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International Line Production

India Film Incentives

The Central Cash Rebate

A line producer's guide to the India Cine Hub scheme

Up to 40% of qualifying Indian spend
Capped at ₹30 crore (about US$3.6 million)

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Indicative summary, not legal or tax advice. Confirm all figures against the current India Cine Hub guidelines before budgeting.

The Scheme at a Glance

India Film Incentives: How the 40% Works

Central India Cine Hub scheme + state subsidies · foreign productions & co-productions

1 · The Central Cash Rebate

30%	+	5%	+	5%	=	40%
base cash reimbursement of QPE		15%+ Indian manpower (live shoots)		Significant Indian Content		maximum cap ₹30 cr (US$3.6M)

2 · Minimum Qualifying Spend, by Format

Live-action shoot	Animation / VFX / post	Documentaries
₹3 crore	₹1 crore	No minimum

3 · Two Layers That May Stack

Central · India Cine Hub

Up to 40% of total India QPE
Nationwide · one application · MIB
(MEA route for documentaries)

State · Subsidy Schemes

MP up to ₹10cr (intl) · Rajasthan 30%
UP 25–50% · South India corridor
Claimed on in-state spend only

Central and state support may be combined, subject to each state's policy and no-double-funding rules.

4 · How You Are Paid

Interim approval
Applied for before the shoot. An eligibility certificate, not a cash payment.

→

Final claim
Filed after the India shoot, on audited accounts; committee verifies eligibility.

→

Reimbursement
Paid after the spend, months later. Carry the lag in your cash-flow plan.

Official co-production route
Up to 50% first disbursement possible · first-come, first-served against an annual pool of about ₹150 crore.

Who applies
An eligible Indian line producer or production-services company files through India Cine Hub (single window).

Indicative summary. Confirm rates, caps and thresholds against the current India Cine Hub guidelines and each state's notified policy.

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How the Up-to-40% Works

India's central incentive, the Incentive Scheme for Production of Foreign Films in India, is administered by India Cine Hub (ICH) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It reimburses a base **30% of Qualifying Production Expenditure (QPE)** incurred in India. A further **5%** is available where at least 15% of the production manpower on live shoots is Indian, and another **5%** for Significant Indian Content, taking the maximum cash rebate to **40% of QPE**. The reimbursement is capped at **₹30 crore** (about US$3.6 million) per project.

Minimum Qualifying Spend by Format

Live-action shoot	₹3 crore
Animation / VFX / post-production	₹1 crore
Documentaries	No minimum

Thresholds are floors to enter the scheme, not ceilings. Once the 30% calculation reaches ₹30 crore, the cap is flat.

Eligibility and Who Applies

Shooting permission for the production must have been granted after 1 April 2022, by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, or by the Ministry of External Affairs for documentaries. Pure post-production, VFX or animation projects follow a different route and do not require shooting permission. For a foreign production, qualifying expenditure is channelled and documented through an **eligible Indian line producer or production-services company**, as the ICH guidelines specify. QPE is defined in the current ICH guidelines, and every claimed item must be supported by invoices, banking records and GST-compliant invoices where GST applies.

How You Are Paid

For an ordinary foreign live shoot there are two stages, but only the second is a payment. Before shooting, the production applies for **interim approval**, an eligibility certificate confirming the project is registered under the scheme; it is not an interim cash payment. The **final claim** is filed after the India shoot is complete, on audited accounts, and the reimbursement is released on the recommendation of the evaluation committee, which assesses the documentation, the Significant Indian Content and the Indian-manpower percentage. Because the incentive is paid after the spend, the recovery arrives months later and should be carried in the cash-flow plan.

> **Official co-production route:** a first disbursement of up to 50% before final settlement may be available. Co-production incentives are first-come, first-served against an annual pool of about ₹150 crore, so early registration and clean documentation matter. Qualifying does not by itself guarantee the payout.

Official Co-Productions

A treaty co-production qualifies as a national production in both partner countries at once. This may enable national-treatment or funding opportunities under the applicable treaty and the partner country's separate rules. Treaty approval must be obtained before principal photography and cannot be granted retrospectively.

Stacking with State Incentives

The central rebate is calculated on total India QPE; a state subsidy is calculated on in-state spend only. The two **may be combined** where the relevant state policy and the central-scheme conditions permit, subject to each scheme's cumulation and no-double-funding rules. The same audited records must support both claims, with no line item counted twice.

What a Line Producer Manages

The recovery is built in pre-production, not reconstructed afterwards. Every vendor is classified at the point of contracting as QPE-eligible or not, GST-registered or not, and by state jurisdiction, so the ICH application, any state claim and the audited accounts all flow from a single dataset.

This guide is an indicative summary as of July 2026 and is not legal or tax advice. Rates, caps, thresholds and eligibility must be confirmed against the current India Cine Hub guidelines and each state's notified policy before budgeting.