



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Government of India



WAVES Young Filmmakers Challenge

Igniting Creativity in the Next Generation

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

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Introduction

The WAVES Young Filmmakers Challenge, organised by Whistling Woods International in partnership with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, offers an exciting platform for budding storytellers aged 12 to 19 to step into the world of filmmaking. Designed to spark creativity, enhance digital literacy, and refine storytelling skills, the challenge invites young creators to craft compelling 60-second films. As a key part of the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES), it encourages children and teens to explore their imagination and share their perspectives through short-form storytelling.

WAVES, scheduled to take place from 1 to 4 May 2025 at the Jio World Convention Centre and Jio World Gardens in Mumbai, will serve as a premier forum for discussions, collaboration, and innovation in the media and entertainment industry. The event will bring together industry leaders, stakeholders, and innovators to explore new opportunities, address challenges, and drive growth in India's M&E sector.



Central to WAVES is the Create in India Challenges, a flagship initiative by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. With over 70,000 registrations and 31 challenges launched, this initiative has drawn creative minds from across the world. By fostering a thriving ecosystem of innovation, the challenges aim to position India as a global hub for media and entertainment.

Key Objectives

- **Inspire Creativity:** Provide a fun and supportive platform for young filmmakers to express their creativity and originality through film.
- **Promote Storytelling:** Encourage participants to develop engaging and imaginative stories that resonate with young audiences.
- **Build Confidence:** Empower children and teens by giving them the opportunity to showcase their talent on a global stage.
- **Celebrate Diversity:** Highlight the diverse perspectives and narratives that young filmmakers bring to the screen.

Judging Criteria

- Creativity** {
 - The originality and inventiveness of the storytelling approach.
- Appeal** {
 - The film's ability to connect with and engage its young audience.
- Clarity of Message** {
 - How effectively the film conveys its theme or story within the given timeframe.
- Overall Impact** {
 - The emotional, visual, and entertainment value the film provides to viewers.
- Jury** {
 - A panel of judges comprising industry professionals, educators, and summit organizers will evaluate all entries.

Registration Guidelines

Competition Categories

Junior Group – 12 to 15 years

Senior Group – 16 to 19 years

Theme

Participants can create content around the theme Technology & Humanity or its variations

Language

Films can be in any language

Entries

Each participant or team (up to four members) can submit up to three entries

Duration

Films must not exceed 60 seconds, including credits

Technology

Films can be shot using any equipment, such as smartphones or cameras.

Submission

Publicly accessible link (YouTube, Google Drive, etc.) along with the film file, a brief synopsis (50–100 words), and participant details

Timelines of the Challenge

- Will run from September 2024 to 15 February 2025.
- The first round focuses on filmmaking, creativity, and teamwork.
- Top 10 participants from each category will attend a two-day workshop with filmmaker Amole Gupte at Whistling Woods International, Mumbai, on 7 and 8 March 2025.
- Shortlisted teams can reshoot their films and submit the final version by 15 April 2025.

Awards and Recognition

- Shortlisted films will be showcased at a dedicated WAVES session, where winners will be announced.
- Winners in each age category will receive complimentary travel and stay at WAVES.
- Winners will gain recognition, mentorship, scholarship opportunities, access to online filmmaking courses, and certificates of achievement.
- All participants will receive feedback to support their growth as young filmmakers.

References:

- <https://wavesindia.org/challenges-2025>
- <https://whistlingwoods.co.in/WAVES/>

Santosh Kumar/ Sarla Meena/ Saurabh Kalia