



# Dadasaheb Phalke Award

## Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has announced that the [Dadasaheb Phalke Award](#) for the year 2020 **will be accorded to legendary actress Ms Asha Parekh**. The award will be presented at **the 68<sup>th</sup> National Film Award ceremony in New Delhi**.

- Previous recipients of the awards were **Rajnikant (2019) and Amitabh Bachhan (2018)**.

## What do we Know about Dadasaheb Phalke Award?

### ▪ About:

- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is part of the **National Film Awards**, a highly coveted collection of honours in the film industry. The Award is named after Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, the **pioneering filmmaker who gave India its first film- 'Raja Harishchandra', in 1913**.
- The award is considered the highest honour in the Indian film fraternity. It is awarded for "its outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema."

### ▪ Overview:

- The award was **instituted by the government in 1969**, and consists of a '**Swarna Kamal**', a **cash prize of INR 10 lakh, a certificate, a silk roll, and a shawl**.
- The award is **presented by the President of India** in the presence of the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, the Chairpersons of the juries, the representatives of the **Film Federation of India**, and the **Confederation of All India Cine Employees** among senior officials.
- The first recipient of the award was **Devika Rani Roerich in 1969**.

## Who was Dhundiraj Govind 'Dadasaheb' Phalke?

- He was born in 1870 at Trimbak in Maharashtra. He studied engineering and sculpture and **developed an interest in motion pictures after watching the 1906 silent film The Life of Christ**.
- Before venturing into films, Phalke worked as a photographer, owned a printing press, and even **worked with the famed painter Raja Ravi Varma**.
- In 1913, Phalke wrote, produced, and directed India's first feature film, the **silent Raja Harishchandra**. As a result of its commercial success, Phalke went on to make 95 more films and 26 short films in the next 19 years.
- He is known as "**Father of Indian Cinema**".

[Source: TH](#)

