

## SEMESTER - 4

### EC- 2

#### History of Expressions

➤ **Unit – 2 : Indian Cinema**

**Ideological & cultural history of Indian cinema**

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## Indian cinema

One of the most flourishing cinema industry found today is in India. Bollywood is recognized as a largest film producing industry in the world. Indian cinema has more than hundred years of history as like European or American cinema. Indian films are the most seen movies in the world. Billion strong audience in India itself and around 12 Million people go to the cinema hall everyday.

Immigrants from India wherever they are in, such as gulf countries, Russia, middle east, America, England and the other nations, they like to watch movies in their mother language. And this is one the main reason the audience of movies seen in Hindi language is increasing continuously. Today India has the distinction of being the country that produces the highest number of feature films every year. A large number of cinemas are produced in the differeenc part of India like madras, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad etc. In Mumbai, two sisters like Hindi and Urdu language's films are produced in large number. Because there are many people all over the world know Hindi and Urdu.

## Short History of India Cinema

The cinematography invented by lumiere brother. Cinema was shown for the first time in India by lumiere brother on July 17, 1886 at the Watson hotel in Mumbai. The First show was a series of visuals, Moving scenes and nothing more, but it inaugurated a long line of movies made by talented Indians. N.G. chitre and R.G. Torney from Bombay were the first to make

a story based film and that was 'PUNALIK', the film was based on the life of a holy man in the Maharashtra. It was released in 1992. The next movies in India was dhandiraj govindraj phalke's 'RAJA HARISCHANDRA' was released on 3 May, 1913. Mr. D.G. Phalke is called the Father of Indian cinema because he laid the foundation of Indian cinema and he trained the several young film makers in his studio in Nasik. In his memory, the artists who enriches the Indian cinema though remarkable contribution are honored with the Phalke award.

This was the Era of silent movies (1896-1930). Some silent movies were released from Calcutta studio during this time period. Some of them are "SATYAVADI HARISCHANDRA" (1917) and "KEECHAKAVADHAM" (1919). Because of the colonial government rule, very few films were telecasted out of many films produced. The European Association warned the government against a film called 'The supentine Dance', which was certainly calculated to bring the white men and women into low esteem in the Indian's mind.

### Age of Sound

The films of silent era didn't talk but dialogue were presented through titles and almost every film had background music. In several films, background music of violin, harmonium, tablas and other musical instruments were added. The first Indian talkie came out on March 14, 1931 and it was 'Alam Ara' which produced by Aredeshir Irani. Alam ara is a costume drama telling the story of rivalry of two queens and involving many characters.

One of the songs from that movie became very famous "De De khuda ke naam per pyare" and afterwards, songs and dances were established as a part of our Indian cinema. Another popular genre of this period was the historical films, based on the stories of real characters or legendary heroes. The importance of the historical film lay in its patriotic undertones.

### Theme in Indian Cinema

Early Indian cinema in the 1920's, were founded on specific genres, such as mythological or the devotional film. Mythological theme is the fight between good & evil and the importance of sacrifice in the name of truth. The retelling of the stories known through an oral tradition was an important element in the success of mythological film. The Ramleela and the Rasleela are said to be of particular influence in the Indian cinema. Such reconfirmation has always been an element of the Indian culture. In almost all the language of India, during the silent as well as the talkies era, themes and episodes from the PURANA, the RAMAYANA, MAHABHARTA were treated cinematically. Importance and audience of our religious texts were understood by this. During this global epidemic, India's telecom ministry has decided to telecast Ramayana and Mahabharata on doordarshan. It has been proved in many surveys that the demand for these serials after few decades is still high not only in the older generation but also in the younger generation. As per TRP index, doordarshan has become a highly watched channel because of these two serials.

A change in the trend came in around 1990's particularly in Malayalam, Tamil and Bengali movies. Stories used to be based on the life of ordinary families. Most films were produced in the Bombay and Madras Studio. The largest number of movies came out in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Bengali.

- Creation of the major studios in Madras, Calcutta, Lahore, Bombay and Pune in 1930's was a crucial move in the development of proficient Indian film industry. People of all castes, religions, regions, sectors and social classes worked together in various studios. Hindu and Muslims work together and promote national integration & communal harmony, has always been a favorite theme of the Indian film and this tradition continues even today in Indian cinema.

#### We can divide Indian cinema into many Ages

- Golden Age of Indian Cinema (Mother India, Sujata, Do Bigha Jameen etc.)
- The Middle Cinema (Bhumika, Junoon, Aradhana)
- The Second New Wave (Thai Saheb, Chaar Adhyaya)
- Colour and triumph of Romance (Qayamat se Qayamat tak, Maine Pyar Kiya, Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Kuch Kuch Hota Hai)

- Animation Cinema Etc.

- Cinema is also produced in many regional languages and has become an important part of Indian cinema. Many areas where regional cinema is developing

- Maharashtra – Marathi cinema
- Gujrat – Gurjati cinema
- West Bengal – Bengali cinema
- Andhra – Telgu cinema
- Tamilnadu – Tamil Cinema
- Kerala – Malayalam cinema
- Karnataka – Kannada cinema
- Assam – Assamese cinema
- Manipur – Manipuri Cinema
- Orissa – Oriya Cinema
- Punjab – Punjabi Cinema
- Bihar & UP - Bhojpuri Cinema

- National film development corporation (NDFC) was established by government in 1975 with the purpose of encouraging the production of quality films with a social purpose. Its functions also include the import and export of the feature films, the distribution of the raw film stocks, cameras and other production equipment. NDFC also provides loans and grants for the production of quality films and encourages research and development activities for improving film production materials.
- National Film festivals are being organized since 1993 onwards to encourage producers, directors, and artists and technical experts. The biggest National Award is the Golden Lotus and next one is Silver Lotus. Cash awards and certificates are given along with medals. Besides National awards, there are also few state level award functions organized. The Children's Film Society – Almost all children's films in India are produced by the CFS.
- The Indian cinema has grown quite big during the past century, especially during the past six decades. Indian cinema is a unique and essential phenomenon. It is like brushing your teeth in the morning. You cannot escape from it. There are many factors for this ongoing growth, one of them being the affordability of cinema in the country from its early days. Indian cinema venues have made films accessible to the wider public, providing cheap tickets. The History of Indian cinema is as old as its

glory. The Indian film industry has come a long ways since its first silent film and it has a long way to go.