

# ABBY MEDIA AWARDS AT GOAFEST 2026

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**Last date for submitting entries: Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2026**

## 1. CATEGORIES

### A. USE OF MEDIA

In these categories, your entry will be judged specifically on the creative/innovative use of the media, regardless of the product or service.

Category No.	Category Name	Details
1	Innovative Use of Audio Visual	All entries pertaining to the use of audio video content whether on television or digital platforms will be considered.  Examples: In serial integrations, sponsorships, digital videos etc.
2	Innovative Use of Print	All entries pertaining to the use of newspapers and magazines will be considered
3	Innovative Use of Activation	All entries pertaining to the use of Ambient Media, Events and Activation will be considered.  Examples: On-ground activations, brand promotions etc.
4	Innovative Use of Out of Home	All entries pertaining to the use of Out of Home will be considered.  Examples: Hoardings, transit media, street media, mall branding etc. Includes digital and non-digital formats.  Any activations or consumer engagement programs should not be part of this category.
5	Innovative Use of Cinema	All entries pertaining to the use of Cinema as a medium and as a venue will be considered.  Examples: Cinema Screenings, Activations within the cinema premises will be considered  Note: In-film integrations will not be considered in this category but will be part of the Branded Content category
6	Innovative Use of Radio	All entries pertaining to the use of radio will be considered  Examples: Radio sponsorships, Radio AFPs, RJ mentions etc.

7	Innovative Use of Branded Content– Integration	All entries where the brand has been integrated in <b>EXISTING</b> properties irrespective of the medium will be considered.  Examples: Content created for sponsoring a property, TV/digital serial integrations, integrations in movies and existing live shows etc.
8	Innovative Use of Branded Content– Creation	All entries where the content has been created specifically for a brand and NOT deployed in an existing property.  Example: Special IPs created, digital videos, new webisodes, AFPs, advertorials, etc.
9	Innovative Use of Digital Search SEO	All entries pertaining to SEO will be considered.
10	Innovative Use of Paid Search	All entries pertaining to paid search across platforms will be considered.
11	Innovative Use of Social Media	All entries which have used social media will be considered.  Influencer Marketing programs and community building programs etc. will be also considered.
12	Innovative Use of Digital Display	All entries which have used digital display will be considered.  Videos embedded in banner ads will also be considered.
13	Innovative Use of Mobile	All entries which have creatively used mobile will be considered.  Examples: Apps, VR, AR, bots etc.
14	Innovative Use of Commerce	All entries must be restricted to 'on-platform' (marketplaces and 'brand.com') only.  Live commerce, social commerce will also be considered.
15	Innovative Use of Gaming	The entry must be specific in describing how the brand is positioned in the gaming environment. Effectively engage current gamers and grow their audience. Both online and mobile games and apps are eligible for this award.  Examples: Game creation, In game integrations, Use of gaming influencers, gaming platforms etc.

16	Innovative Use of Sponsorship	<p>Covers best use of sponsorships like a reality TV show or serials, one-off Integrations of a product within online or offline content, regular radio programs, regular publication columns, online sites, sports, live events, and platforms etc.</p> <p>Innovative use will encompass leveraging/modifying the existing opportunities or creating new elements/aspects within the sponsorship.</p> <p>Entries can cover any offline media or online media or both</p>
17	Moment Marketing	<p>The Moment Marketing category celebrates brands that have done one of two things:</p> <p>They created an iconic moment in their timeline by saying, doing or supporting something that immediately put all eyes on them and got the world talking about them. Such moments could be experiences created by the brand, an opinion voiced, a cause supported, an action taken or even an action not taken.</p> <p>Brands that identified a powerful moment in the cultural zeitgeist and leveraged it through messaging. These are brands that are often 'switched on' and deeply clued into the present moment. They notice emerging conversations early and have a point of view on them quickly. As a result, they come across as opinion leaders and early entrants in most cultural conversations of the moment.</p> <p>Examples: live experiences, moments, stunts, and tactics, online and/or offline</p>
18	Small Budget, Big Impact	<p>The Small Budget, Big Impact category, recognizes campaigns that achieve significant marketing success with limited financial resources, with a budget less than Rs 25.0 Lakhs annually, highlighting the power of creativity and strategic efficiency.</p> <p>Criteria for Excellence focuses on creativity and innovation, strategic efficiency, impact and reach, measurable results, and sustainability and scalability. Successful entries will have demonstrated an exceptional ability to maximize a small budget, achieving notable results in market presence and consumer engagement, and setting a benchmark for cost-effective marketing strategies. The campaign can be across any single or multiple media platforms – online/offline/on ground etc.</p>

19	Sports Marketing	<p>This category celebrates exceptional campaigns that have utilized sports as an effective platform for brand promotion. It recognizes efforts that have deployed innovative media strategies and campaigns using a particular sport, sports events and/or tournaments to target and engage audiences and achieve marketing goals. The focus is on the effective use of sports across platforms whether On Ground, or on any media platform – online/offline/both, to enhance brand visibility and impact.</p>
20	Micro Marketing	<p>Programs/campaigns directed toward consumers targeting a specific state, district, city or lower than this geo cut offs. Entries in this category must provide information on how the specific area was selected and explain the process of designing and implementing the media campaign. The campaign can be across any single or multiple media platforms – online/offline/on ground etc.</p>
21	Innovation in media buying	<p>This category recognizes the influence of media buying teams in delivering impact and attention to campaigns/brands</p> <p>The entries should cover never before done innovations that were made possible because of the media buying teams. It can cover first time ever done new ad formats or new placements or creation of a new medium to advertise or new tactical solutions etc. (or a combination of the above) that enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of campaigns/brands</p> <p>Entries can cover any offline media or online media or both</p>
22	Innovative Use of Integrated Media	<p>Campaigns that have used 3 or more mediums will be considered. Each vertical of digital media will be considered as a separate medium.</p> <p>For this category 'media' will include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Television</li> <li>2. Newspapers</li> <li>3. Magazines</li> <li>4. Radio</li> <li>5. Cinema</li> <li>6. Digital Display</li> <li>7. Digital Search</li> <li>8. Mobile</li> <li>9. Out of home Media</li> </ol> <p>Branded content and video have to be deployed on a medium hence they not been called out separately as a medium</p>

## B. SPECIALIST CATEGORIES

In these categories, your entry will be judged specifically on its appropriateness to the category, regardless of the medium used.

Category No.	Category Name	Details
23	Cause Marketing	<p>This applies to campaigns that address a civic, social or environment problem done for non-profit organizations, associations, public bodies and/or government agencies.</p> <p>A campaign done by a brand towards a social cause will also be eligible. The evidence of the campaign's success should be skewed more towards the cause rather than building the brand's equity.</p>
24	Innovative Use of Data & Analytics	Campaigns which use proprietary data, primary research, client data or existing data (using data bases like BARC, IRS, TGI, publisher data etc.) will be considered.
25	Innovative Use of Emerging Technology	<p>Campaigns that have leveraged existing or progressive technologies for driving insights or business will be considered.</p> <p>Strategic collaborations with analytics / technology providers will also be considered.</p>
26	Innovative Use of AI in Media Planning	<p>Entries should cover media strategy/plans/approaches that have used AI or ML-based tools / platforms to enhance efficiency and effectiveness for a campaign/brand. , Can cover any facet of media strategy or planning – for example it can be audience segmentation or consumer insights or market prioritisation or media objective setting or media scheduling or media mix selection or media solutions etc. (or a combination of the above).</p> <p>Entries can cover any offline media or online media or both</p>
27	Innovative Use of AI in Media Operations & Content	Entries should cover media buying/operations/processes that have used AI or ML-based tools / platforms to enhance efficiency and effectiveness for a campaign/brand, Can cover any facet of media buying/operations/processes – for example it can be ROI maximisation or creative optimisation or content generation or process automation or productivity improvement or benchmarking etc (or a combination of the above).

## **C. SOUTH ASIA CATEGORY (EXCLUDING INDIA): SPECIAL AWARD**

<b>Category No.</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Details</b>
28	Innovative Use of Integrated Media	Best Integrated Campaign (Entries in this category must include at least 3 types of media e.g., Press, TV, Radio, Cinema, Outdoor, Digital etc.)  South Asian Countries can also send entries in the categories <b>from 1 to 21 &amp; 23 to 27</b> in which case, they will compete with all the Indian entries received in those categories.

## **D. MEDIA ABBY GRAND PRIX**

There will be only one Media Abby Grand Prix Award across all categories, i.e., 1 to 27. This will go to the best amongst all Gold Winners. A Grand Prix is awarded to an entry that is a Gold winner in a particular category. For further details refer to Page No. 8 Computation of Points section.

## **E. MEDIA AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Will be judged from the metal tally of 1 to 27 categories mentioned above.**

## **2. RULES & REGULATIONS**

- Only those agencies appointed for the purpose of media planning and / or buying by a client can submit work for that client. Any company/organization (eg., Production houses, Content creators, Publishers etc.) not having this mandate does not qualify for Media Abby awards unless they were specifically appointed by the Client for the purpose of media planning and / or buying for the entry

**Entrant Organisation Parentage:** Please enter as Agency Brand/standalone Agency and not as a Group Company.

An Online Entry Form must be filled in with all the required details. Entry forms not filled in correctly / incompletely are likely to be disqualified. Entries that are not correctly paid for are also liable to be disqualified. No refund is allowed in such cases. Incomplete entries or entries which violate this norm will be disqualified. **Client authorization is a must.**

- All GOAFEST Media Abby entries uploaded online must be designed for implementation and must have been implemented for the first time **between 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2025 and not later than 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 (11 months).**
- Work entered in the previous year cannot be re-entered unless a significantly different version is created anew.
- All media solutions uploaded must have been created within the context of a normal paying contract with a client. The client must have paid for all the media costs. The jury reserves the

right to request a full media schedule from each entrant company to verify the authenticity of the ad(s) in the event that an entry is short-listed or declared a winner.

- e) Adherence to material requirements is imperative in terms of format, duration, and sizes shared under "Material and Sample Formats" in this brochure.
- f) The organizers may refuse entries which offend national or religious sentiments, or public taste.
- g) Entries with no/inadequate payment will not be accepted. No refunds shall be offered, for any reason whatsoever.

## **RULE REGARDING ENTERING IN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES**

**You can submit the same entry under 3 different categories from the 27 categories mentioned above. NOT MORE than 3 submissions will be allowed.**

### **3. JUDGING PROCESS**

- a) Judging will be online.
- b) The entire process WILL BE PAPERLESS and AUTOMATED.
- c) The award-winning entries will be selected by the Round 2 Media Abby Master Jury & for Digital categories by the Specialists.
- d) The jury's voting will be based on the 4 cornerstones listed below.
  - a. Innovative Media Strategy
  - b. Engaging Creativity
  - c. Encompassing the Audience
  - d. Effectiveness
- e) The decision of the jury in all matters relating to the awarding of prizes will be final and binding.

### **4. AWARDS**

- a) Category prizes: In each category, the jury will award a Gold, Silver and Bronze Media Abby Award to entries judged to be deserving of this honor. These awards will be given to the entrant companies.

**b) COMPUTATION OF POINTS (for Agency of the Year recognition):**

Points will be allocated on the basis of Gold, Silver & Bronze.

- **Gold** : 8 points
- **Silver** : 6 points
- **Bronze** : 4 points
- **GRAND PRIX** : 12 points

**NOTE:** The points obtained for winning a GRAND PRIX will be included in computation of the Agency of the Year. A GRAND PRIX generally goes to an entry that is also a Gold winner in a particular category, hence we will present the Gold Trophy for that entry in that particular category however the marks will be allocated only once i.e. for the GRAND PRIX and not for the Gold. The marks for an entry that bags a GRAND PRIX are 12 points. Even in the sheet circulated post awards that gives the metal tally only Grand Prix will be shown and the Gold will be excluded.

**5. ENTRY DEADLINE**

**Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2026**

**6. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

- a) All entries must relate either to one advertisement or campaign. Entries relating to more than one advertisement/campaign (even if promoting the same product) must be entered individually and paid for as separate entries.
- b) It is permissible to upload the same entry for up to a maximum of 3 different categories, e.g. From (A) Innovative Use of Media & (B) Specialist Category. However, in this case, you must upload and submit a separate online entry form and a set of materials for each entry and also pay for each entry.

**7. ONLINE ENTRY FORM DETAILS**

**a) PART 1: ENTRY DETAILS**

- For each entry, an online entry form should be provided.
- Only the information contained in the forms will be reproduced in any printed material if your entry is short-listed or a winner.
- It is very important that this information be complete and correct in all respects.
- Please carefully check and re-check the credits you have entered.
- If you are short-listed or a winner, the credit published on our website will be strictly on the basis of whatever is furnished by you in the Online Entry Form.

**b) PART 2: CASE STUDY DETAILS (FOR CATEGORIES 1 TO 23 AND 25 to 28)**

You will be required to answer the following questions (i) to (iv) as part of your case study submission.

- i) Describe the Communication/Marketing Goal(s) for this media entry: (50 words maximum)
- ii) Innovative Solution: Include the consumer targeting strategy, consumer insight and the idea. Demonstrate how it links to the goal and connects with consumers. (100 words maximum)
- iii) Engaging Creativity and Amplification:  
Show how the media and the message work together to enhance the overall impact of the effort and engage the consumer. Explain how it was amplified in media. (100 words maximum)
- iv) Effectiveness: Show how the effort maximized the value of the investment and generated marketplace results. (50 words maximum)

**c) PART 2: CASE STUDY DETAILS (FOR CATEGORY 24 – INNOVATIVE USE OF DATA & ANALYTICS)**

You will be required to answer the following questions (i) to (v) as part of your case study submission.

- i) Objective for this entry: (Maximum words: 50)
- ii) The Methodology: (Maximum words: 200)
- iii) The Details of Research or Tool Developed (if any): (Maximum words: 250)
- iv) The Findings (Maximum words: 150)
- v) Effectiveness: (Maximum words: 100)

**Please ensure that you adhere to the word limit specified for each question. You will have to type the details in the ‘text box’ provided in the online entry form. You will not be able to save your entry if you exceed the word limit.**

**You should submit your answers as continuous text, without bullets, symbols or colour. In addition, if you want to provide / furnish any graphs or tables, it will have to be uploaded separately as images in PDF format in media not exceeding two pages. Anything submitted more than the specified requirement can lead to disqualification.**

**Please ensure you do not refer to the name of your agency & logo (failing which the entry gets disqualified) or any contributing creative companies or people within this online submission.**

## 8. MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Case study videos / AVs will NOT be accepted for Round I.
- However, you will have to submit 'PROOF OF WORK' to enable the jury to get a better understanding of your entry
- PROOF OF WORK means videos, audios or images that show the judge exactly how the idea/strategy was brought to life in media
- **Case Study & Proof of Work (Video, Static/Print or any other supporting material) should not mention the agency name or logo**

The video SHOULD NOT include the following.

1. Background / marketing / communication objectives
2. Consumer Profiling / Insights
3. Solution / Approach / Amplification Strategy
4. Results
5. No Voice Over / No special effects

- **The submission should be work as it appeared in the marketplace.**
- **Please do not submit any presentation boards in physical format / hard copy**

**Full-fledged AVs / Case study videos are NOT allowed.**  
**If submitted, the entry will be disqualified.**

### NOTE (SHORTLISTED ENTRIES)

YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AUDIO VISUALS AS CREATIVE SUPPORT ONLY FOR THE ENTRIES SHORTLISTED AND A GOOD NUMBER OF DAYS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU FOR SUBMISSION.

**(AUDIO VISUAL DURATION: NOT MORE THAN 3 MINUTES)**

## 9. MATERIAL FORMATS

- Video Clips: MP4 file (File size should not be more than 100MB). The duration of the video should not exceed 3 minutes.
- Images: Jpegs, 300 dpi RGB, with longest side 420mm. File size should not be more than 10MB
- Audio files: MP3 format. Bitrate 64 kbps, Compression ratio 22:1.

## NOTE:

- You can upload a maximum of 5 (five) units as “PROOF OF WORK”
- It can be a combination of video, images and/or audio files.
- Please make sure that the material provided can be easily understood and shown to the jury.
- Entries that are not in English should be translated or accompanied by a full translation.

## 10. FEES

- An **entry fee of Rs.11,000/- plus 18% GST i.e., Rs.12980/-** will be applicable for each piece of work entered in category **1 to 21 and 23 TO 27**.
- For **Category 22, Innovative Use of Integrated Media** the entry fee will be **Rs.15,000/- plus 18% GST i.e., Rs.17700/-**.
- For South Asian Countries (**Category 28**): the **entry fee will be US\$ 20/- plus 18% GST** (Exchange rate prevailing on day of submission). **PLEASE MAKE THE PAYMENT IN INR (INDIAN RUPEES). SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES ENTERING WORK PLEASE WRITE TO [abbys@theadclub.in](mailto:abbys@theadclub.in) FOR SPECIAL PRICE OF US\$ 20/- plus 18% GST. A COUPON CODE WILL BE GENERATED AND SHARED TO APPLY AT CHECKOUT. ONLINE PAYMENTS ARE MANDATORY FOR INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS.**
- Payments should be made by Demand Draft payable at par at Mumbai or Cheque in favour of **The Advertising Club Bombay A/c Abbys**.
- **Mode of Payment:** Entrants may make online payment (NEFT / RTGS, Mobile Banking) or Payment Gateway System or a consolidated payment by cheque / DD. The entries submitted through cheque / DD should be in favour of “The Advertising Club Bombay A/c Abbys”. Outstation cheques will not be accepted. DD preferred. Please mention the entrant’s name behind the Demand Draft. In the event of NEFT/RTGS/Mobile Banking it is compulsory to send the copy of the Payment Advice or UTR NO. along with system generated invoice copy to [mathew@theadclub.in](mailto:mathew@theadclub.in) with a copy to [abbys@theadclub.in](mailto:abbys@theadclub.in) There will be no refunds for any reason.
- **Exclusively for Technical support only, please email to [abbys@theadclub.in](mailto:abbys@theadclub.in)**
- **For Process related support, please email to [smita@theadclub.in](mailto:smita@theadclub.in), [gopal@theadclub.in](mailto:gopal@theadclub.in)**
- **For Accounting / Invoicing support, please email to [mathew@theadclub.in](mailto:mathew@theadclub.in), [ruth@theadclub.in](mailto:ruth@theadclub.in)**

- **NEFT DETAILS: ABBYS BANK DETAILS**

<b>Bank Name</b>	<b>ICICI Bank</b>
<b>Account Type</b>	<b>Saving Account</b>
<b>Branch &amp; Address</b>	<b>Opera House Branch. 396/410 Shamilha Terrace, Lamington Road, Opera House, Mumbai 400 004.</b>
<b>RTGS/NEFT IFSE Code</b>	<b>ICIC0000348</b>
<b>Account Name</b>	<b>The Advertising Club Bombay A/c ABBYS</b>
<b>Account No.</b>	<b>034801004460</b>
<b>MICR</b>	<b>400229044</b>

## 11. MISCELLANOUS

Each entrant must accept full responsibility for the quality of entries and discharges the organizers from any responsibility in respect of third parties. The decisions of the organizer in all matters relating to GOAFEST shall be final and binding.

## 12. HOW TO UPLOAD ONLINE AT GOAFEST ABBY MEDIA 2026

Kindly follow the below mentioned instructions, so as to enable you to upload your entries for GoaFest Abby Media 2026.

### How to Login:

1. You will have to register first using the website address given by us i.e., [media.abbyawards.com](http://media.abbyawards.com)
2. You will have to create your own login ID and Password and verify your email address to start entering the work.
3. Please refer to the Help option for any guidance required.
4. We suggest that name of the Entrant Organization / Client should be correctly and carefully entered and follow a uniform policy while entering. Please use the same name across all entries without any abbreviation or short forms. No changes will be allowed post submission of the entry.
5. The participants have been provided with multiple edit facility which can be used to edit entries but once the participant chooses the option FINAL SUBMIT there is no room for any change.
6. All proof of work should be as follows: Videos should be in MP4 format up to a maximum of 100MB, Radio spot in mp3 format and print entries in jpeg format up to a maximum of 10MB.