Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024

Why in news?

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India has notified the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024 in accordance with the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023.

Status of India's film industry
• The Indian film industry produces over 3,000 films annually in more than 40 languages, showcasing its vast reach and diversity. • The largest film industry in India is the *South Indian film industry* that holds about 47% share of the total films produced. • In 2020, the Indian film industry generated over 183 billion Indian rupees from over 1,800 movies • The Hon'ble Prime Minister envisions India as a *global content hub*, leveraging its rich heritage and cultural diversity. • Indian Cinema is recognized for promoting Indian culture, society, and values globally, contributing to India's soft power.

What are the key aspects of Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024?

Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024	
Key aspects	**About**
Aim	To streamline and modernise the film certification process for the digital age, keeping pace with the emerging technologies and advancement in the film sector
Comprehensive revision	*Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983* have been comprehensively overhauled in order to improve and contemporize the entire process of certification of films for public exhibition.
Online certification process	It is adopted to enhance transparency, efficiency, and ease of doing business for the film industry.
Time-effective	Implementation of *complete digital processes* is to eliminate transactional time and reduce the time taken for film certification.
Accessibility features	Movies/feature films to have accessibility features for certification to make it inclusive for disabled persons, as stipulated in the guidelines issued in this regard from time to time.
Age- based certification	The UA category is classified into *UA+, UA13+ and UA16+*, these would serve as recommendations for parents or guardians to decide whether the content is suitable for their children.
Women representation	Ensuring greater representation of women in the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) Board and Advisory Panels, with one-third of the members on the Board being women, and preferably half on the Panels.

Priority screening	It is provided to expedite the certification process in case of urgency felt by filmmakers due to prior commitments, this would enhance transparency and promote ease of doing business.
Perpetual validity of certificates	Removal of the restriction on the validity of certificates for only 10 years for perpetual validity of CBFC certificates
Recertification for TV broadcast	Recertification of the edited film for Television broadcast, as only Unrestricted Public Exhibition category films can be shown on television.

What lies ahead?

- The age based certification will play a crucial role in balancing the need to protect vulnerable audiences, such as children, with the principles of *freedom of expression* and *consumer choice*.
- The recent rules reflect a comprehensive effort to address the evolving needs of the film industry, considering advancements in technology, audience demographics, and content distribution methods.
- The updated regulations aims to support the growth and success of Indian cinema by fostering e*fficiency, transparency and inclusivity*.

Quick facts

Central Board of Film Certification
• **Statutory body**- CBFC regulates the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the ***Cinematograph Act 1952*.** • **Ministry-** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. • **Launch year**- 1951. • **Headquarters-** Mumbai. • **Composition**- The Board consists of a *Chairman and non-official members* . • **Appointment-** All the members are appointed by the Central government. • **Regional offices**- CBFC has *9 regional offices* at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Cuttack and Guwahati. • **Advisory panel-** The regional offices are assisted in the examination of films by advisory panel. • **Appointment of panels-** The members of the panel are nominated by the Central government by drawing people from different walks of life for a period of 2 years. • **Public exhibition of movies**- Films can be publicly exhibited in India o*nly after they have been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification*.

References

1. The Hindu- Centre notifies cinematograph certification rules
2. PIB- Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024
3. CBFC- About CBFC



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