Northeast Cinema Finds its Spotlight at 57th IFFI with Four Indian Panorama Selections

> Urum and Surjyamukhi set for World Premiere in the Feature Film section
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> Red Carpet and Chalo India With Eric Ji – Mizoram take the Northeast's cultural stories to the Non-Feature Film canvas

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The diverse cultures, compelling stories and distinctive cinematic voices of Northeast India will find a prominent place at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), with four films from the region selected for the prestigious Indian Panorama section. Scheduled to be held in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2026, IFFI will showcase two feature films and two non-feature films from the Northeast, offering audiences a glimpse into the region's indigenous heritage, social transformations and everyday lives.

Leading the feature film selection is *Urum (Spirit)*, which marks a historic milestone as the first Nyishi-language film to be selected for IFFI Indian Panorama. Directed by Duyu Tabyo, this psychological thriller from Arunachal Pradesh is also slated for its World Premiere at the festival. Set in a remote mountain village in Arunachal Pradesh, the film explores indigenous memory, trauma and concealed truths through the story of a father haunted by visions and guilt following the loss of his young daughter.



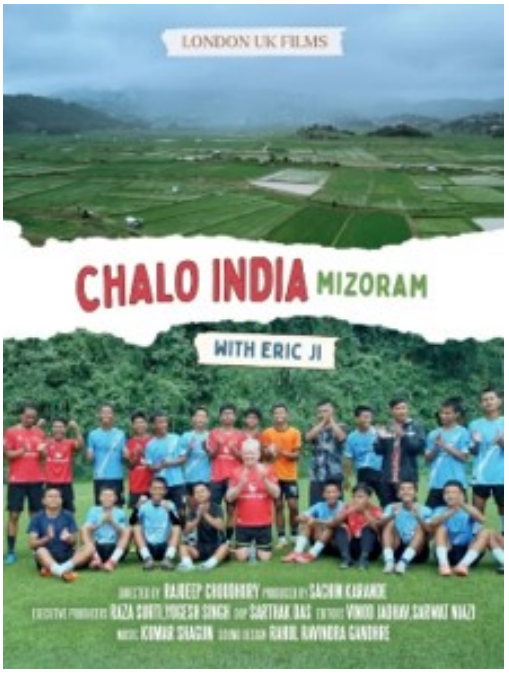
Joining *Urum* in the feature film lineup for its World Premiere is *Surjyamukhi (Sunflower)*, an Assamese drama directed by actor-director and theatre practitioner Antara G.G. Choudhury. Set against an urban backdrop, the film follows two young colleagues, Pushpal and Prarthana, whose initial rivalry gradually gives way to friendship and romance. However, the discovery of a lost bag of money sets off a series of unexpected moral dilemmas, testing their choices and relationships.



The Indian Panorama Non-Feature Film section brings two distinct stories from Assam and Mizoram. *Red Carpet*, a 30-minute Assamese documentary written and directed by award-winning filmmaker Aimee Baruah celebrates the enduring legacy of traditional handloom craftsmanship. Set in the Karbi

Anglong hills of Assam, the film follows a Karbi weaver from the village of Donkamokam on an extraordinary journey to the red carpet at Cannes. Through her story, the documentary highlights the resilience of indigenous artisans, the richness of Karbi weaving traditions and the importance of preserving ancestral crafts.





The other non-feature selection, *Chalo India With Eric Ji - Mizoram*, is a 48-minute English documentary directed by Rajdeep Choudhury. The film follows former British Member of Parliament and history teacher Eric Ollerenshaw OBE as he explores the social and cultural landscape of Mizoram. It offers a window into the state's high literacy levels, civic discipline and vibrant football culture, while also highlighting the significant contributions of Mizo women in business, education and community leadership.

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