WAVES Film Bazaar Marks 20 Years of Fostering Global Film Collaborations

20th edition to connect Indian filmmakers with global markets; inaugural ceremony to be held in Goa tomorrow

Goa, 19 November 2026

From a modest gathering of 204 delegates from 18 countries in 2007 to a major international marketplace welcoming over 2,500 delegates from more than 40 countries in 2025, Film Bazaar has evolved into an important platform connecting Indian cinema with the global film industry. Marking its 20th year, WAVES Film Bazaar 2026 celebrates two decades of fostering creative collaborations, discovering new stories and opening global opportunities for Indian cinema.

Organised by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as part of International Film Festival of India (IFFI), WAVES Film Bazaar is part of the broader World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) initiative. Guided by the vision of ‘Create in India, Create for the World’, the platform seeks to translate India's creative potential into global opportunities through co-production, financing, distribution and international partnerships.



The 20th edition of WAVES Film Bazaar will be inaugurated on 20 November 2026 at The Ballroom, Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon. Shri Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, will deliver the welcome address, followed by the Guest of Honour address by Shri Ashutosh Gowariker, Festival Director. Shri G. Krishnakumar, Chairman, NFDC, will deliver the inaugural address, while Shri Prabhat Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, will propose the vote of thanks. Shri Dhiraj Singh, Managing Director, NFDC, will also be present. The formal proceedings will be followed by a presentation on 'Navigating WAVES Film Bazaar' by the Film Bazaar team.

A marketplace for stories and opportunities

Over two decades, Film Bazaar has evolved from a networking event into a structured marketplace connecting filmmakers, producers, investors, distributors, sales agents and festival programmers. Its programmes support films at various stages of development through initiatives such as the NFDC Screenwriters' Lab, Co-Production Market and Work-in-Progress Lab. The Viewing Room, Market Screenings, curated B2B meetings and Knowledge Series further facilitate project discovery, industry engagement and potential collaborations.

The 2025 edition, held in Goa from 20 to 24 November alongside the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), brought together over 2,500 delegates from more than 40 countries. It showcased 320 projects and facilitated over 1,200 one-to-one business meetings involving more than 220 buyers. Business discussions and negotiations were valued at approximately ₹1,050 crore, including MoUs worth around ₹100 crore reported on the sidelines of the event.

WAVES Bazaar: Extending India's creative reach beyond the annual marketplace

The WAVES initiative extends beyond the annual Film Bazaar through WAVES Bazaar, a year-round international B2B platform launched in January 2025. Covering film, television, OTT, animation, VFX, gaming, music and other creative sectors, it connects creators and businesses with potential buyers and collaborators.

According to the October 2026 progress note, WAVES Bazaar had over 12,500 active users, including more than 5,000 buyers and approximately 6,500 sellers, with over 2,800 active projects. AI-enabled semantic search, matchmaking, virtual pitching and online B2B meeting facilities help creators and businesses identify potential partners and sustain industry engagement beyond physical events.

Its international outreach across countries such as Australia, Japan, South Korea, Italy, Germany, Canada, France and Spain has further expanded avenues for Indian creative enterprises. Participation in global industry platforms, including Gamescom, the Toronto International Film Festival, Venice and MIPCOM, has strengthened engagement with international stakeholders.

These initiatives reflect a broader effort to take Indian creativity from ‘Craft to Commerce’, strengthening India's position as a global hub for content creation, intellectual property and creative industries.

As WAVES Film Bazaar marks two decades of its journey, it continues to serve as an important platform for independent filmmakers, regional-language cinema and emerging creative talent to access international markets, forge partnerships and take Indian stories to audiences across the world.

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