

Indian Film Industry



Background Guide

Agenda

Deliberation upon whether trade bodies like FWICE hold the authority to ban individuals from an entire industry over contractual disputes. Freeze date:- 25th May 2026



TGES MUN 2026



Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Indian Film Industry Committee. We hope you have a rewarding and intellectually stimulating experience over the course of this conference.

The agenda before you — deliberating whether trade bodies like FWICE hold the authority to ban individuals from an entire industry over contractual disputes — is both timely and complex. We encourage you to approach it with thorough research and an open mind.

A few things to keep in mind as you prepare. Know your character's position well, but be ready to engage with perspectives that challenge it. The best debates in this committee will not be one-sided — they will involve genuine negotiation between producers, actors, and reform advocates. Familiarise yourself with how FWICE functions, what a non-cooperation directive actually means in legal terms, and what the broader implications are for the industry's workforce.

During sessions, the dais expects respectful, substantive debate. Come with your position paper ready, your arguments well-structured, and a willingness to collaborate on resolutions that go beyond the immediate controversy.

We look forward to an engaging committee.

Regards,

Harshith Kosaraju

Srikar Ramavarapu

Anirudh Bhimrao

Chairperson

Vice-Chairperson

Rapporteur



Rules of Procedure

In this committee, we will be following an altered version of UNA-USA ROP for the purpose of understanding and simulation. An elaborate version of this will be explained within the first committee session on Day 1.

TYPES OF DEBATE

Formal Debate:

General Speakers list A general speakers list consists of speakers willing to speak on the agenda. GSL is an inexhaustive list that only ends when the debate is tables and no further are speeches are being made by any speaker.

Verbatim: *"The delegate of X raises a motion to establish General Speakers list of individual speaker's time X minutes/seconds"*.

Special Speakers list A special speakers list consists of speakers willing to speak on the crisis updates. An SSL can be raised when a crisis update is given and if the committee believes special emphasis is required to speak upon it.

Verbatim: *"The delegate of X raises a motion to suspend the general speakers list and establish a special speakers list for individual speaker's time X minutes/seconds and a total time period of X minutes"*.

Note: The total time period must be divisible by the individual speaker's time to give out a whole number of speakers.

Informal Debate:

Unmoderated Caucus An unmoderated caucus is raised for an informal, unmoderated discussion on the committee's proceedings.

Verbatim: *"The delegate of X raises a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated caucus for a total time period of X minutes."*

Consultation Session A consultation session is an informal discussion on the committee's proceedings where one delegate stands up after another to make their speeches without recognition.



POINTS

- Please note: Points cannot be raised on other points. Points cannot be raised during informal debate.*

YIELDS

1. **Yield to Another Delegate:** In formal debate, if a delegate does not elapse their time, the remaining time can be yielded to another delegate for them to speak. They must be informed prior to accept the yield.
2. **Yield to Executive Board:** Upon a delegate not elapsing their time, their remaining time can be yielded back to the executive board to either accept questions or move on to the next speaker, upon the board's discretion.
3. **Yield to POI:** Upon a delegate not elapsing their time, they can yield their time to a point of information, where another delegate can pose questions related to their speech.



TIMELINE

PART 1 — WHAT IS FWICE?

The Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) is the central trade federation for all below-the-line film workers in India. Think of it as the 'mother union' — it sits above 32 individual craft associations, all of which are affiliated to it. Its members include camera operators, makeup artists, sound engineers, set designers, light technicians, costume staff, and dozens of other roles.

By 2020, FWICE had approximately 5 lakh (500,000) members. Because virtually every technical and crew role in a Hindi film production is covered by a FWICE-affiliated association, the federation holds enormous power: if it tells its members not to work on a project or with a particular person, that production effectively cannot proceed.

What is a Non-Cooperation Directive (NCD)?

An NCD is often loosely described as a 'ban' — but it is important to understand what it actually is and is not. FWICE is a trade body, not a court. It cannot legally prohibit anyone from working. What it can do is issue a directive to all its affiliated members instructing them not to work with a named individual until the dispute is resolved.

In practice, because FWICE's members cover every technical role on a film set, this makes it nearly impossible for any production to proceed. FWICE chief advisor Ashoke Pandit has been clear: it is not a legal ban, but a directive to members. The distinction matters legally — but the practical effect is the same as a ban.

IMPORTANT: Key phrase: 'Non-cooperation directive' = not a legal ban, but a directive to ~5 lakh workers not to participate in shoots involving the named person.



PART 2 — FWICE'S HISTORY: PAST NON-COOPERATION DIRECTIVES

The Ranveer Singh case did not happen in a vacuum. FWICE has used the NCD as a disciplinary tool many times before, across very different types of situations. Here is a full account of the most significant past cases.

Case 1 — Chunky Panday (1987)

Date: 1987

While filming *Aag Hi Aag* for producer Pahlaj Nihalani, veteran actor Chunky Panday faced a ban from FWICE. The full details were never made public. However, this stands as one of the earliest recorded instances of FWICE taking disciplinary action against an individual performer — showing that the federation has been willing to do this for nearly four decades.

Case 2 — Pakistani Artists Ban (2016 onwards)

Date: September 2016

Following the Uri terror attack in September 2016, FWICE banned all Pakistani artists from working in the Indian entertainment industry. This directly affected Fawad Khan (who had appeared in *Kapoor and Sons* and *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil*) and Mahira Khan (who starred opposite Shah Rukh Khan in *Raees*).

This was a significant moment in FWICE's history. It showed that the federation was willing to move far beyond internal labour disputes and make sweeping, geopolitically-motivated decisions about who the entire industry could and could not work with.



Case 3 — Mika Singh (2019)

Date: August 8, 2019

Videos went viral showing singer Mika Singh performing at a wedding in Karachi, Pakistan — at an event connected to former Pakistan PM Pervez Musharraf's family. At a time of high tension between India and Pakistan, FWICE reacted swiftly and angrily.

FWICE banned Mika from playback singing, public performances, and acting in India. However, Mika appeared before the federation in person, explained his side, and apologised. The ban was lifted relatively quickly after that.

NOTE: This case is important for understanding the Ranveer Singh situation: when Mika cooperated and showed up, the ban was reversed quickly. Ranveer chose the opposite path.

Case 4 — Alok Nath (2019) — #MeToo

Date: 2019

During the wave of #MeToo allegations in Bollywood, writer-director Vinta Nanda publicly accused actor Alok Nath of rape. IFTDA (Indian Film and Television Directors' Association), an affiliate of FWICE, set up an internal complaints committee to look into the allegations.

Alok Nath was summoned three times. He ignored all three summons. FWICE then issued a six-month non-cooperation directive against him. FWICE's Ashoke Pandit stated that Alok had 'blatantly challenged the Internal Complaints Committee and defied summons.'

IMPORTANT: Critical precedent: the trigger here — ignoring three summons — is almost exactly how FWICE described its justification for the Ranveer Singh directive in 2026.





Additionally, Ranveer claimed he never received any advance payment, and that he had passed on other projects during this period in anticipation of Don 3 — for which he was not compensated.

Excel Entertainment disputes all of this. Farhan Akhtar has reportedly said the script was developed and shared in stages, and that Ranveer had approved each draft without raising any objections.

The exit and the money dispute

Date: Early 2026

Discussions between Ranveer and Excel broke down completely. Ranveer reportedly left for the United States, and his team stopped responding to calls and messages from Excel's side. The story of his exit leaked to the press before the two sides could agree on a joint statement — meaning the fallout became a public, messy dispute.

Excel Entertainment sought compensation of approximately ₹40–45 crore, accounting for pre-production costs and scheduling adjustments they had made based on Ranveer's approvals. Ranveer's side countered that he had not been paid any advance and had lost other work waiting for this project.



PART 4 — ESCALATION TO INDUSTRY CRISIS

From private dispute to formal complaint

Date: Early 2026

Excel Entertainment filed a formal complaint with IFTDA (Indian Film and Television Directors' Association) — the appropriate first step for a dispute of this kind. Normally, at this stage, the union gets both parties on a table and works out a resolution before things escalate further.

But Ranveer's team did not engage. Three separate formal notices were sent. All three went unanswered.

With no response forthcoming from Ranveer's side, the complaint was escalated to the more powerful parent body — FWICE.

The Producers Guild weighs in

Date: Around the same time

The Producers Guild of India confirmed it had received formal complaints from member companies including Excel Entertainment and Panorama Studios International.

The Guild noted a broader, growing pattern in the industry: stars, directors, and technicians were increasingly pulling out of projects shortly before filming was due to begin — sometimes just days before principal photography — causing significant financial losses and disruption. The Guild warned that this trend was damaging the industry and needed to be addressed.



CONCLUSION

Whatever happens after 25th May 2026, is neither in the hands of the executive board nor the FWICE, it is solely in the hands of you delegates present in the room, make sure to remember you guys are not representatives of anybody, you are the living embodiments of your own portfolios.

To conclude, the debate surrounding the authority of trade bodies such as the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) to impose industry-wide bans over contractual disputes raises important questions about fairness, accountability, and the balance of power within the Indian film industry. While these organizations are established to protect the interests of their members and uphold professional standards, their actions can have far-reaching consequences on the careers and livelihoods of individuals.

The film industry thrives on collaboration, creativity, and mutual trust. However, when disagreements arise, the methods used to resolve them must be transparent, proportionate, and consistent with both legal principles and ethical standards. An industry-wide ban can serve as a strong deterrent against contractual violations, but it may also risk limiting an individual's right to work and defend themselves against allegations.

As delegates of the Indian Film Industry Committee, it is essential to move beyond the black-and-white view of authority versus freedom and instead explore how both can coexist. The challenge before the committee is not merely to decide whether such powers should exist, but to determine the extent to which they should be exercised and regulated. Through constructive debate, delegates have the opportunity to propose solutions that protect industry interests while ensuring justice, due process, and equal opportunity for all stakeholders.

"Don ke dushman ki sabse badi galti yeh hai ki woh Don ka dushman hai."



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