date, industry sources indicate that the film will soon be available on a leading OTT platform, allowing a wider audience to experience the crime thriller from the comfort of their homes.

Mardaani 3 follows the success of its previous parts, which were praised for their gripping narratives and socially relevant themes. The franchise has built a strong fan base over the years, with audiences appreciating its realistic portrayal of crime investigations and women-led storytelling.

The move to OTT is expected to further boost the film's reach, especially among viewers who missed its theatrical release. With growing demand for digital content, the transition highlights the continued importance of streaming platforms in extending the life cycle of major releases.

Fans are now eagerly awaiting an official confirmation on the release date and platform, as anticipation builds for the next chapter in the Mardaani saga.

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On account of the amalgamation between Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. and Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. vide the Scheme of Amalgamation dated 11.03.2024 duly recorded in the Order passed by the National Company Law Tribunal - Ahmedabad on 24.03.2025, all SARFAESI actions initiated by Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. in relation to the mortgaged property mentioned in Schedule A below, stands transferred to Aditya Birla Capital Ltd., the amalgamated company. Accordingly the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (1) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated mentioned below under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names and addresses mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers mentioned herein below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers mentioned herein below and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Borrowers mentioned herein below in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL) for an amount as mentioned herein and interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)	Demand Notice Dt. & Ols. Amt.	Description of Immovable Property (Properties Mortgaged)	Possession Date
1.	M/s. M D Enterprises, Through its Proprietor Mr. Mohammad Bilal Ali	DN Date: 08.01.2026 Rs.	All that part and parcel of the plot of Land Admeasuring 18 (Eighteen) Lechas (2.41 Acre) Out of Total Land Measuring 2 (Two) Kathas 18 (Eighteen) Lechas (7.76 Acre) Covered By Dtg No. 274 of K. P. Patta No. 904, Class of Land- (Second) Bansi, Situated At Revenue Village- Saikuchi Sahar, Mouza- Baltho Under Dispur Revenue Circle In The District of Kamrup (Metro), Assam, Under The Jurisdiction of The Sub-Registry Office Kamrup (Metro), Guwahati Which is Butted And Bounded As Follows: North: Land of Maktub Talukdar And Same Dan, South: Road, East: Part of Dan No. 325, West: Road.	25.03.2026 (Symbolic Possession)
2.	Mr. Mohammad Bilal Ali, S/o. Abdul Bares Ali	24,32,292.78/- as on 06.01.2026		
3.	Mrs. Forida Khatun, D/o. Roman Ali			

Place: Kamrup, Assam
Date: 27.03.2026

Authorised Officer, ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL LIMITED