57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) Showcases the Richness of Indian Cinema Alongside 'Mission Life'

Goa, November 18, 2026

The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), scheduled to be held in Goa from 20th to 28th November 2026 under the overarching theme "Stories Without Borders", places Indian Cinema and the curated Mission Life section at the forefront of global cinematic dialogue. The primary objective of bringing these two pillars together is to celebrate India's linguistic and regional storytelling diversity while simultaneously using cinema as a catalyst to explore ecological transformations, nature's agency and sustainable coexistence beyond a purely human-centred perspective.

Through this convergence, the festival seeks to advance the national vision of 'Create in India for the World', nurture emerging creative talent, and inspire audiences to reflect on humanity's shared responsibility toward the planet and one another.

Central to the festival's programming is Indian Cinema, which continues to serve as the beating heart of IFFI. Highlighting the country's film-friendly policies and vibrant creative economy, the Indian Panorama section presents a sweeping showcase of 30 feature films, 20 non-feature films and five web series nominated for the Best Web Series (OTT) Award.

The feature line-up encompasses five mainstream films, five works competing for the Best Debut Director of an Indian Feature Film and select titles under the New Horizon segment making their World, International, Asia, or India premieres.

Indian entries also command a strong presence across major competitive categories, including Kantara: A Legend – Chapter 1 (Kannada), Paro – The Untold Story of Bride Slavery (Hindi), and The Kerala Story 2 Goes Beyond (Hindi) in the International Competition, alongside Birds on Ice (Ladakhi) and Sledge (Kashmiri) in the Best Debut Feature Film category, and Kabir Sir ka Akhri Lesson (Hindi), Player 5 (Tamil), and Sev Micchar (Hindi) competing for the ICFT–UNESCO Gandhi Medal.

Furthermore, the festival honours India's rich cinematic heritage through Centenary Celebrations of classics such as Thulabharam, Sadhi Manase, Waqt, Kashmir Ki Kali, and Chowringhee, Golden Jubilee tributes to Bhakta Kannappa and Kabhi Kabhie, and special homages to veterans Bharathiraja, K. Bhagyaraj, and Nana Patekar, while empowering 100 young practitioners across 13 film crafts through the sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT).

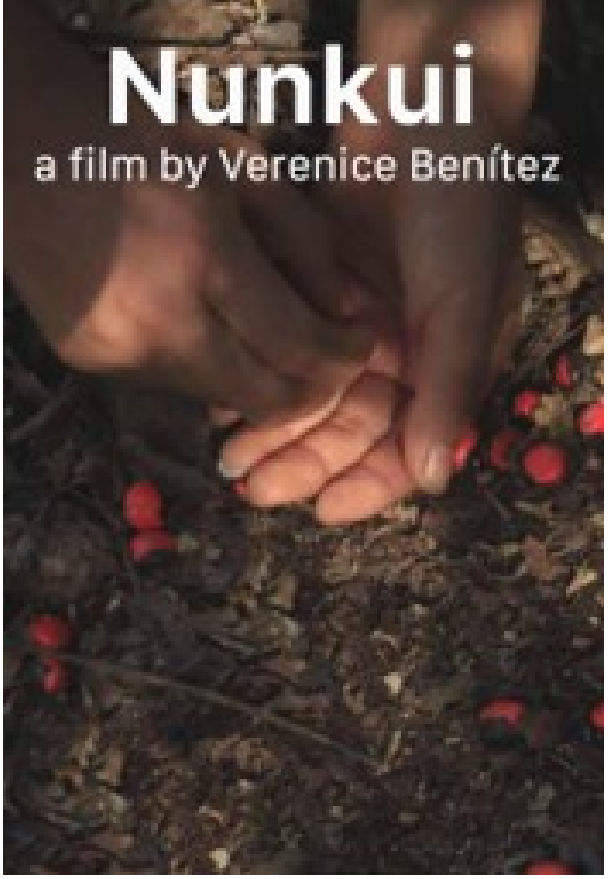


Complementing this celebration of national storytelling is the dedicated Mission Life section, which curates five international films examining ecological shifts, human–non-human relationships, and the urgent need to reimagine sustainable living.

The selection includes María Molina Peiró's Like Any Other Mortal (Como Todo Mortal), a Netherlands–Spain co-production making its Asia Premiere that blends documentary, flamenco, and science fiction to draw parallels between ancient mining scars in Andalusia and robotic exploration on Mars.

Making its Asia Premiere from Ecuador, Chile, and Germany, Verenice Benítez's Nunkui follows a young girl in an Amazonian Shuar community who draws strength from ancestral songs, forest spirits, and ecological kinship as mining corporations encroach upon her homeland.

From the Netherlands and Indonesia, Sabine Groenewegen's The Clearing makes its India Premiere by combining archival and contemporary footage to confront the colonial transformation of Sumatra's rainforests into rubber plantations and the enduring legacies of exploitation and resistance.



Further enriching the Mission Life slate is Leonardo Pirondi's Portugal–Brazil experimental sci-fi feature Tropical Fractals (Fractais Tropicais), screening as an India Premiere, which follows space-faring scientists and an artificial intelligence system studying Earth's final surviving traces as a lone wanderer traverses a ruined planet beginning to heal.

Rounding out the section is renowned Cambodian-French filmmaker Rithy Panh's We Are the Fruits of the Forest (Nous Sommes les Fruits de la Forêt), an India Premiere documentary that intimately portrays the Indigenous Bunong community in Cambodia's remote mountains as they strive to safeguard their ancestral traditions and fertile land against corporate encroachment and climate-induced agricultural disruption.

The 57th IFFI weaves together India's timeless storytelling traditions with urgent global conversations on environmental stewardship, reconfirming cinema's power to unite cultures across borders.

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