

Government Committed to Full Co-operation for Marathi Cinema: Sajnikar

New Film Cities Planned for Nashik and Nagpur

Pune, January 17, 2026:

To ensure Marathi cinema progresses and garners increasing support from the audience, the Maharashtra Government is working extensively on all fronts. As part of this initiative, the process to establish new Film Cities (Chitranagari) in Nagpur and Nashik has already begun, stated Prashant Sajnikar, Joint Managing Director of the Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation (MFSCDC).

Sajnikar was speaking on the topic of the 'Film Ecosystem' at the 24th Pune International Film Festival (PIFF). He was interviewed by film director and Film Grant Committee member Dr. Santosh Pathare.

Speaking on distribution, Sajnikar said, "The government is making efforts to ensure Marathi films reach a wider audience. We are experimenting with a system to screen films in drama auditoriums. This experiment has been conducted in Mumbai and will be replicated across Maharashtra. We are also considering increasing the number of screens. Discussions are underway at the government level to amend the Cinema Regulation Act and reduce ticket prices for Marathi films. Schemes regarding the construction of low-cost theaters and the revival of 'Touring Talkies' are also being explored." Sajnikar highlighted that an international-standard film festival, 'Chitrapataka', has been launched for Marathi films. Furthermore, the government sends Marathi films to the Film Bazaar sections of prestigious festivals like Cannes and IFFI. He also noted that the Maharashtra Government provides double the subsidy amount to Marathi films that win national or international awards.

"There is a 28-member screening committee to grant subsidies to Marathi films. Grants are awarded transparently by categorizing films into A, B, and C grades. Over the last few years, ₹86.35 crore has been distributed to film producers, which has greatly benefited talented artists from rural areas," Sajnikar added.

Regarding infrastructure, he mentioned that the Mumbai Film City is turning 50 years old. Additionally, the state government has acquired the 50-acre ND Studio in Karjat, where development work has commenced. The process to establish a 70-acre Film City near Ramtek in Nagpur is underway, and preliminary procedures for a Film City in Nashik have also started.

Describing the facilities at the Mumbai Film City, he stated, "The Film City is eco-friendly, featuring 16 studios and 70 outdoor locations. It hosts shoots for Marathi and Hindi serials, reality shows, and films in various languages. Marathi films and serials are given a 50% concession. A 'Single Window System' was introduced in 2019 to grant all necessary permissions. Currently, shooting permissions are given free of cost anywhere in the state. We have identified 150 specific shooting locations and have granted 1,500 permissions in recent years."

Sajnikar also announced that training workshops for screenwriting and other filmmaking aspects will be started at 'Chitrangana' in Goregaon, with long-term courses planned for the future. A 'Film Appreciation Club' (Rasaswad Mandal) has been launched for the audience. currently active in Mumbai, it will soon expand across Maharashtra, including Pune. Viewers can join this club for a fee of ₹500 for three years.

Concluding the session, Sajnikar mentioned that the government provides ₹10 crore each for three films based on national icons annually, as well as ₹10 lakh for documentaries. He also confirmed that the Maharashtra Government's comprehensive Film Policy will be announced soon.