BRICS Film Festival Roundtable Explores Opportunities in Co-production, Distribution and Technology Exchange at 57th IFFI

> Representatives from participating countries highlight cinema's role in strengthening cultural ties and fostering mutual understanding

Goa, 22 November 2026

Cinema may speak in different languages, but its emotions travel across borders. Bringing this shared language into focus, the BRICS Film Festival Roundtable at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) explored opportunities for greater collaboration among member countries, with discussions centred on co-production, film distribution, technology exchange and cultural partnerships.

The roundtable brought together representatives from Russia, Nigeria, Indonesia and Iran, along with officials from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of External Affairs, National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG).



Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Prabhat, highlighted India's commitment to strengthening cooperation among BRICS countries through shared interests and lasting partnerships. Observing that cinema brings people together and offers insights into different societies, he said the diverse genres and subjects represented through films help audiences discover new perspectives.

He also referred to India's hosting of the BRICS WAVES Bazaar in Mumbai, where discussions covered international co-productions, artificial intelligence, animation, gaming and women's leadership. Highlighting the growing interest in working together, he pointed to opportunities for identifying production partners across participating countries. He called for stronger co-production initiatives and greater exchange of content through digital television and OTT platforms, urging participants to build on the momentum for sustained partnerships.



Shri Shambhu L. Hakki, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, said the gathering provided an opportunity to witness the BRICS partnership through cultural engagement. He emphasised that cinema is not merely a reflection of a nation but also a means of understanding one another. Referring to IFFI's theme, Stories Without Borders, he noted that films from BRICS countries offer glimpses into the cultural expressions of partner nations, fostering understanding beyond institutional cooperation.

Chairman of NFDC Shri G. Krishnakumar highlighted the BRICS WAVES Bazaar held in Mumbai as an initiative that laid the foundation for bringing together filmmakers and industry stakeholders from BRICS countries. He emphasised the potential of film co-production in strengthening these connections and creating opportunities for collaborative storytelling.



Shri Dipak Bandekar, CEO of the Entertainment Society of Goa, described Goa as a meeting point for cinema and cultural exchange. He observed that while films may travel internationally, the emotions they convey are universal, making cinema a powerful medium for audiences to understand the cultures and experiences of other countries.

Representatives from participating countries also outlined possibilities for collaboration. H.E. Saidu Dahiru Muhammad, High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to India, spoke about the country's vibrant film industry and welcomed the inclusion of Nigerian cinema in the festival. He identified co-production and distribution as promising areas of cooperation, alongside technology transfer and capacity building, which could create economic opportunities for younger generations.

Acting Consul General of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Mumbai Mr. Aleksandr Fursov highlighted cinema's ability to transcend borders and referred to film festival exchanges between India and Russia as opportunities to deepen cultural connections.



First Secretary from the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India, Ms. Erny Wahyuni spoke about the longstanding cultural links between India and Indonesia, reflected in shared traditions surrounding the Ramayana and Mahabharata. She proposed a familiarisation visit for filmmakers and

producers as a step towards exploring co-production opportunities, alongside greater film distribution through OTT platforms. She also identified animation and gaming as areas with potential for collaboration and expressed interest in bringing cultural representatives, producers and animation professionals into future engagements.

Dr. Mostafa Goharifar, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in India described Goa's cultural diversity as an appropriate setting for conversations on understanding different societies. He observed that cinema offers a distinctive insight into nations and their people, and expressed hope that the gathering would lead to wider cooperation among film industries and communities.

In his concluding remarks, Shri G. Krishnakumar reiterated cinema's role as a platform for bringing countries and cultures together. He thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw for their support, observing that collective efforts could create significant possibilities through cinema.

The roundtable concluded with a screening of a short video introducing the films from BRICS countries being showcased during the BRICS Film Festival, celebrating the diversity of their cinematic traditions.

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PIB IFFI Team | Rajith/ Supriya/ Nikhitha/ Darshana | IFFI 57 - 066