'Stories Without Borders' to Come Alive as 57th IFFI Opens Tomorrow in Goa

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> A Celebration of Cinema, Music and Culture to Mark Opening of 57th IFFI in Goa

Goa 19 November 2026

The grand Opening ceremony to bring together filmmakers, artists and delegates from India and abroad for an evening of music, cultural performances and cinematic celebration under the theme 'Stories Without Borders'

Goa is all set to welcome filmmakers, artists, delegates and cinema enthusiasts from India and across the world as the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) commences tomorrow, November 20, bringing together the world of cinema for nine days of films, cultural exchange and creative engagement.

Organized under the theme *'Stories Without Borders'*, this year's festival will bring together films and creative voices from different countries, cultures and cinematic traditions, celebrating the universal language of cinema.

The opening ceremony at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium, Goa, will feature musical presentations, cultural performances and ceremonial proceedings, marking the commencement of the nine-day festival.

The ceremony will begin with a sound and light presentation, followed by the National Song and National Anthem. The ceremonial opening will include the lighting of the lamp and watering of the Tulsi plant, symbolising light, life and new beginnings.



Prominent personalities at the opening ceremony

The ceremony will feature addresses by the Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant, and senior dignitaries from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The opening ceremony will also bring together prominent personalities from Indian cinema, including Member of Parliament Ravi Kishan, filmmaker and Festival Director Ashutosh Gowariker, filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar and filmmaker Aanand L. Rai, among other distinguished members of the Indian and international film fraternity.



Ricky Kej's symphonic orchestra

A major highlight of the evening will be a symphonic orchestra presentation by three-time Grammy Award-winning composer and environmentalist Ricky Kej, titled *'A World of Cinema Through Music'*. The performance will bring alive the universal language of cinema through a musical journey across cultures and storytelling traditions.

The musical presentation will be followed by *'Music Without Borders'*, bringing together musicians from different countries in a celebration of musical traditions, harmony and cultural exchange, reflecting the festival's theme.

The peacock motif associated with IFFI will come alive through *'Beyond the Frame'*, a special dance presentation, bringing the festival's iconic emblem to life through movement and artistic expression.

The ceremony will also feature the felicitation of the Indian Panorama and International Competition juries, recognising the filmmakers and cinema professionals entrusted with selecting films for the festival's competitive sections.

International Competition Jury

The International Competition Jury will be chaired by filmmaker Aanand L. Rai and will comprise distinguished cinema professionals from across the world, including Sol Berruezo Pichon-Rivière (Argentina), Bogdan Muresanu (Romania), María Alejandra Rojas (Colombia) and Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke (Thailand). The jury will be felicitated during the opening ceremony.

Indian Panorama Jury

The Feature Film Jury is chaired by National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, while the Non-Feature Film Jury is chaired by filmmaker and former Director of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Himansu Sekhar Khatua.

A special presentation marking two decades of WAVES Film Bazaar will showcase its evolution as a platform connecting Indian filmmakers with the international film industry and facilitating creative and business collaborations.



Nine days of cinema from across the world

From acclaimed international films to emerging voices and diverse Indian stories, IFFI 2026 will offer audiences a wide-ranging cinematic experience. The festival will screen over 150 international films from 86 countries, bringing diverse storytelling traditions and perspectives to Goa.

The festival will open with *Fatherland*, directed by acclaimed Polish filmmaker Paweł Pawlikowski, whose work received the Best Director Award at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival. The Mid-Fest Film will be *I Matter*, directed by Alina Șerban, a Romania-Germany-Belgium co-production featuring dialogues in Romanian and Romani. The festival will conclude with *We Are All Strangers*, directed by Singaporean filmmaker Anthony Chen, bringing the nine-day celebration of world cinema to a close on 28th November. The festival will also spotlight international cinema through competitions, curated showcases and country presentations, with Spain as the Country of Honour and Russia as the Partner Country.

Indian cinema will find a prominent place through Indian Panorama, featuring 76 films in 18 languages. A special focus on BRICS cinema will further bring films from member and partner countries into the spotlight.

The festival will celebrate emerging filmmakers through the Best Debut Feature Films Competition, alongside other competitive sections, including the International Competition and ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal, recognising cinematic excellence across diverse categories.

New Segments in IFFI 2026

This year’s festival introduces two new segments 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**, presents five films with the objective of bringing the art and craft of filmmaking to the forefront.



Golden Peacock and Silver Peacock Awards

The festival's competitive sections will recognise cinematic excellence through the prestigious Golden Peacock and Silver Peacock Awards, comprising six awards. The Golden Peacock will be presented for Best Film, while the Silver Peacock Awards will recognise Best Director, Best Actor (Male), Best Actor (Female), Special Jury Award and Best Debut Feature Film of a Director. The festival will also present the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal for a film promoting tolerance, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace.

Through Creative Minds of Tomorrow, young aspiring filmmakers will have opportunities to learn from industry professionals, collaborate and explore the world of filmmaking through masterclasses, workshops, interactive sessions and a 48-hour filmmaking challenge.

Beyond film screenings, the festival will facilitate wider engagement among filmmakers, artists, students and industry professionals through curated interactions and industry initiatives. WAVES Film Bazaar, being held alongside IFFI, will provide a platform for creative exchange, collaboration and industry opportunities, connecting filmmakers and producers with buyers, distributors and other stakeholders.

Established in 1952, IFIF continues to serve as an important platform for showcasing Indian and international cinema, fostering cultural exchange and bringing filmmakers, industry professionals and audiences together from across the world.

Please click here for 57th International Film Festival of India: Official Schedule 20 to 28 November 2026

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