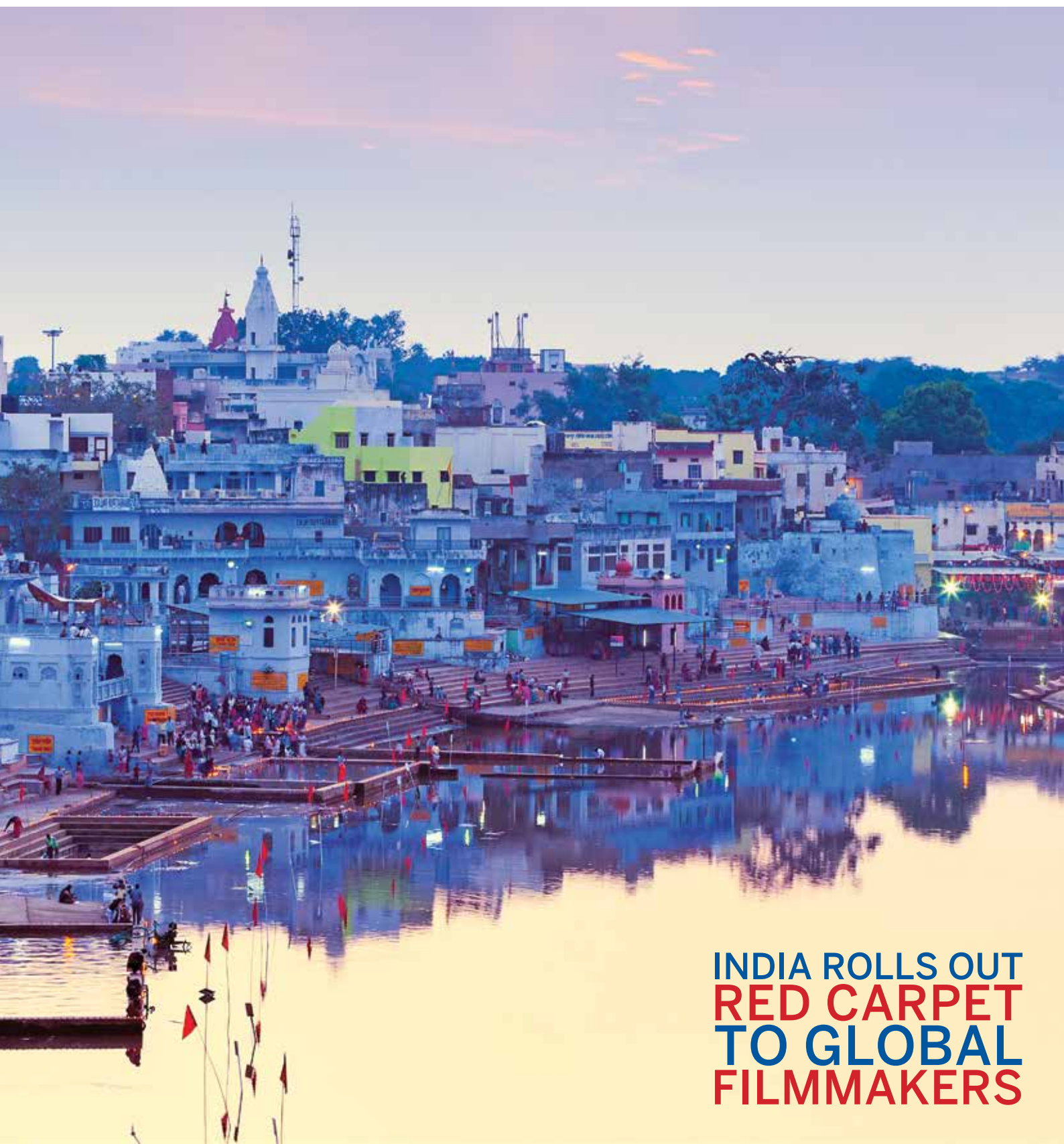


July - August 2021

# Film in India

NEWSLETTER

*Unlock your Narrative. Come home to your imagination.*



**INDIA ROLLS OUT  
RED CARPET  
TO GLOBAL  
FILMMAKERS**

## FFO@TIFF 2021

# COME, FILM IN INDIA

With all safety protocols for COVID-19 pandemic put in place, processes of permissions eased, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India rolls out the red carpet for all the producers and filmmakers to make filming in India a memorable experience

As the largest filmmaking country in the world, coupled with a great locational diversity, vibrant production and post-production industry as well as skilled manpower, India has much more to offer than most of the other parts of the world, said experts.

Welcoming the global filmmaking community to explore “the beauty of filming in India”, Neerja Sekhar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, said, “We would like to reach out to the world community to showcase how ready we are to welcome you all. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has been working on the policy of Ease of Doing Filming in India. We are in the process of integrating with various State Governments and agencies, so that filmmakers can devote their entire time for creative pursuits and putting things together for shooting and filming rather than going from one office to another to apply for permissions.”

### FIRST POINT OF CONTACT

For Filming in India and Co-Producing with India

[www.ffo.gov.in](http://www.ffo.gov.in)

email: [ffo@nfdcindia.com](mailto:ffo@nfdcindia.com)

The Film Facilitation Office (FFO) set up by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) in the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has created an ecosystem that eases filming in India for both domestic and international filmmakers. Since 2016, 115 international projects (Feature Films, TV/web shows and series) from across 27 countries were accorded permission to film in India by the Ministry of I&B. Out of these, 11 projects were granted an official co-production status.

FFO has an online system in place to receive and process all applications of international as well as domestic producers. “All applications are taken online and there is a system of providing the permissions in a timely manner so that the trouble of coming to different offices, which an international producer might not be aware of, is taken care of” said Dhanpreet Kaur, Director (Films), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and MD, NFDC.

“With vaccination plans in progress, we look forward to welcoming producers and production companies from across the world to shoot their Feature Films, TV and Web shows and series in India. Our States are geared up to handle productions of all sizes and have come out with guidelines for filming during COVID, ensuring all safety precautions are in place.” said Dhanpreet Kaur.

Filmmakers acknowledge that the establishment of FFO in 2016 has ensured that the processes of permissions and other support services become much faster and streamlined in India. “The FFO is accepting all filming applications including applications for Recce permissions and is available to answer any queries from producers. The FFO has listed all important guidelines, advisories and relevant filming information on its portal [www.ffo.gov.in](http://www.ffo.gov.in), for easy navigation by the filmmakers” said Vikramjit Roy, Head, FFO.



Christopher Nolan, shooting for Tenet in Mumbai



Action thriller Extraction was shot in Ahmedabad & Mumbai



Mira Nair's A Suitable Boy was filmed in Lucknow, Kanpur & Maheshwar

*Unlock your Narrative. Come home to your imagination.*



## TESTIMONIALS

# INDIA – A FILM LOVER’S PARADISE



*I had a wonderful experience shooting in India. It was a fantastic experience, it was very exotic locations, the crew, the filmmakers we partnered up with couldn't have been more talented, more committed to making a good movie. Indian people were warm, open and friendly and I fell in love with India. I look forward to coming back to India, making another film here soon.*

*Patrick Newall, Producer*

*The vibrant and rich culture, diversity of locations, hospitality of its people and its robust regional film industries make India an unmatched place to create content. Accessing permissions for Skater Girl was made easy with the help of the incredibly supportive and responsive team at India's Film Facilitation Office.*

*Emmanuel Pappas, Founder & Producer, Skate Park Films*



*The Film Facilitation Office has been instrumental in mobilising various State Governments towards easing filming. The Most Film Friendly State (MFSS) award introduced by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is one such step in that direction. Given under the aegis of National Film Awards, it recognizes State Governments for their efforts towards the needs of filmmakers, easing filming and encouraging them to create a film friendly environment in their jurisdiction. This year the State of Sikkim was adjudged the winner of MFSS Award 2019 for its film friendliness towards the filmmaking community.*

*Shaji N. Karun, Renowned Filmmaker and Chairman of the Jury, MFSS Award 2019*

*The Film Facilitation office (FFO) has tremendously improved and fastened the permission process for international projects as well as the delivery of Film Visas for the cast and crew. India is fascinating as it has an incredible variety of landscapes to offer. And apart from the variety of locations, one of the main advantages India has compared to several foreign countries, is that the technical crews are very skilled and experienced*

*Déborah Benattar, Executive Producer, La Fabrique Films*



*An entire ecosystem awaits foreign productions in India, thanks to proactive measures by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India. With the formation of the FFO, we have a one-stop-shop to obtain clearances and support. We've always been a cost-effective destination for production and now there's an abundance of talent and skilled professionals in our industry as well. We also have superb post-production and VFX capabilities.*

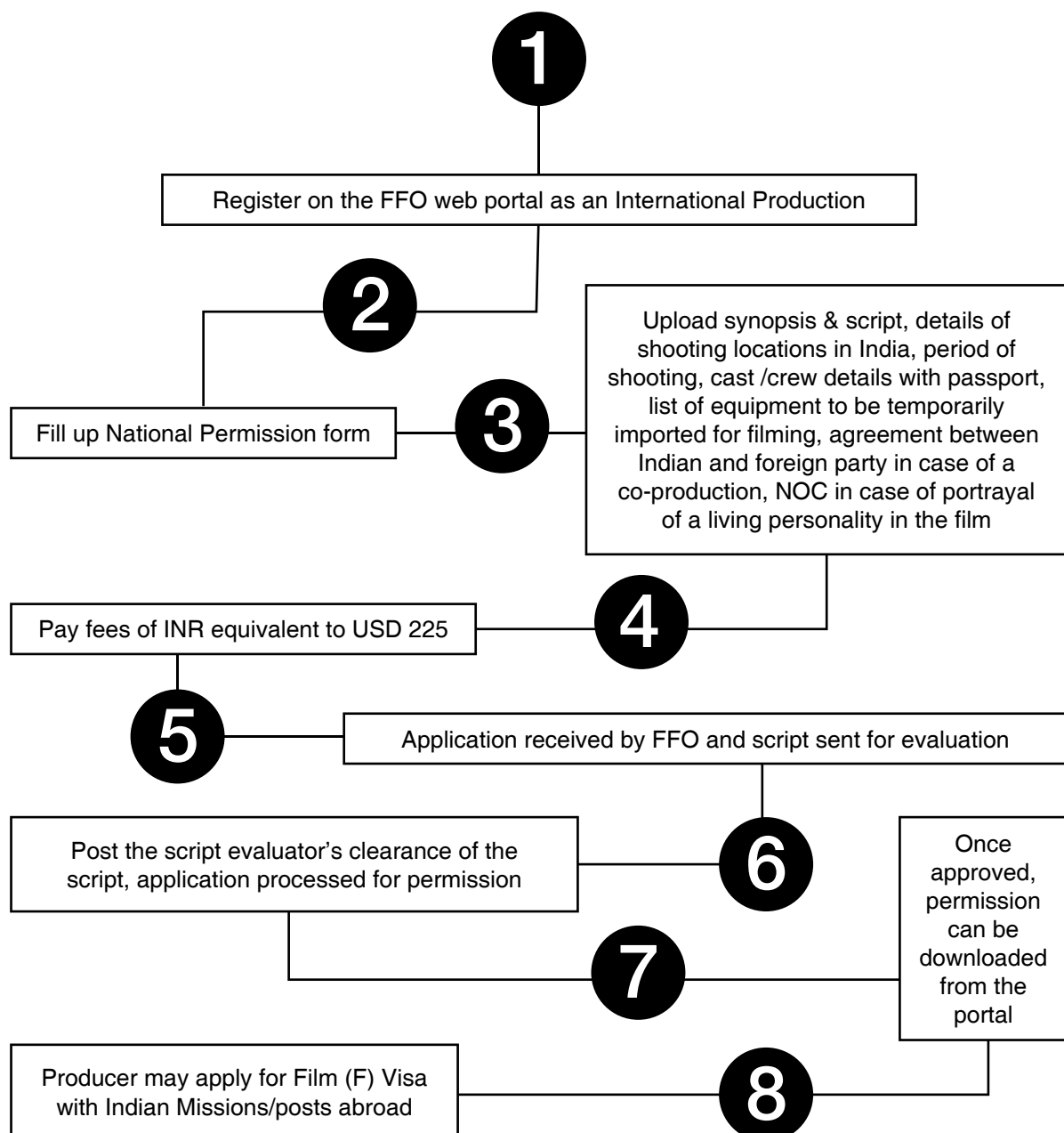
*Alan McAlex, Producer, Suitable Pictures & Production Scope*

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## EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

# ONLINE PERMISSION ECOSYSTEM

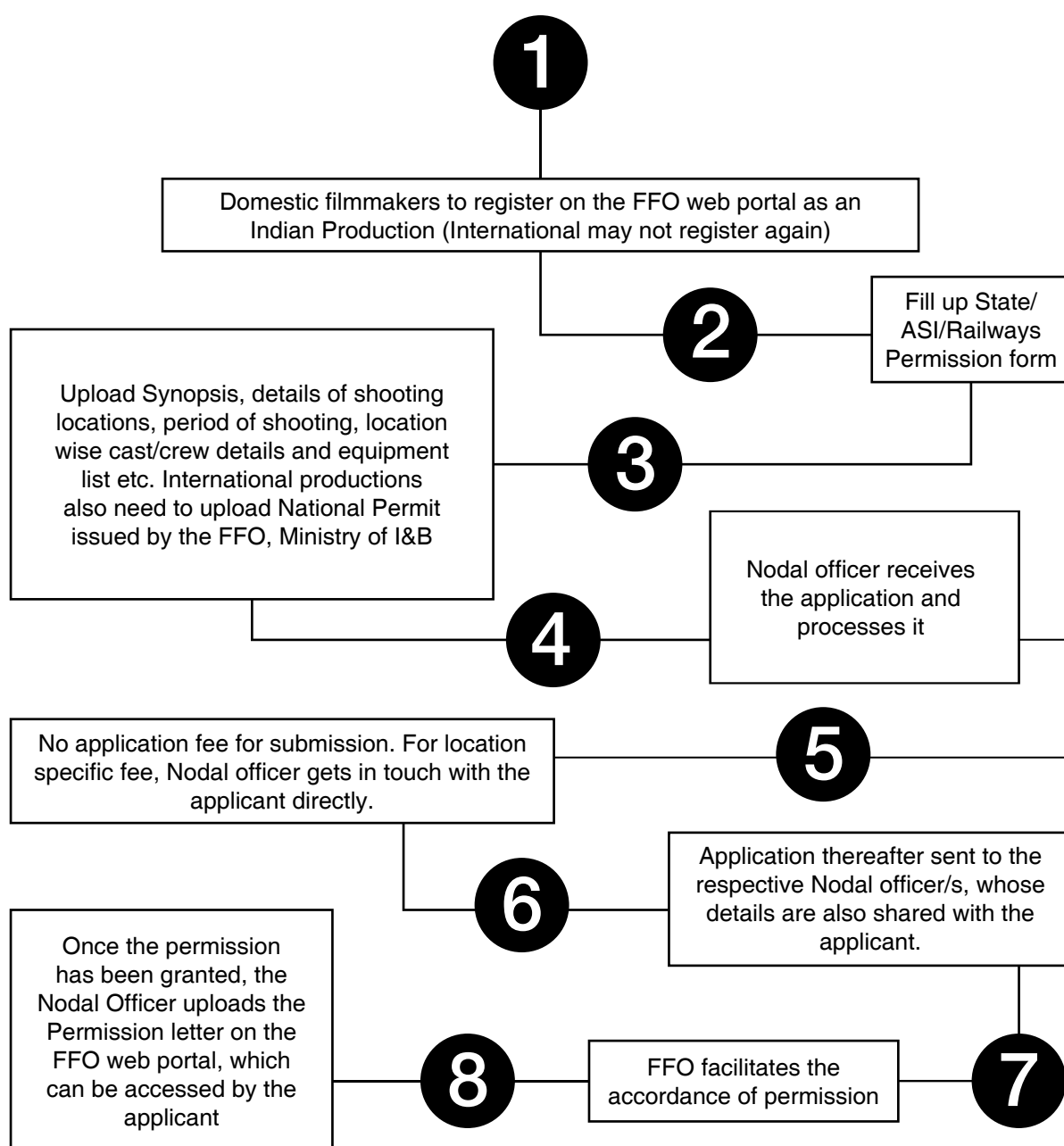
International filmmakers can register and apply through the FFO portal, [www.ffo.gov.in](http://www.ffo.gov.in), to obtain all Central and State Government permissions. Here is the easy eight-step guide for **International Filmmakers Seeking A National Permit To Film In India**



## EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

# JOURNEY MADE EASY FOR INDIAN FILMMAKERS

The services rendered by the FFO portal regarding facilitation of permissions from State Governments, ASI, Railways and other Central Agencies have been extended to Indian filmmakers as well. Here is the easy seven-step guide for Indian and International filmmakers to help them navigate domestic permissions through the Film Facilitation Office portal and start their journey at the click of a button.



# MOST FILM FRIENDLY STATES OF INDIA

## AWARD WINNERS

India offers an endless variety of cultures, landscapes, monuments, and shooting locales. The 'Most Film Friendly State' Award encourages States to adopt policies that ensure ease of filming and provide filmic infrastructure and incentives for filmmakers. Here is the list of award winners since 2015



## SIKKIM

**MFFS 2019**

Sikkim Film Promotion Board (SFPB), Information and Public Relations Department,  
Government of Sikkim – [sikkimfilmboard@gmail.com](mailto:sikkimfilmboard@gmail.com), [khawasb@gmail.com](mailto:khawasb@gmail.com)

**A**djudged the 'Most Film Friendly State of India'

in 2019 at the recently-concluded 67th National Film Awards, Sikkim offers picturesque valley and snowcap mountains spread across different districts with locations like Yumthang Valley, Lachung, Gnathang Valley, numerous Buddhist monasteries, iconic Hindu religious destination like Chardham and pristine glacial lakes that make for a perfect place to shoot a film. The small Himalayan State with its mesmerizing natural splendours coupled with an investor-friendly policy to make the work of filmmakers easy is extremely alluring.

With its own brief history of cinema, attracting prominent filmmakers like Satyajit Ray and Dev Anand, the State Government has made several attractive provisions to have a friendly film shooting environment

for the producers and directors and also for the local filmmakers. The State is also working towards setting up a film city. Over the past few years, the State, especially the picturesque northern district, has served as the perfect backdrop of several Bollywood films and many regional films.

On the policy front, Sikkim offers all permits/permissions and paperwork through a single window system. The State Government has also identified, catalogued and developed promising potential shooting locations, which have aesthetic and cinematic appeal. Besides providing support through resources and incentives in the production of a film, the State also assists in renting equipment required for film making at reasonable rates along with the fee of the technician to handle the equipment.

## UTTARAKHAND

**MFFS 2018**

**K.S.Chauhan** | Uttarakhand Film Development Council  
[ufdc2015@gmail.com](mailto:ufdc2015@gmail.com)

**A**nother State nestled amidst the mighty Himalayan ranges, Uttarakhand was declared the Most Film Friendly State of 2018. The State with beautiful hills of Nainital, Mussoorie's waterfalls, accompanied by the divine bells at Rishikesh, Badrinath, and Kedarnath, Tehri lake, Ranikhet and Chakrata is the right destination for filmmakers. Action scenes are bound to get racier, if shot at the skiing mountains at Auli and Munsiyari. Blessed with a rare bio-diversity, the animals at Jim Corbett Park too await their 10 seconds of fame.

Among the initiatives undertaken by the State for promotion of filming, is the development of a Film City and selection and development of places for outdoor

shooting. Incentives offered by Uttarakhand to filmmakers include exemption of shooting fees for films; 50% discount for film shoots at Guest Houses of Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. and Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. and subsidy of 30% or Rs 1.5 Cr. (whichever is lesser) for big banner films, if 75% of the shooting is done in the State.

Some of the films, documentaries and TV Serials shot in Uttarakhand include Student Of The Year, Koi Mil Gaya, Lakshya, Buntyaaur Bublin, Paan Singh Tomar, Shivaay, Dum Lagake Haisha, Shubh Mangal Saavdhan, Facing The Mountain, Kedarnath, Lifelines, Splitsvilla, Khatronke Khiladi, Roadies, among other.







# MADHYA PRADESH

MFFS 2017

Ram Tiwari | Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board  
ffc.mptb@mp.gov.in

Winner of the Indian Government's

National Award for the Most Film Friendly State in 2017, the 'heart of India', Madhya Pradesh, offers a wide variety of locales, eliminating the role of a set designer. From famous forts, marble rocks of Bhedaghat, to the green hills of Pachmarhi, the options are rich and many. The temples of Khajuraho are UNESCO world heritage sites.

The State has made considerable efforts towards easing filming in the State by creating a well-structured web site, film friendly infrastructure, offering incentives,

maintaining databases, undertaking marketing and promotional initiatives.

Initiatives taken by State for simplification of film production include appointment of Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Department as the nodal Agency for film shooting clearance, incentives and subsidies in the State. The Tourism Department also coordinates with other Departments to obtain legal mandatory permissions needed for producers. Tourism Department offers discounts at State Government owned hotels and free of charge shooting at selected locations.

# UTTAR PRADESH

MFFS 2016

Film Bandhu Uttar Pradesh  
filmbandhup@gmail.com

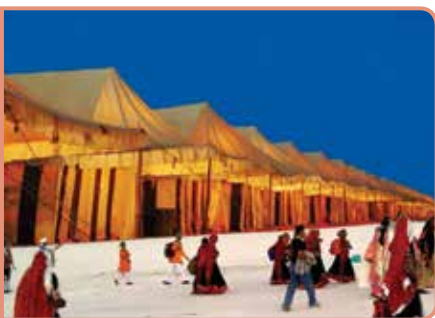
Winner of the Most Film Friendly State Award in 2016, Uttar Pradesh is the rainbow land where the multi-hued Indian culture has blossomed from times immemorial. While Taj Mahal in Agra, the symbol of love, has attracted filmmakers to the State since the black and white era, the temple town of Varanasi offers a never-seen-before cultural experience for international viewers. The Buddhist relics at Sarnath and Lucknow are other places that could double up as props for a film catering to a wide audience.

Under the new Film Policy introduced in 2018, the State Government seeks a widespread publicity of the cultural, mythological, historical heritage and glorious

traditions of the State.

For ensuring availability of all the film production related facilities under a single roof, Film Bandhu Uttar Pradesh has been set up as the nodal agency.

Initiatives taken for simplification of film production include setting up a Single Table System to provide improved facilities, a range of financial incentives for filmmakers, setting up of State Film Division to provide easy, simplified and timely certification facility for films, and provision of free security arrangements, among others.



# GUJARAT

MFFS 2015

Khyati Nayak | Gujarat Tourism

<https://www.gujarattourism.com/>, cinematic@gujarattourism.com

Winner of the Most Film Friendly State

Award in 2015, Gujarat is increasingly becoming the most preferred spot for film shootings. Blessed with diverse choices of great locations including spectacular geographical, archeological and royal sites, Gujarat is a treasure trove for filmmakers of every hue.

Gujarat's single-window clearance facility, presence of a dedicated web portal, international promotions,

database of production facilities and hotels and emergency services considerably streamline the otherwise cumbersome process of film making.

Initiatives taken by the State for simplification of film production include quick shooting approvals, free security arrangement for film shooting in public places, marketing and other support from Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. (TCGL) Film Cells at Gandhinagar and Mumbai, among others.



## Navigating FFO Portal

# www.ffo.gov.in

It's a one-stop portal to connect with every State and Central Government Agency, that accords filming permissions. By visiting the website, you can find all the information that you need to film in India. Here's a deep dive into what you can find on the portal to tick off your list:

- APPLICATION FOR FILMING IN INDIA:** To bring more transparency, coherence and convenience, FFO's web portal is now equipped to process applications of filmmakers which they can submit online.
- PERMISSIONS:** The FFO portal will help you get all the permissions, whether it is from the State Governments or Central Govt. stakeholders like the Animal Welfare Board of India, Aviation Ministry etc. FFO works very closely with filmmakers shoulder-to-shoulder and plays a key role in making all the right introductions while coordinating with the various stakeholders from the Governments to get all the necessary clearances for you.
- LOCATIONS:** The FFO portal has a dedicated section with all the relevant information on specific sites and locales across India that can be used by filmmakers to create a perfect backdrop for their projects. India offers an entire ecosystem for foreign productions and its diversity allows a filmmaker to tell global stories from here.
- INCENTIVES:** The FFO portal acts as a single point of contact for filmmakers to get all the relevant information on incentives being offered by various States under their respective film policy initiatives.
- VISA:** Information on Film(F) Visa along with a linkage to the authorized portal for visa application for India, is available on the FFO portal. With the support of the Ministry of External Affairs, the issuance of F visa has been simplified and made easy. The FFO facilitates
- the same by coordinating with Indian Embassies and Consulates across the world. F Visa is now also issued for web shows/series and location recce.
- RECCE PERMISSIONS:** Producers can now apply for location recce permissions online for any State in India on the FFO web portal.
- ASI & RAILWAYS PERMISSIONS:** One can also apply for filming in monuments that are under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and various Railways properties through the FFO portal.
- CO-PRODUCTION:** Co-productions are an increasingly attractive option for many producers. The web portal offers a comprehensive view of the co-production treaties signed with 15 countries including France, UK and Northern Ireland, Russia, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Germany amongst others. Each Agreement identifies the competent authority of the country concerned to whom applications are made for approval as co-production.
- DIRECTORIES:** The portal offers a complete directory of Nodal officers and key officials along with their contact details in States and Ministries like DGCA, AWBI, ASI and Customs to help filmmakers connect with them and get their queries resolved quickly. Similarly, the portal also highlights all the relevant information related to film cities, organisations engaged in animation, VFX and post production work, as well as Line Producers who have executed international productions.