



Cinematography is the Art of Making Audiences Believe in a World: Modhura Palit at 19th MIFF Workshop

From Light to Lens: Modhura Palit Explores the Soul of Cinematography at MIFF

Mumbai, 17 June 2026

A workshop titled “Core Craft & Visual Language: The Soul of Cinematography” was held at the 19th MIFF. Featuring acclaimed cinematographer and director Modhura Palit, the first Indian recipient of the prestigious Pierre Angénieux Excellens Award at the Cannes Film Festival.

Addressing filmmakers, students and cinema enthusiasts, Palit described cinematography as the art of creating a believable world for audiences. She said cinematography goes beyond recording images and involves using movement, light, framing and composition to support storytelling and evoke emotions.



Explaining the role of a cinematographer, she noted that cinematographers translate a director's vision into visual language. Every creative choice from camera movement to lens selection helps shape how viewers experience a story and connect with its characters.

The workshop explored how visual elements influence audience perception. Through examples, Palit demonstrated how different camera movements create distinct emotional effects, while framing, composition and the use of space can subtly communicate relationships, isolation or tension. She also highlighted the importance of lighting in shaping mood and revealing a character's inner state.

Emphasising that cinematography is driven by artistic intent rather than technology, she said cameras and equipment are merely tools, while creativity and observation remain at the heart of visual storytelling.

Palit also spoke about the practical realities of filmmaking, including managing schedules, equipment, weather conditions and production challenges. Drawing from her professional experience, she stressed upon the importance of adaptability and understanding the unique visual character of every location.



During the interactive question and answer session, participants discussed topics such as handheld cinematography, collaboration with directors and the growing use of smartphone cameras in filmmaking. Responding to a question on technology, she observed that while smartphones have made filmmaking more accessible, cinematography continues to be defined by intention, meaning and storytelling.

The session concluded with an encouraging message for aspiring filmmakers to view cinematography as a craft that combines creativity, observation and emotional understanding to create meaningful cinematic experiences.

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PIB Team MIFF | Nikita Joshi/Robin Singh/Darshana Rane

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