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UGC NET New Topic : Door Darshan, and Evaluation of Indian Movies

Doordarshan: Doordarshan (DD) is India's **public service broadcaster**, operated by **Prasar Bharati**. Established in **1959**, it became a significant tool for national integration, education, and entertainment. For decades, it was the **only television channel** available to Indian households.

- Officially began as an experimental telecast from **Delhi** on **15 September 1959**.
- Regular daily transmission started in **1975**.
- National telecast began in **1982**, the same year India hosted the **Asian Games** and introduced **color television**.

Doordarshan TV Series – Chronological Table

TV Series Name	Year	Genre, Creator/Director, Significance
Hum Log	1984	Genre: Family/Social Drama Creator/Director: P. Kumar Vasudev Significance: India's first Hindi TV soap opera ; addressed middle-class struggles and social issues.
Buniyaad	1986	Genre: Historical/Partition Drama Director: Ramesh Sippy & Jyoti Sarup Significance: Focused on Partition of India (1947) and its emotional aftermath.
Ramayan	1987	Genre: Mythological Director: Ramanand Sagar Significance: Based on Valmiki's Ramayana; created record-breaking viewership across India.
Mahabharat	1988	Genre: Mythological Director: B. R. Chopra Significance: Based on the Mahabharata epic; culturally monumental and highly influential.
Fauji	1989	Genre: Military Drama Director: Col. R. Kapoor Significance: Showcased life in the Indian Army; debut show of Shah Rukh Khan .
Circus	1989	Genre: Social Drama Director: Aziz Mirza Significance: Set in a circus backdrop; early acting role of Shah Rukh Khan .
Chanakya	1991	Genre: Historical/Political Director: Dr. Chandraprakash Dwivedi Significance: Dramatized life of Chanakya , the strategist and philosopher of ancient India.

TV Series Name	Year	Genre, Creator/Director, Significance
Byomkesh Bakshi	1993	Genre: Detective/Thriller Director: Basu Chatterjee Significance: Based on Bengali detective stories; critically acclaimed for realism and simplicity.
Shaktimaan	1997	Genre: Superhero/Children Director/Lead: Mukesh Khanna Significance: India's first televised superhero series ; highly influential among children.

Evolution of Indian Cinema

Indian cinema has evolved over a century from **silent black-and-white reels** to vibrant digital storytelling. It has reflected social, cultural, mythological, and political themes that shaped the nation's collective memory. From mythological dramas to parallel cinema and global acclaim, the Indian film industry—often referred to as **Bollywood** in its Hindi cinema context—has grown into the **largest film-producing industry in the world.**

Phases of Indian Cinema Development:

Phase	Period	Key Features
Silent Era	1913–1930	No synchronized sound; mythological/historical themes; intertitles used
Talkie Era (Sound Films)	1931 onwards	Introduction of dialogues and songs; beginning of Hindi and regional cinema
Golden Age	1940s–1960s	Rise of realism, social cinema, legendary filmmakers (e.g., Ray, Mehboob Khan)
Masala Cinema Era	1970s–1990s	Commercial entertainment; action-romance; superstars like Amitabh Bachchan
New Age & Parallel Cinema	1990s–present	Globalization, digital filmmaking, international awards and crossover cinema

Full-Length Indian Silent Feature Films (Chronological Highlights)

Film Title	Year	Director	Significance
Raja Harishchandra	1913	Dadasaheb Phalke	First full-length Indian silent film
Lanka Dahan	1917	Dadasaheb Phalke	Mythological tale from Ramayana
Keechaka Vadham	1916	R. Nataraja Mudaliar	First South Indian silent film
Bhisma Pratigna	1921	Raghupathi Venkaiah	Silent film in Telugu; based on Mahabharata
Savkari Pash	1925	Baburao Painter	Early social drama, starring V. Shantaram
Gopal Krishna	1929	V. Shantaram (co-director)	Bridged mythological and reformist ideas

Indian Talkie Films (Chronological Highlights)

Film Title	Year	Director	Significance
Alam Ara	1931	Ardeshir Irani	First Indian talkie (sound film); featured songs & dialogue
Shirin Farhad	1931	J.J. Madan	Second talkie; romantic tragedy
Ayodhyecha Raja	1932	V. Shantaram	First Marathi talkie
Kalidas	1931	H.M. Reddy	First Tamil talkie
Bhakta Prahlada	1932	H.M. Reddy	First Telugu talkie
Balan	1938	S.Nottani	First Malayalam talkie
Jumma Janardhan	1933	G.K. Mehta	One of the earliest Kannada talkies
Zindagi	1940	P.C. Barua	First full-length Hindi film shot entirely on sound

Internationally Acclaimed Indian Debut Films

Film Title	Year	Director	Significance
Pather Panchali	1955	Satyajit Ray	First Indian film to win international awards (Cannes, etc.)
Duvidha	1973	Mani Kaul	Acclaimed art film; explored folk and ghost themes
Nagarik (released late)	1952 (released 1977)	Ritwik Ghatak	Ghatak's debut film; received posthumous acclaim
The Cloud-Capped Star (Meghe Dhaka Tara)	1960	Ritwik Ghatak	Gained global recognition for its use of expressionism
Salaam Bombay!	1988	Mira Nair	Oscar-nominated; portrayal of street children in Mumbai
The Lunchbox	2013	Ritesh Batra	Widely acclaimed internationally; TIFF & BAFTA nominee
Court	2014	Chaitanya Tamhane	National award winner, Venice Film Festival acclaim

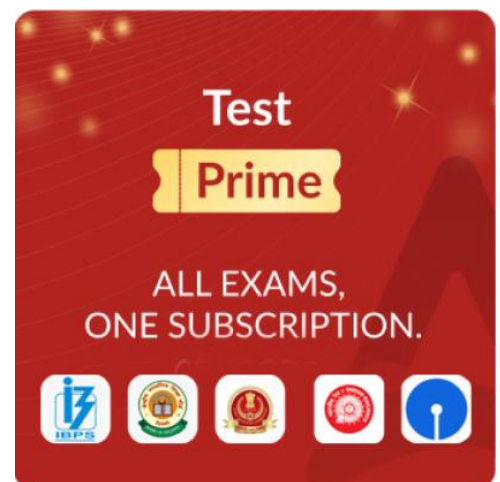
Indian Cinema: Directors & Their Famous Films1. Silent Era (1913–1930)

Dadasaheb Phalke

- **Known As:** *Father of Indian Cinema*
- **Key Films:**
 - **Raja Harishchandra** (1913): First full-length Indian feature film (silent)
 - **Lanka Dahan** (1917): Used trick photography to show Rama and Sita played by same actor
- **Contribution:** Established the foundation of Indian storytelling through visual medium.

R. Nataraja Mudaliar

- **Key Films:** **Keechaka Vadham** (1916): First silent film made in South India
- **Contribution:** Pioneer of Tamil silent cinema.



Baburao Painter

- **Key Films:** **Savkari Pash** (1925): First social drama with reformist themes
- **Contribution:** Introduced realism and art direction.

2. Talkie Era (1931–1940s)

Ardeshir Irani

- **Key Films:**
 - **Alam Ara** (1931): First Indian talkie (sound film)
 - **Kisan Kanya** (1937): First Indian color film
- **Contribution:** Brought sound and color to Indian screens.

V. Shantaram

- **Key Films:**
 - **Ayodhyecha Raja** (1932): First Marathi talkie
 - **Dr. Kotnis Ki Amar Kahani** (1946): Wartime humanitarian drama
- **Contribution:** Social reform, innovation in storytelling and use of technology.

P.C. Barua

- **Key Films:** **Devdas** (1935): Classic romantic tragedy
- **Contribution:** Elevated melodrama and tragic romance in Indian cinema.

3. Golden Age (1940s–1960s)

Satyajit Ray

- **Key Films:**
 - **Pather Panchali** (1955): Global acclaim; part of the Apu Trilogy
 - **Charulata, Nayak, Shatranj Ke Khilari**
- **Contribution:** Master of humanistic and realist cinema; won **Oscar Honorary Award** (1992)

Bimal Roy

- **Key Films:**
 - **Do Bigha Zamin** (1953): Neo-realist classic
 - **Madhumati, Bandini**
- **Contribution:** Blended realism with popular narrative.

Mehboob Khan

- **Key Films:** **Mother India** (1957): India's first Oscar-nominated film
- **Contribution:** Grand themes, nationalism, and strong women characters.

Guru Dutt

- **Key Films:** **Pyaasa** (1957), **Kaagaz Ke Phool** (1959), **Chaudhvin Ka Chand**
- **Contribution:** Visual poetry, tragic romanticism, deep social critique.

Raj Kapoor

- **Key Films:** **Awaara, Shree 420, Mera Naam Joker**
- **Contribution:** Showman of Indian cinema; merged emotion with socialist themes.

4. Masala Cinema Era (1970s–1990s)

Manmohan Desai

- **Key Films:** Amar Akbar Anthony, Coolie, Dharam Veer
- **Contribution:** Master of **masala films** combining action, emotion, and comedy.

Yash Chopra

- **Key Films:** Deewaar, Kabhi Kabhie, Chandni, Dil To Pagal Hai
- **Contribution:** Romance specialist; founder of YRF Studios.

Ramesh Sippy

- **Key Films:** Sholay (1975): Iconic action film; landmark in Indian pop culture.
- **Contribution:** Created the “Curry Western” genre.

Hrishikesh Mukherjee

- **Key Films:** Anand, Gol Maal, Chupke Chupke
- **Contribution:** Light-hearted realism with middle-class themes.

Basu Chatterjee

- **Key Films:** Rajnigandha, Baton Baton Mein
- **Contribution:** Simple storytelling, relatable urban characters.

5. New Age & Parallel Cinema (1990s–Present)

Shyam Benegal

- **Key Films:** Ankur, Nishant, Manthan
- **Contribution:** Pioneer of **parallel cinema** and rural realism.

Mira Nair

- **Key Films:** Salaam Bombay!, Monsoon Wedding
- **Contribution:** Bridged Indian themes with global narratives.

Anurag Kashyap

- **Key Films:** Black Friday, Gangs of Wasseypur
- **Contribution:** Raw realism, gritty storytelling, new-wave cinema pioneer.

Rituparno Ghosh

- **Key Films:** Unishe April, Chokher Bali, Raincoat
- **Contribution:** Reintroduced emotional depth in Bengali cinema.

Mani Ratnam

- **Key Films:** Roja, Bombay, Dil Se
- **Contribution:** Known for integrating politics, romance, and music.

Ritesh Batra

- **Key Films:** The Lunchbox
- **Contribution:** Minimalist cinema; global appreciation.

Chaitanya Tamhane

- **Key Films:** Court (2014): Venice and National Award winner
- **Contribution:** Part of new-generation indie directors with critical acclaim.

