



Highlights of 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

: Mumbai, November 17, 2025

The 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), one of Asia's most prestigious film festivals, will open on 20 November 2025 with a grand opening parade in Panaji, marking the beginning of an eight-day celebration of global cinema and storytelling.

Established in 1952, IFFI has played a pivotal role in bringing the finest films from around the world to Indian audiences. Since its permanent move to Goa in 2004, the festival has been jointly organized by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, and the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), Government of Goa. The festival is held annually in Goa from 20–28 November.

Record Global Participation

The 56th edition of IFFI has received an **unprecedented 3,400+ film submissions from 127 countries**, reaffirming the festival's growing stature on the global festival circuit.

From these, 270+ films from 84 countries will be screened across Competitive and Curated sections. This year's selection includes:

- **26 World Premieres**
- **5 International Premieres**
- **48 Asia Premieres**
- **99 Indian Premieres**

Films will be showcased across 13 theatres in Goa, all equipped with accessibility features such as audio description, sign-language support, and multilingual dubbing.

IFFI remains the only South Asian film festival accredited by FIAPF (International Federation of Film Producers' Associations) in the Competitive Feature Films category.

Three Outstanding International Competition will feature 32 films from 5 countries.

In total, the festival will present 15 Competitive and Curated segments, including **International Competition, Best Debut Feature Film of a Director, ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal, and special segments such as Macabre Dreams, Docu-Montage, Experimental Films, UNICEF, and Restored Classics.**



Opening Film, Mid-fest Film, Closing Film

Opening Film of 56th IFFI is *“The Blue Trail”* by Gabriel Mascaro (Brazil), while the Mid-Fest film is *“Sirāt”* by Oliver Laxe (Spain), and the festival will close with screening of *“A Useful Ghost”* by Ratchapoom Boontarig (Thailand).

Country Focus: Japan, Special Film Packages from Partner Country Spain and Spotlight Australia

The Country Focus is 56th IFFI is **Japan**. Curated packages of Japanese cinema, institutional collaborations, and cultural showcases are being lined up. Further, Special Film Packages from Partner Country **Spain** and Spotlight **Australia** will also be there.

Centenary Tribute to Legendary Filmmakers and Artists

56th IFFI will pay tribute to centenaries of legendary filmmakers and artists including *Guru Dutt*, *Raj Khosla*, *Ritwik Ghatak*, *P. Bhanumathi*, *Bhupen Hazarika*, and *Salil Chowdhury*. Salil Chowdhury’s *Musafir* and Ritwik Ghatak’s *Subarnarekha* will be shown at IFFI 2025.

This year, legendary actor ***Rajinikanth will be honoured at the closing ceremony for completing 50 years in cinema.***

Indian Panaroma 2025

25 Feature Films, 20 Non-Feature Films, and 5 Debut Feature Films to be showcased.

Opening Film (Feature) will be *Amaran* by Rajkumar Periasamy, an inspiring biographical drama celebrating courage and national service. **Opening Film (Non-Feature)** will be *Kakori: A Revolutionary Tale* by Ajay Saklani — a compelling retelling of India’s historic Kakori conspiracy.

The **Gala Premieres** segment will present 18 titles, including 13 World Premieres, 2 Asia

Premieres, 1 India Premiere, and 2 Special Showcase screenings. The red carpet will welcome a distinguished line-up of artists and filmmakers.

Line-up of films from top film festivals and Oscar nominations

Top award winning films from world’s top film festivals will also be screened at 56th IFFI. These



include top prize winners from Cannes, Berlin, Rotterdam, Venice, Karlovy Vary and Sundance film festivals.

The festival will also screen 21 Oscar entries, and present 50+ films by women directors and 50+ debut filmmaker works.

Awards

Eleven Awards with a Prize Money of over 150,000 USD (1.35 Crore INR) in the closing ceremony on 28th November, 2025.

The Golden Peacock for Best Film has a cash prize of Rs. 40 lakhs. **The Silver Peacock** carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakhs and is given for Best Film, Best Actor (Male), Best Actor (Female).

Best Debut Feature Film of a Director having a cash prize ₹5 lakhs; and **Best Web Series (OTT) Award** (cash prize ₹10 lakhs among creators/producers) are also given.

The **IFFI Special Jury Award** (officially known as the **Silver Peacock – Special Jury Award**) is presented to a film for excellence in any aspect of the film which the Jury wishes to recognise. The winner is selected from the pool of 15 films competing for the Best Film Award, and given to the Director of the film. The Award carries a Silver Peacock, a cash prize of Rs. 15,00,000, and a Certificate.

In 2025, 15 films will compete for the Golden Peacock and 3 films for the Silver Peacock.

The Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award continues its legacy after past recipients including Phillip Noyce (2024), Michael Douglas (2023), Carlos Saura (2022), Martin Scorsese (2021), Istvan Szabo (2021), and Vittorio Storaro (2020).

The Indian Film Personality of the Year Award is presented to an Indian film personality for their outstanding contribution to Indian cinema. The winners of the last couple of years include accomplished actors Madhuri Dixit (2022), Chiranjeevi (2023) and Vikrant Massey (2024).

Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT)

From 799 entries, 124 young creators were selected across 13 filmmaking crafts, including 24 wildcard winners from the CIC Challenge at WAVES 2025, as part of the Creative Minds of Tomorrow at the 56th IFFI Goa.



Waves Film Bazaar (19th edition)

India's premier film market returns with:

- **300+ film projects** across Screenwriters Lab, Market Screenings, Viewing Room, and Co-Production Markets
- **22 Feature Films** and **5 Documentaries** in the Co-Production Market
- Cash grants totaling **USD 20,000**
- WAVES Film Bazaar Recommends (WFBR): **22 selected films** in multiple formats
- Delegations from **7+ countries** and film incentives showcases from **10+ Indian states**
- A dedicated **Tech Pavilion** showcasing cutting-edge VFX, CGI, animation and digital production technologies

The **Knowledge Series** will include pitching sessions, country/state showcases and workshops on production, distribution, and emerging formats.

Marketplace & Co-Production Opportunities: WAVES Film Bazaar networking events will bring together filmmakers, producers, sales agents, festival programmers, and investors to foster creative and financial collaborations.

Masterclass, Panels & Interactive Programmes

Film enthusiasts can look forward to 21 master classes and panel discussions in 10 formats at Kala Academy, featuring luminaries Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Anupam Kher, Christopher Charles Corbould OBE, Bobby Deol, Aamir Khan, Ravi Varman, Kushboo Sundar, Suhasini Maniratnam, Pete Draper and Sreekar Prasad among others. Sessions will range from editing and acting in the digital era to sustainability, Theatre Acting, AI and VFX technologies.

New panels will address cinema's role in promoting peace and the challenges of filmmaking. "In Conversation" sessions will feature celebrated artists and filmmakers across industries. Technical sessions will highlight editing, cinematography, VFX and SFX.

Jury Members

International Competition Section Jury Chairperson is noted Indian film maker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra and the Jury comprises of noted members Graeme Clifford (Australia), Remi Adefarasin (England), Katharina Schüttler (Germany), Chandran Rutnam (Sri Lanka).

Indian Panorama Juries:

Feature Films: Raja Bundela (Chairperson)

Non-Feature Films: Dharam Gulati (Chairperson)



OTT Jury: Bharat Bala (Chairperson)

CinemAI Hackathon

A new initiative at IFFI 2025, the CinemAI Hackathon, will be organised in collaboration with LTIMindtree and WAVES Film Bazaar. The programme focuses on AI-driven innovation in filmmaking—reinforcing IFFI's commitment to advancing cinematic technology, simplifying certification processes, and strengthening anti-piracy frameworks.

IFFIlesta – Cultural Showcase

IFFIlesta, a four-day celebration of music, performance, and creative arts, will be held at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Auditorium from 21–24 November, 6–8 PM. The event highlights India's vibrant creative economy by bringing artists and audiences together through live cultural experiences.

For more information, click on:

IFFI Website: <https://www.iffigoa.org/>

PIB's IFFI Microsite: <https://www.pib.gov.in/iffi/56new/>

PIB IFFIWood Broadcast Channel:

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaEiBaML2AU6gnzWOm3F>

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