

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.