IFFI 2026 Set to Bring the World of Cinema Together in Goa Under the Theme 'Stories Without Borders'

> Over 150 International Films from 86 Countries to Bring the World to Goa
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> Goa Ready to Welcome Global Cinema Community for 57th IFFI: CM Dr. Pramod Sawant
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> Festival Director Shri Ashutosh Gowariker Highlights Cinema's Power to Connect Cultures Across Borders
>
> 'Fatherland' to Serve as the Opening Film of the 57th IFFI, 'I Matter' to Feature as Mid-Fest film, and 'We Are All Strangers' to Close the 57th IFFI
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> IFFI 2026 Places Special Focus on BRICS Cinema, with India's 'Ramayana' as the Opening Film
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> 76 Films, 18 Languages: Indian Panorama Celebrates the Many Voices of Indian Cinema, To open with 'Dhurandhar' and 'Becoming'
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> Spain Brings Its Cinematic Colours to the 57th IFFI as Country of Honour, Russia Joins IFFI as Partner Country
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> WAVES Film Bazaar and Netflix Join Hands to Empower India's Creative Talent and Strengthen Global Storytelling
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> New Voices, Fresh Visions: Seven International Films Compete in Best Debut Feature Films

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The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will bring together filmmakers, cinema enthusiasts and creative voices from across the world in Goa from **20 to 28 November 2026**, under the theme *'Stories Without Borders'*. Reflecting its growing global reach, the festival has received **over 1,900 film submissions from 137 countries** and will showcase **more than 150 international films representing 86 countries**, creating a vibrant platform for cross-cultural exchange, diverse storytelling and cinematic excellence.

> 🎬 The countdown to cinematic brilliance begins! ✨ 🎞️ Get ready to celebrate the magic of cinema, creativity and storytelling as the 57th International Film Festival of India (#IFFI57) takes centre stag 🌍 This year, under the inspiring theme 'Stories Without Borders', #IFFI celebrates the power of cinema to transcend geographical and cultural boundaries, bringing people together through stories and shared human experiences 📽️ The excitement is building, the spotlight is ready, and the world of cinema awaits! ▶️ Watch the video to catch a glimpse of the grand cinematic celebration that awaits! 🍿 🌟 @IFFIGoa @MIB_India #IFFI2026 #StoriesWithoutBorders
>
> — PIB India (@PIB_India) November 13, 2026

The Curtain Raiser Press Conference of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026, held at Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon, Goa, was inaugurated by **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant**, who unveiled the festival's expansive programme celebrating Indian and international cinema. Expressing pride in Goa's association with IFFI, he described the festival as an integral part of the state's cultural identity and calendar. He also highlighted the state government's preparations to welcome the global film fraternity, with arrangements for screening venues, transport, hospitality and public facilities.

> The 57th International Film Festival of India (#IFFI) 2026 will be held in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2026. Every November, #Goa transforms into a vibrant hub for storytellers from across the globe. As cinema transcends boundaries and brings people and cultures together, Goa is once again ready to roll out the red carpet and welcome the world of cinema! - CM @DrPramodPSawant at the Curtain Raiser Press Conference of the 57th IFFI @IFFIGoa #IFFI57 #IFFI2026
>
> — PIB India (@PIB_India) November 13, 2026

The Curtain Raiser Press event was also attended by Ms. M Delilah M. Lobo, Vice Chairperson, Entertainment Society of Goa, , Shri Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Shri Krishna Kumar, Chairperson, NFDC, and Shri Ashutosh Gowariker, Festival Director, IFFI 2026, Shri Prabhat, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; Shri Madhur Bhandarkar, Chairperson, Feature Film Jury; Shri Himanshu Shekhar Khatua, Chairperson, Non-Feature Film Jury; Shri Deepak Mandekar, CEO, Entertainment Society of Goa; and Shri Dheeraj Singh, Managing Director, NFDC, & Smita Vats Sharma, DG West Zone PIB



Shri Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, highlighted IFFI's evolution as a major platform for Indian and international cinema, promoting cinematic excellence, cultural exchange and engagement with diverse voices. He recalled Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's observation that *"The stories may have an address, but emotions have no borders."* Elaborating on this thought, he emphasised this year's theme, *'Stories Without Borders'*, and the ability of cinema to transcend geographical, linguistic and cultural barriers. He also highlighted India's rich storytelling traditions across languages, cultures and communities, and expressed confidence that the 57th IFFI would further strengthen the festival's standing on the international cinematic stage.



Festival Director Ashutosh Gowariker explained the theme *'Stories Without Borders'*, highlighting cinema's power to transcend geographical, linguistic and cultural boundaries and connect audiences through universal human emotions and storytelling.



> The theme for IFFI 2026 is 'Stories Without Borders'. 🎬 It is not just a slogan for a poster. It is the question we put to every section and every screening: Does this film that we are featuring connect with audiences in ways they have not experienced before? Once we start asking that question, we discover borders in many more places than we had initially expected. 🎬 This year's #IFFI features 159 films from 86 countries, selected from a staggering 1,400 submissions. The festival will open on November 20. 🎬 We are very proud to present Fatherland by Paweł Pawlikowski as our opening film. He is a joint winner of the Best Director Award at the 79th Cannes Film Festival. - Film Director, IFFI, @AshGowariker at the Curtain Raiser Press Conference of the 57th IFFI @IFFIGoa #IFFI57 #IFFI2026
>
> — PIB India (@PIB_India) November 13, 2026

Dheeraj Singh, MD, NFDC, presented the festival's overall vision, highlighting its global outreach, diverse cinematic offerings and evolving identity.



Key Highlights of the 57th Edition

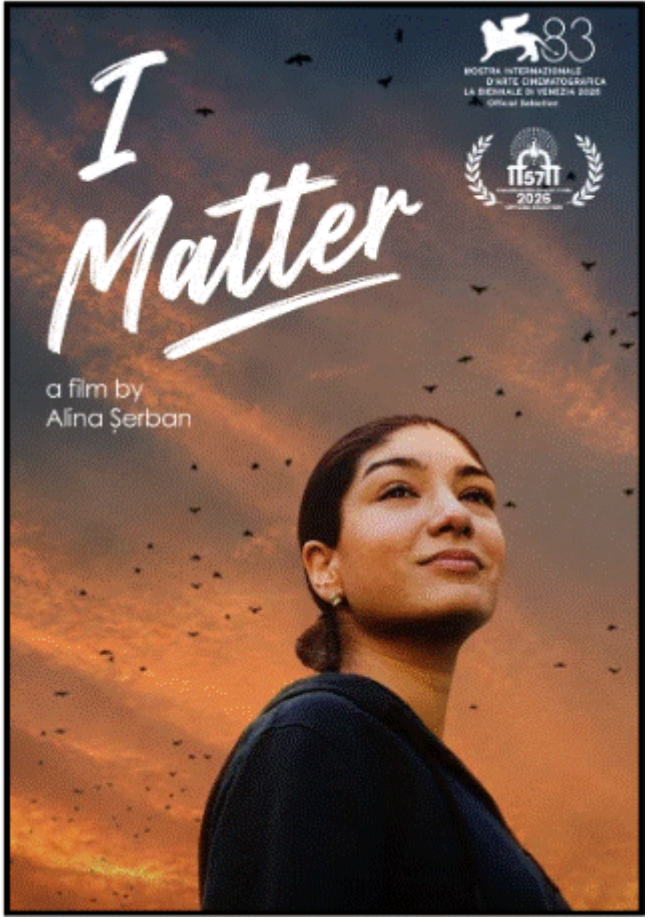
Opening Film

The opening film, Fatherland, directed by Paweł Pawlikowski, follows Nobel laureate Thomas Mann and his daughter Erika as they travel through post-war, divided Germany in 1949, exploring the political and personal divisions of the time. The film received the Best Director Award at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival and was also nominated for the Sydney Film Prize 2026.

> A cinematic start to the 57th #IFFI in Goa! 🎬✨ Fatherland by Paweł Pawlikowski, the Academy Award winning writer and director of Ida and Cold War, will be the Opening Film 🎞️📽️ #IFFI2026 #IFFI57 #StoriesWithoutBorders
>
> — PIB India (@PIB_India) November 13, 2026

'I Matter' Named Mid-Fest Film of 57th IFFI 2026

The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026 will showcase *I Matter*, directed by Alina Șerban, as its Mid-Fest Film. A 101-minute film co-produced by Romania, Germany and Belgium, it features dialogues in Romanian and Romani, bringing a diverse European cinematic perspective to the festival.



Gala Premieres

The Gala Premieres segment will feature 14 screenings, with participation from 87 countries showcasing a curated selection of films and providing audiences an opportunity to experience diverse cinematic stories and acclaimed filmmaking.

The Country of Honour: Spain

The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) highlights Spain as the Country of Honour, showcasing four Spanish films: The Bad Son, directed by Jaime Lorente; Trinidad; Bitter Christmas, directed by Pedro Almodóvar; and Persegiuiendo a Michael, directed by Jaime Machia. The selection celebrates Spanish cinema and its diverse storytelling, bringing Spanish filmmakers and cinematic perspectives to the international platform of IFFI.



Partner Country: Russia

The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) presents Russia as the Partner Country, with a special showcase of four films representing the diversity and creative richness of Russian cinema. The featured films include Four (Четыре), New Home, Bo Bo, directed by Anastasia Kuzina, and Sidney Lumet's Birthday. The showcase provides Indian and international audiences with an opportunity to discover contemporary Russian filmmaking, engage with its evolving cinematic landscape and appreciate the cultural and artistic exchange between India and Russia through the medium of cinema.



IFFI 2026 Introduces Two New Segments

The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026 has introduced two new segments this year to broaden its cinematic offerings and celebrate diverse forms of storytelling. The first segment, **Animation**, will feature five outstanding films, showcasing creativity and innovation in animated cinema. The second segment, **Films About Films**, will also present five films and has been introduced in response to suggestions from renowned filmmakers, with the objective of bringing the art and craft of filmmaking to the forefront.

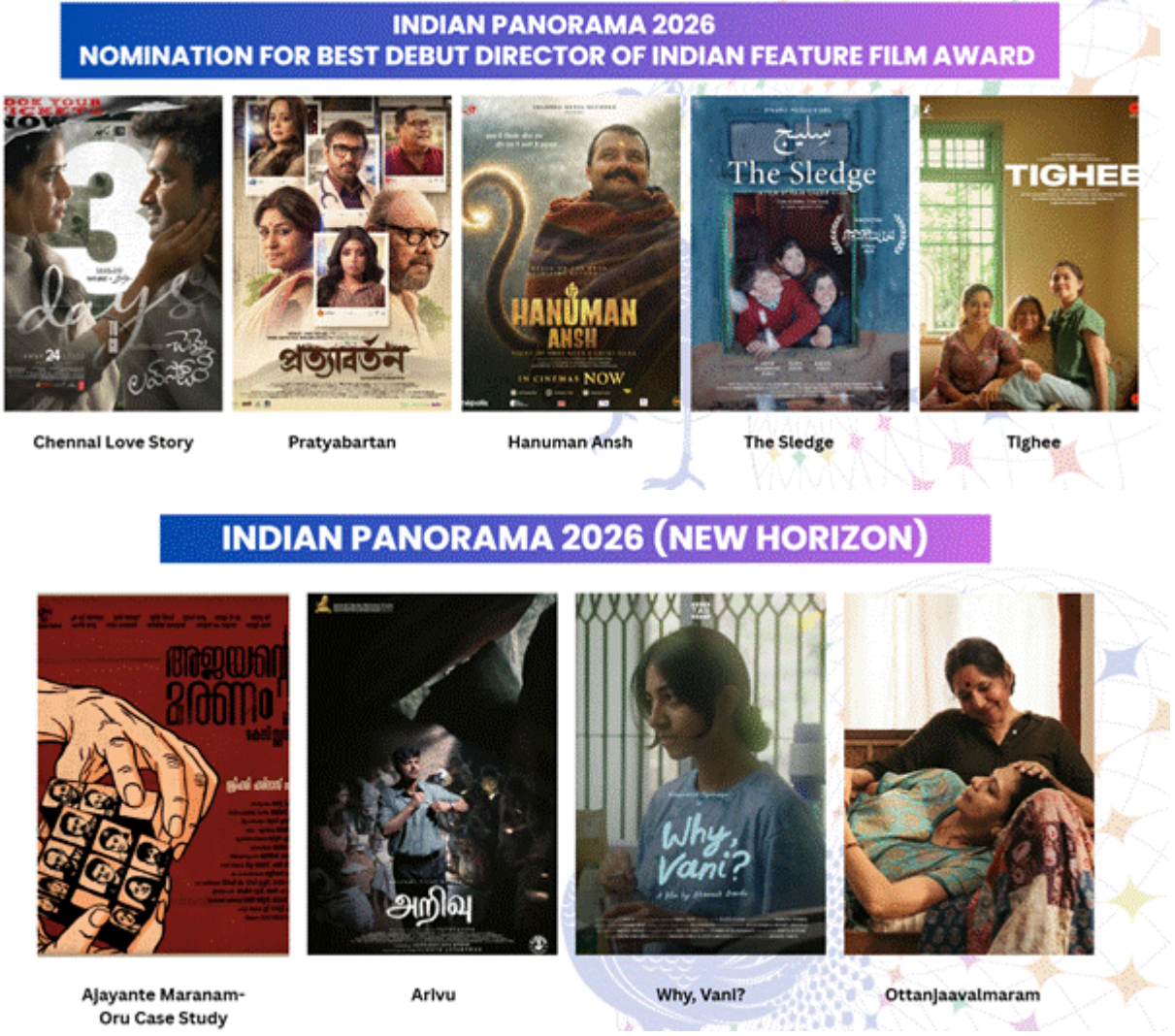
IFFI 2026 Places Special Focus on BRICS Cinema

Another key highlight of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026 will be its special focus on BRICS cinema. India's *Ramayana* will be the opening film of the BRICS segment, which will showcase films from all 11 member countries, along with contributions from partner countries, offering audiences an opportunity to explore diverse cinematic traditions and storytelling from across the BRICS nations.

Indian Panorama

Total 76 films are being showcased under Indian Cinema section in 18 diffrent languages, reflecting the country's diverse storytelling traditions and creative excellence.

The selection process received 404 feature film submissions& the non-feature category received 358 submissions. The Best Web Series (OTT) category received 46 eligible entries.



‘Dhurandhar’ and ‘Becoming’ to Open Indian Panorama at IFFI 2026

The Indian Panorama section of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026 will open with *Dhurandhar*, a Hindi feature film, and *Becoming*, a Ladakhi-language non-feature film. Bringing together films from two distinct linguistic and cinematic backgrounds, the opening selection reflects IFFI’s vision of celebrating India’s diverse storytelling traditions and showcasing cinema without borders.

Best Debut Feature Films Competition

The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) presents the Best Debut Feature Films Competition, featuring seven films from different countries, celebrating emerging filmmakers and fresh cinematic perspectives from across the world. The competition includes Fading Man from Germany, The Sledge from India, Paris from Belgium, The Black Sea from Egypt, L’Âge d’Or (The Golden Age) from France and Italy, Birds on Ice from India, and Atlantic from China. The competition provides an international platform for first-time feature film directors to showcase their talent, gain wider recognition and connect with global audiences, while highlighting IFFI’s commitment to encouraging new voices and nurturing the next generation of filmmakers.



Women Filmmakers, Debut Voices & Emerging Talent

Celebrating fresh perspectives and diverse storytelling, the 57th IFFI will bring together **52 women filmmakers and 62 debut filmmakers**, reflecting the expanding creative landscape of Indian and international cinema. The competitive sections will further spotlight **10 women filmmakers and 12 debut filmmakers**, underscoring the festival's commitment to amplifying women's voices, nurturing new talent and providing a global platform for the next generation of cinematic storytellers.

Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT)

The sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow will bring together 100 selected participants across 13 filmmaking crafts.

The programme will feature specially curated masterclasses, workshops, in-conversation sessions, a 48-hour filmmaking challenge and the CMOT Talent Camp. Participants will engage with leading filmmakers and industry professionals, pitch creative concepts and explore opportunities across the media and entertainment industry.

WAVES Film Bazaar

WAVES Film Bazaar will bring together filmmakers, producers, buyers, distributors and industry stakeholders to facilitate collaboration, co-production and business opportunities.

The Bazaar will welcome 150 invited guests, including buyers and production houses. Its key initiatives will include the Screenwriters' Lab, Co-production Market, Viewing Room and Work-in-Progress Lab.



Netflix, the Knowledge Series partner at WAVES Bazaar, will support industry capacity-building and showcase its collaboration with the Government to strengthen India's VFX capabilities and nurture a future-ready talent pipeline. Its participation will also feature the Gala Premiere of Pushpak Viman, an international screening of Ray Gunn and engagement in pitching sessions to support emerging creative talent and foster industry opportunities.

Masterclasses, Panels & Interactive Programmes

IFFI 2026 will host 14 sessions at Kala Academy from 21 to 27 November 2026, featuring masterclasses, workshops, panel discussions, retrospectives, in-conversation and interview sessions.

The sessions will bring together filmmakers, artists and industry professionals to explore subjects ranging from documentary cinema and filmmaking across borders to women shaping world cinema, storytelling, casting, subtitling and emerging cinematic practices.

Centenary Tributes & Restored Classics

The festival will celebrate the legacy of distinguished filmmakers and artists through centenary tributes, retrospectives and restored classics.

A special centenary tribute to filmmaker **Andrzej Wajda** will feature five films. The Restored Classics section will also present five films, providing audiences an opportunity to revisit significant works of cinematic history.

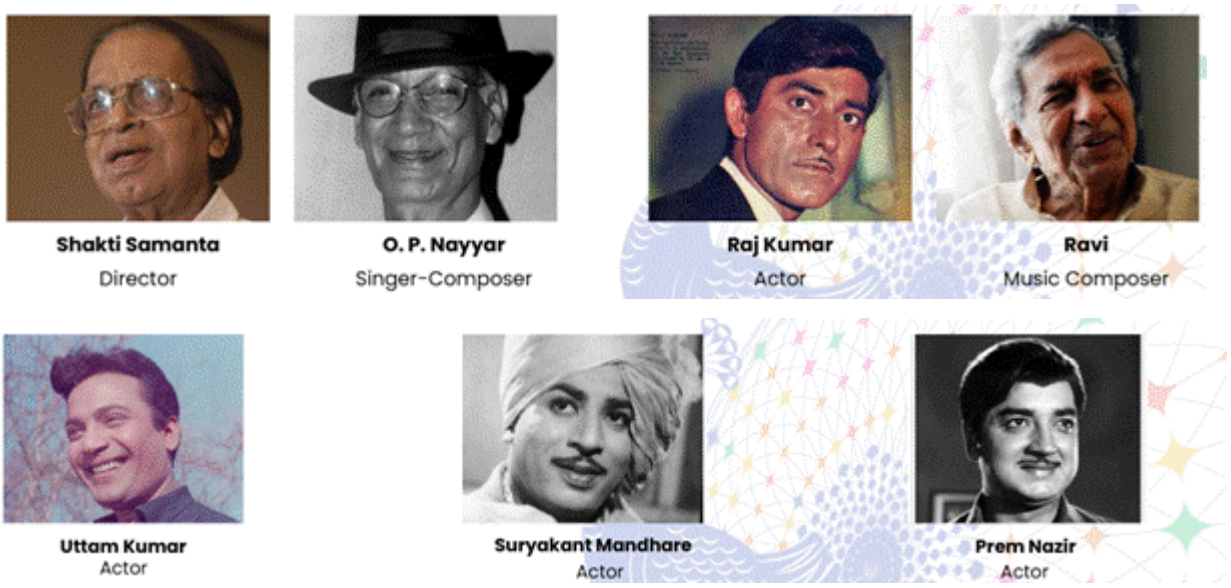


Festival Venues & Public Engagement

The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is set to transform Goa into a vibrant cinematic destination, with nine days of film screenings across 13 indoor screens at four locations. From the bustling festival hub of Panaji, with seven screens across INOX, Maquinez, Samrat and Ashoka, to the INOX screens at Porvorim, and the iconic Ravindra Bhavan in Margao and Magic Movie in Ponda, the festival promises an immersive cinematic experience for film enthusiasts. With diverse screening spaces and a combined seating capacity of over 4,000, IFFI will bring the magic of world cinema closer to audiences across Goa.

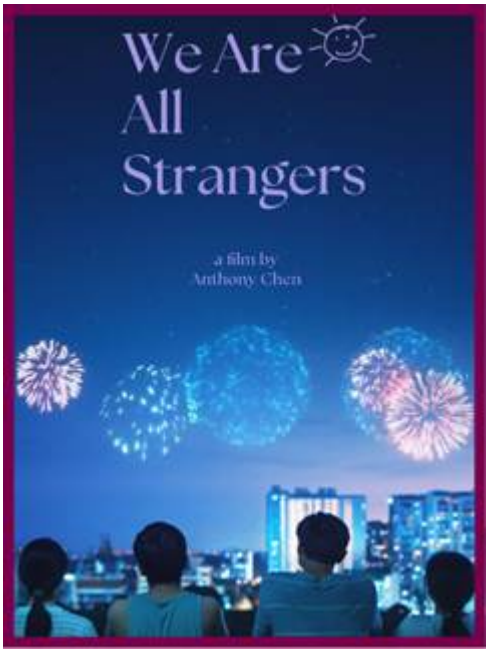
Centenary Celebrations

IFFI 2026 will celebrate the birth centenaries of eminent personalities of Indian cinema, paying tribute to legendary filmmakers Shakti Samanta and Raj Khosla, actors Uttam Kumar, Suryakant Mandhare, Prem Nazir and Raj Kumar, and renowned music composers O. P. Nayyar and Ravi. The festival will honour their exceptional contributions to Indian cinema and their enduring legacy in shaping the country's cinematic and musical heritage.



The 57th IFFI concludes with Anthony Chen's We Are All Strangers

The closing film of the 57th IFFI, We Are All Strangers, directed by Anthony Chen, represents Singapore and has a runtime of 157 minutes. Presented in Mandarin and English, the film brings the festival to a close with a distinctive cinematic offering from contemporary Singaporean cinema.



> 🎬 Meet the Jury for International Competition at the International Film Festival of India (#IFFI) 2026! 🌟 Five distinguished members from the world of cinema come together to evaluate outstanding films from across the globe🌎 🔸 Aanand L Rai, Chairperson (India) 🔸 Bogdan Mureșanu, Writer, Director and Producer (Romania) #IFFI2026 #IFFI57 (1/2)
>
> — PIB India (@PIB_India) November 13, 2026

About International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

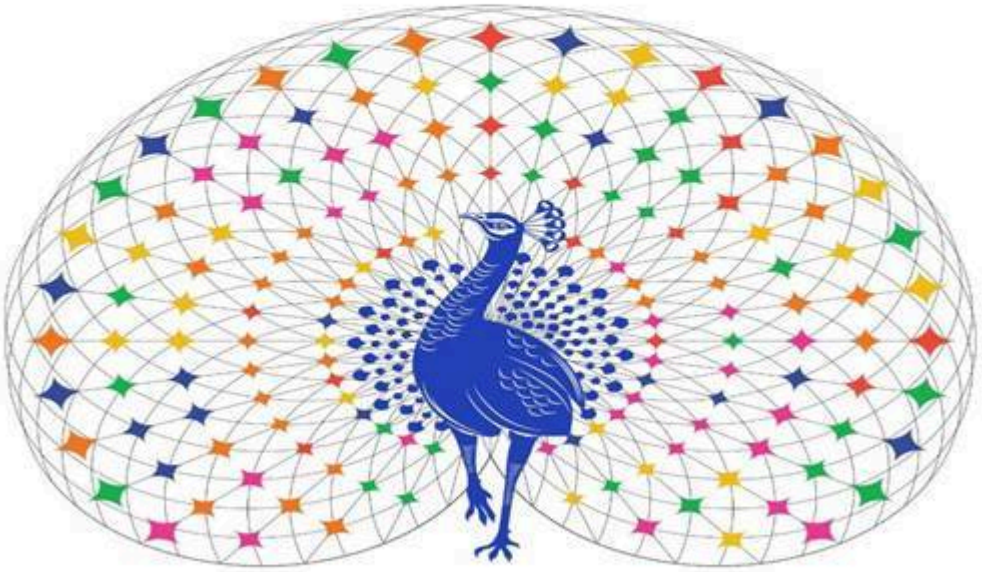
Established in 1952, the International Film Festival of India is one of Asia's oldest and prominent international film festivals. Organised by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, in association with the Government of Goa and the Entertainment Society of Goa, IFFI celebrates the best of world cinema while promoting Indian films and talent on a global platform. Held annually in Goa, the festival serves as a platform for creative exchange, discovery of new voices and fostering cultural understanding through cinema.

About National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)

The National Film Development Corporation of India is a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Established in 1975, NFDC plays a key role in promoting Indian cinema, supporting independent filmmakers and facilitating co-productions with international partners. It also manages WAVES Film Bazaar, which connects Indian creators with global markets and facilitates opportunities for collaboration across the media and entertainment industry.

57TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA

STORIES WITHOUT BORDERS



20th to 28th NOVEMBER, 2026
GOA, INDIA

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Mahesh Kumar/ Aparajita Priyadarshini