



Thalaivar Turns 50 in Cinema: Rajinikanth Felicitated at 56th IFFI

“Even if I have 100 Births, I Want to be Born as Rajinikanth”, says the Superstar

#IFFIWood, 28 November 2025

The 56th International Film Festival of India celebrated a monumental milestone in Indian cinema as it felicitated the legendary actor Shri Rajinikanth for completing 50 years in the film industry. Known affectionately as Thalaivar, Shri Rajinikanth has enthralled audiences across generations with his charismatic screen presence, distinctive style, and iconic performances.



The felicitation, part of the Closing Ceremony, recognised Shri Rajinikanth’s immense contribution to Indian cinema, not only in Tamil films but also in Hindi, Telugu, and Kannada movies. With over 170 films to his credit, the superstar has left an indelible mark on popular culture, earning numerous accolades including the Padma Bhushan (2000), Padma Vibhushan (2016), and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2020).



Shri Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa, felicitated Shri Rajnikanth by presenting him with shawl and memento. Dr. L. Murugan, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, and actor Shri Ranveer Singh were present.

Receiving the honour, Shri Rajnikanth expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the central government. He added that looking back, 50 years feels like 10 or 15 years, because he loves cinema and acting. "Even if there are 100 births, I would like to be born as Rajnikanth," said the superstar.



Through this celebration, IFFI 2025 honours a cultural icon whose artistry has transcended language and geography, inspiring filmmakers and audiences alike. The Golden Jubilee not only marks a personal milestone for Shri Rajinikanth but also stands as a testament to the transformative power of cinema in shaping Indian popular culture.

🔥 Fifty Years of Pure Rajni Magic! 🔥

As [#IFFI2025](#) celebrates 50 glorious years of Rajinikanth, we honour a legend who reimagined heroism, elevated storytelling and connected with millions through sheer charisma and heart.

From breaking box-office records to redefining Indian... pic.twitter.com/jBRCBkZXAS

— PIB in Goa 🇮🇳 (@PIB_Panaji) [November 28, 2025](#)

About IFFI

Born in 1952, the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) stands tall as South Asia's oldest and largest celebration of cinema. Jointly hosted by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India and the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), State Government of Goa, the festival has grown into a global cinematic powerhouse—where restored classics meet bold experiments, and legendary maestros share space with fearless first-timers. What makes IFFI truly sparkle is its electric mix—international competitions, cultural showcases, masterclasses, tributes, and the high-energy WAVES Film Bazaar, where ideas, deals and collaborations take flight. Staged against Goa's stunning coastal backdrop from November 20–28, the 56th edition promises a dazzling spectrum of languages, genres, innovations, and voices—an immersive celebration of India's creative brilliance on the world stage.

For more information, click on:

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

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

PIB IFFI Wood Broadcast Channel: <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaEiBaML2AU6gnzWOm3F>

X Handles: @IFFIGoa, @PIB_India, @PIB_Panaji

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