

Youngster



Where dream Chisels into reality

YOUNGSTER | ESTABLISHED 2004 | NEW DELHI | AUGUST 2025 | PAGES 4 | PRICE 1/- | MONTHLY BILINGUAL (HIN./ENG.)

‘OPERATION SAGAR BANDHU’

INDIA Launches for Sri Lanka



Abhinav Gupta

Sri Lanka is currently facing one of the most severe natural disasters in its recent history. When Cyclone Ditwah struck the northern regions of the country on 28 November, it left massive destruction in its wake. Strong winds, continuous rainfall, and high sea waves submerged several areas. Due to this devastating disaster, 123 people have lost their lives so far, while nearly 130 remain missing. Floods and landslides have caused extensive damage to cities, villages, roads, and farmlands. Thousands of people have been displaced and are now forced to live in relief camps.

During this difficult time, India stepped forward immediately to help its neighbouring and friendly nation. Upholding its tradition of humanitarian values and extending support to neighbouring countries, India launched a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief



(HADR) mission named Operation Sagar Bandhu. The objective of this operation is to deliver swift and effective assistance to help Sri Lanka recover from the disaster.

India has deployed both its Air Force and Navy for this relief effort. The first ships sent were INS Vikrant and INS Udayagiri, carrying relief materials for Sri Lanka. These ships reached Colombo and handed over 4.5 tons of dry rations and 2 tons of fresh food to Sri Lankan authorities. The relief material included rice, lentils, flour, biscuits, staple food items, and other essential supplies meant to meet the immediate needs of flood-affected families.

In addition, India intensified its relief operations by deploying the Indian Air Force. A large transport aircraft reached Colombo carrying around 12 tons of humanitarian aid,

including tents, tarpaulins, blankets, sanitation kits, medicines, and ready-to-eat meals. These items are crucial for families forced to leave their homes and live in temporary shelters.

Many areas in Sri Lanka are completely submerged. Water has entered houses, and many families have lost even their basic necessities. In such a situation, the assistance sent by India is not only useful but has also proved crucial in saving lives due to its timely arrival. Tents and tarpaulins will provide temporary shelter to thousands whose homes have been washed away, while food and hygiene items will help affected families stay safe and healthy for several days.

India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar shared details of the relief mission on 'X' (formerly Twitter), saying, "Operation Sagar Bandhu initiated. INS Vikrant and INS Udayagiri have handed over relief material in Colombo. Further action underway."

His message clearly indicates that India's support will not be limited to a one-time aid dispatch, but will continue until the situation in Sri Lanka stabilizes.

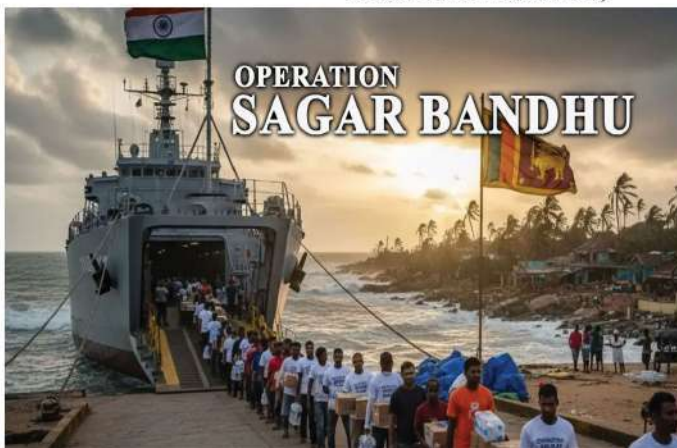
This is not the first time India has extended immediate assistance to a neighbouring country during a natural disaster.

In the past too—during the Nepal earthquake, the water crisis in the Maldives, cyclones in Madagascar, and storms in Mozambique—India has provided relief materials and rescue teams. India's consistent response shows that it is always prepared to act as a 'first responder' in times of crisis for its neighbours. Naturally, India's support is being widely appreciated in Sri Lanka as well. Cyclone Ditva has not only damaged homes and roads but has also severely affected communication networks and power supply. Electricity poles have fallen, mobile networks have collapsed, and the shortage of drinking water has increased. In such circumstances, India's timely delivery of food, water, and essential supplies is bringing much-needed relief to the people. India and Sri Lanka share deep historical and cultural ties. The relationship between the two nations has been built on decades of trust and cooperation. India's gesture is not just humanitarian—it is a symbol of friendship and goodwill.

Under Operation Sagar Bandhu, India is considering sending additional consignments of medicines, water purification systems, generators, and other essential equipment. More Indian naval ships are on standby and will be deployed with further relief material if required.

The Government of Sri Lanka has appreciated the aid sent by India, stating that this support has arrived at a time when conditions across many parts of the country are extremely critical. India's swift response will help accelerate relief efforts and allow affected families to return to normal life sooner.

Overall, India's humanitarian initiative will not only help Sri Lanka recover from the disaster but will also strengthen mutual trust and cooperation between the two nations. Natural disasters give no warning, but timely assistance and compassion remain remembered forever.





Bhanu Pratap Singh

Indian cinema has always been more than just entertainment; it is a reflection of society, culture, and technology over time. From the first silent films to today's high-definition streaming content, Indian cinema has evolved in ways that are both fascinating and telling of the nation's changing tastes, aspirations, and storytelling techniques. For students, understanding this evolution is not only about appreciating films but also about seeing how art, technology, and society intersect.

The journey began in 1913 with Raja Harishchandra, India's first full-length silent film directed by Dadasaheb Phalke. These early films were simple, narrative-driven, and heavily influenced by mythology and folklore. With the introduction of sound in the 1930s, cinema transformed. Films like *Alam Ara* (1931) brought music, dialogue, and emotion to the forefront, making stories more immersive. The 1940s and 50s, often considered the "Golden Era" of Indian cinema, produced classics such as *Mother India*, *Mughal-e-Azam*, and *Pyaasa*, which combined social commentary with memorable music and performances. During this era, cinema was largely theatrical. Directors emphasized storytelling, dialogue delivery, and strong character arcs. Music and dance were integral, not just as entertainment but as narrative devices.

From Black-and-White to OTT: The Evolution of Indian Cinema



Students and audiences alike experienced films collectively, in cinemas that often served as community spaces where stories could be discussed, debated, and celebrated.

The 1970s and 80s saw a shift with the rise of the "masala" film—an amalgamation of action, romance, drama, and comedy designed to appeal to the largest audience possible. Stars like Amitabh Bachchan and Hema Malini became household names, and cinema became a platform for expressing social unrest, class conflict, and cultural change. Technology during this period was improving gradually, allowing for better cinematography and special effects, though storytelling and experimental cinema now

The 1990s and early 2000s marked globalization's impact. Indian cinema began experimenting with international themes, modern lifestyles, and urban narratives. Songs became more choreographed, special effects proved, and the influence of Western filmmaking techniques became evident. Multiplexes emerged, changing audience habits and allowing filmmakers to target niche audiences alongside mainstream viewers.

Today, the evolution has reached its digital peak with OTT platforms and streaming services like Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney+ Hotstar. Content is no longer limited by screens or geography. Regional films, documentaries, and experimental cinema now reach national and international audiences in real-time. Students can watch a Marathi film, a Tamil thriller, or a Hindi web series in a single evening, exploring stories beyond their immediate environment. The democratization of content has also allowed smaller filmmakers to create meaningful cinema without relying solely on big studios. This evolution has also transformed how audiences engage with cinema. Where once people waited for week-long releases in theaters, today's students consume films on phones, tablets, and laptops, often discussing, re-viewing, and even remixing content online. The interaction is immediate, participatory, and global.

reach national and international audiences in real-time. Students can watch a Marathi film, a Tamil thriller, or a Hindi web series in a single evening, exploring stories beyond their immediate environment. The democratization of content has also allowed smaller filmmakers to create meaningful cinema without relying solely on big studios.

This evolution has also transformed how audiences engage with cinema. Where once people waited for week-long releases in theaters, today's students consume films on phones, tablets, and laptops, often discussing, re-viewing, and even remixing content online. The interaction is immediate, participatory, and global.

Indian cinema's journey from black-and-white screens to OTT platforms is more than a technological or aesthetic evolution—it is a mirror of India's social, cultural, and economic changes. For students, it offers lessons in history, art, communication, and even entrepreneurship. As Indian cinema continues to evolve, it remains a living archive of the nation's dreams, challenges, and creativity—accessible to anyone with curiosity and a screen.





INDIAN CINEMA AS A MIRROR OF SOCIETY: More Than Just Entertainment



AMIT SHARMA

Editor

For millions of Indians, cinema is not just a weekend escape or a source of entertainment—it is an emotion, a memory, and often a reflection of who we are as a society. From black-and-white classics to today's high-budget spectacles and OTT releases, Indian cinema has always gone beyond storytelling. It has mirrored social realities, influenced public opinion, shaped cultural values, and documented the changing aspirations of the nation. To view cinema merely as entertainment is to overlook its deeper role in our collective life.

Indian cinema has consistently reflected the social climate of its time. In the years after independence, films spoke of unity, sacrifice, and nation-building. Stories celebrated honesty, dignity of labour, and hope for a better future. As urbanization increased and economic realities changed, cinema began addressing unemployment, corruption, class divide, and moral dilemmas. Each decade left its imprint on the screen, turning films into cultural time capsules.

Cinema has also played a crucial role in giving voice to the marginalized. Issues such as caste discrimination, gender inequality, poverty, and regional identity found expression through powerful narratives.



Films have often brought uncomfortable truths into public discussion—sometimes ahead of mainstream acceptance. When society hesitates to talk openly, cinema steps in as a conversation starter, forcing audiences to reflect. At the same time, Indian cinema has shaped aspirations and attitudes, especially among the youth. From fashion trends and hairstyles to language and lifestyle choices, films influence how young people see the world and themselves. Cinema creates heroes and ideals, sometimes inspiring courage and compassion, and at other times promoting unrealistic expectations. This dual power makes cinema influential—and therefore responsible.

In recent years, the rise of regional cinema and independent filmmaking has enriched this reflection. Stories rooted in local cultures, real struggles, and everyday lives are gaining national and global recognition. This shift suggests a maturing audience that values authenticity

over formula. It also reminds us that Indian society is not one story, but many—diverse, layered, and interconnected. The digital era has further expanded cinema's influence. Streaming platforms have increased access, variety, and experimentation. Stories once considered "unmarketable" now find space. Yet, greater reach also means greater impact. Filmmakers today are not just entertainers; they are cultural narrators whose work travels across borders and generations.

Ultimately, Indian cinema is a powerful mirror—but a mirror that also shapes what it reflects. It shows us our dreams and flaws, progress and prejudices. For the youth, understanding this relationship is important. Watching films should not be a passive act, but an informed experience—one that appreciates art while remaining aware of its influence.

Cinema, after all, does more than entertain. It tells us who we are, where we come from, and sometimes, who we need to become.



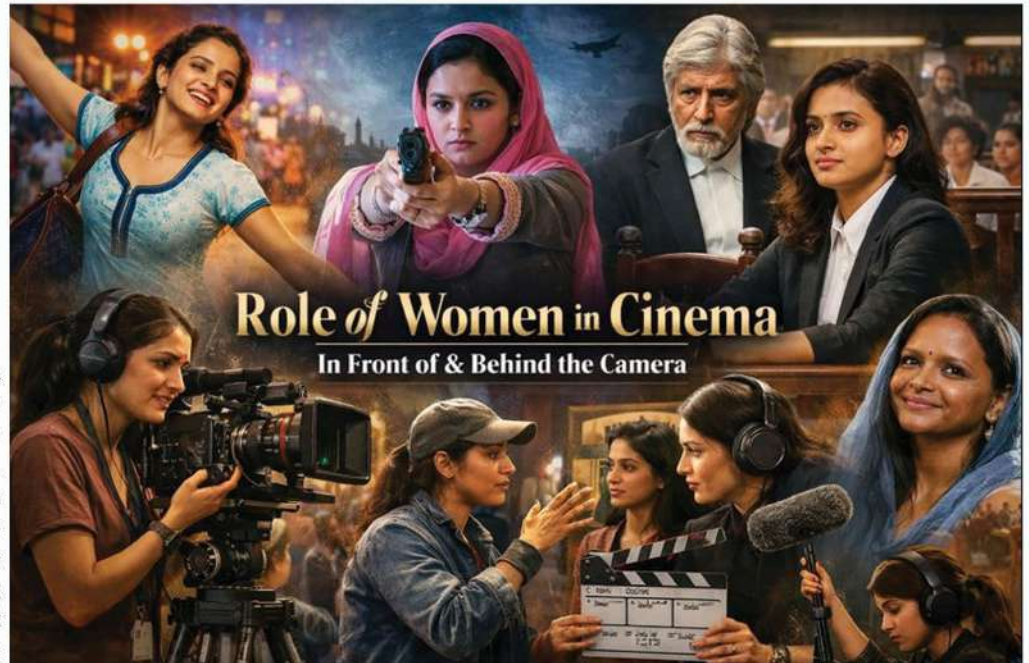
WOMEN On Screen And Behind The Camera: Changing Narratives in Indian Films



SAKSHI

Indian cinema has long been a reflection of society's aspirations, struggles, and cultural dynamics. For decades, however, the representation of women on screen was limited, often reduced to stereotypical roles: the dutiful daughter, the loving mother, or the romantic interest defined by her relationship to men. Similarly, the world behind the camera—from directing and writing to cinematography and production—was overwhelmingly male-dominated. Today, these narratives are changing, and Indian cinema is witnessing a gradual but significant transformation that students and young audiences cannot afford to ignore.

One of the most visible changes is in on-screen portrayals. Contemporary Indian films increasingly showcase women as complex, independent, and central to the story. Movies like *Queen*, *Raazi*, *Pink*, and *Chhapaak* feature women as decision-makers, fighters, and storytellers of their own lives. These characters are no longer defined



Role of Women in Cinema

In Front of & Behind the Camera

solely by romance or domesticity but by ambition, courage, and resilience. For students, particularly young women, such portrayals provide inspiration, representation, and a vision of possibilities beyond traditional societal expectations.

Regional cinema has also contributed to this shift. Films like *Sairat* (Marathi) and *Kahaani* (Hindi, with strong female protagonist) demonstrate that women's narratives are not confined to metropolitan spaces—they resonate across different cultures and communities. This evolution shows that audiences are ready to engage with women's stories that are authentic, nuanced, and reflective of real challenges.

Behind the camera, the rise of female filmmakers, writers, and technicians is equally noteworthy. Directors such as Zoya Akhtar, Meghna Gulzar, Nandita Das, and Leena Yadav have created films that highlight women's perspectives and address gender issues with sensitivity.

Their work challenges long-standing biases in storytelling and provides opportunities for other women to enter the industry.

Cinematographers, editors, and producers are also increasingly women, creating a more inclusive environment that nurtures diverse voices.

This change is not just about numbers but also about narrative authority. Women filmmakers are shaping the stories, deciding which issues matter, and how they are told. Social themes like consent, workplace harassment, domestic violence, and mental health are now explored from authentic perspectives. Films such as *Thappad* and *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan* have sparked conversations across campuses, social media, and households, showing the transformative power of cinema in addressing gender issues.

The digital era has amplified this impact.

Streaming platforms and social media allow films with strong female leads and women creators to reach audiences far beyond traditional theatres. Young viewers, especially students, can now access these stories anytime, discuss them online, and draw inspiration for their own creative or social initiatives.

However, challenges remain. Stereotypes still exist, pay disparities persist, and opportunities for women in leadership roles are limited compared to men. Yet, the momentum is unmistakable. For students observing these trends, Indian cinema offers lessons in perseverance, creativity, and social responsibility, showing that change is possible even in deeply entrenched systems.

In conclusion, the evolution of women on screen and behind the camera is reshaping Indian cinema's identity. It reflects a society that is beginning to embrace equality, challenge outdated norms, and value authentic voices. For young audiences, this transformation is not just entertainment—it is education, empowerment, and a mirror of a changing India where women are no longer supporting characters, but storytellers of their own lives.

RNI No.: DEL/BIL/2004/14598

Publisher: Ram Kailash Gupta
on behalf of Tecnia Institute of
Advanced Studies, 3 PSP,
Madhuban Chowk, Rohini,
Delhi-85; **Printer: Ramesh
Chander Dogra; Printed at:**
Dogra Printing Press, 17/69, Jhan
Singh Nagar, Anand Parbat, New
Delhi-5

Editor: Amit Sharma
responsible for selection of News
under PRB Act. All rights
reserved.
Email:

youngster@tecnia.in



Female Filmmakers Redefining Indian Cinema