**Unmaad’s Short Film Event – *Kalam Meets Camera***

For **KS-26**, **Unmaad** proudly presents ***Kalam Meets Camera***, a short film event that brings together storytelling and cinema.

Participants interested in filmmaking are requested to carefully follow the instructions below.

**Event Guidelines & Instructions**

## **🗓️ Important Dates**

## Team Registration: 20th February 2026

## Submission Deadline: 29th March 2026

### Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.

### **🎥 Theme & Creativity**

* Teams are free to choose **any theme**. There is **no fixed theme**.
* The story line, script, and dialogues **should be original and created by the team**.
* **Minor inspirations are allowed**, but **direct copying or close imitation** from movies, web series, or short films is **not permitted**.
* Any story line that closely resembles (not more than 40%) an existing movie/short film in **plot structure, character arcs, or sequence of events** may be considered plagiarism at judges’ discretion.
* Any **clear or intentional plagiarism** will lead to **immediate disqualification**.

### **⏱️ Duration**

* The runtime of the short film must be **15–20 minutes**, including **introduction and end credits**.

### **👥 Team & Cast Rules**

* Each team must have **5–10 registered cast members**.
* Non-registered individuals may appear **only as background characters** and:
  + Must not have dialogues, or
  + May speak **no more than 1–2 sentences.**
  + **Non-registered individuals must not contribute to plot progression and may appear only briefly.**
* **All registered cast members must belong to our university**.
* An individual **may act in more than one short film**, **only if pre-registered** by the respective movie director.
* **Each director is exclusive** and **cannot be part of any other movie** in any role.
* Participation of any Unmaad Head Committee member is strictly prohibited. However, students from the 4th year are eligible to participate.

### **⚠️ Content Restrictions**

* **No risky scenes or dangerous stunts** should be filmed.
* **Includes running vehicles, careless act on highway or overpass bridge, Hostel rooftop scenes, intense physical fights, unnecessary and careless use of real fire, sharp weapons, etc.**
* Smoking or drinking is **strictly prohibited** in any scene.
* Use of **soft drinks (cold drinks)** is allowed.
* **Obscene content or activities** are strictly prohibited.
* The film should not contain any content that is inappropriate or offensive.
* Religious comments, negative language, or hatred toward any religion or region must be strictly avoided.
* Any **visual depiction or implication promoting, supporting, or justifying** smoking or drinking will be considered a violation.
* Any scene involving narcotics (including drugs, syringes, pills, powders, or implied drug use) **must display a standard “Prohibition” symbol** at the bottom-right corner of the screen. The symbol must:
  + Be clearly visible

Fig. 1 Prohibition Symbol to be used

* + Remain on screen throughout the entire duration of the narcotics-related scene
  + Not be blurred, cropped, animated away, or obscured by subtitles or visuals

**🏫 Campus & Hostel Shooting Rules**

* Any scene recorded in **campus or hostel premises** must **strictly follow college policies, rules, and safety instructions**.
* Acts involving **fire, sharp objects, or college/hostel property** are **not allowed**, unless:
  + Absolutely necessary for the scene, and
  + Proper **safety precautions** are taken, keeping **college rules** in mind.
* If **any action is taken by college management** due to violation of rules or unsafe activities, **the club will not be responsible** for the team’s actions.

### **🗣️ Language**

* The entire short film must be primarily in **Hindi**.
* Limited use of **English words or phrases** is allowed where necessary.
* **Subtitles are optional but recommended** for better understanding.

### **🎞️ Technical Requirements**

* The film must be submitted in **MP4 format**.
* Minimum video quality: **720p (HD)**.
* Poor video or audio quality may **negatively affect evaluation**.
* Dialogues must be **clear and audible**; excessive background noise should be avoided.

### **🎼 Music & Sound**

* Use **copyright-free music** or **self-composed background scores only**.
* Teams will be fully responsible for any **copyright violations** related to audio or music.

### **🎬 Credits & Identification**

* The film must clearly mention:
  + **Film Title**
  + **Team Name**
* These details should appear in either the opening or end credits.

### **📤 Submission Rules**

* Each team may submit **only one short film**.
* Films submitted **after 29th March 2026** will **not be accepted**.
* No resubmissions will be accepted unless officially requested by Heads.
* The Head Committee reserves the right to request cuts, edits, or modifications to any submitted short film to ensure eligibility and compliance with event guidelines.
* In such cases, the participating team must **resubmit the revised version within the deadline provided by the committee**.
* **Failure to resubmit within the given time under any circumstances will result in the film not being considered for screening or judging.**

### **🏆 Judging Criteria**

Films will be evaluated based on:

* Story & Screenplay – 30%
* Acting Performance – 20%
* Direction & Editing – 20%
* Cinematography – 15%
* Overall Impact & Message – 15%

**🔒** **Violation & Penalty Table**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Violation Type | Description | Penalty |
| Plagiarism | Minor Similarity | Partial resemblance in theme or idea without direct copying | ⚠️ Warning + **10–20% score deduction** |
| Major plagiarism | Copying storyline, scenes, character arcs, or dialogues | ❌ **Immediate Disqualification** |
| Runtime | Under/Over limit (≤30 sec) | Film slightly shorter than 15 min or longer than 20 min | ⚠️ **5% score deduction** |
| Excessive deviation | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Runtime <14:30 or >20:30 | | ❌ **Disqualification** |
| Content Padding | Artificial extension | Use of black screens, static credits, silence to meet runtime | ⚠️ **10% score deduction** |
| Casting Rules | Unregistered speaker | Non-registered person exceeds allowed dialogue | ⚠️ **10–15% deduction** |
| Major role violation | Non-registered person contributes to plot | ❌ **Disqualification** |
| Director Exclusivity | Indirect involvement | Director helps another team unofficially | ❌ **Disqualification of both teams** |
| Substance Depiction | Smoking/drinking visuals | Any Real visual or implied depiction | ❌ **Immediate Disqualification** |
| Risk & Safety | Mild unsafe scene | Potentially too risky but controlled shot | ⚠️ **Warning + 10% deduction** |
| Dangerous stunt | Risky vehicles, rooftops, fights, fire, weapons stunts | ❌ **Disqualification** |
| Submission | Wrong format | File not in MP4 or corrupted | ⚠️ **Resubmission based on the Judges decision + 10% deduction** |
| Late submission | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Submitted after deadline | | ❌ **Disqualification** |
| Multiple Violations | Repeated minor violations | More than 3 minor rule breaches | ❌ **Disqualification** |

Table 1. Violation & Penalty

**The organizing committee and judges reserve the right to interpret rules fairly and act in unforeseen cases. Their decision shall be final and binding**.