Ramayana: Rise of a Legend (Part 1) Opens 'Films from BRICS' at 57th IFFI

> Envoys from Nigeria, Indonesia, Russia and Iran join festival leadership in Panaji as cross-border cinema takes centre stage
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> A 21-film slate spanning member and partner countries opens on Day 3 of the 57th IFFI with diplomatic felicitations and a red-carpet premiere

Goa, 22 November 2026

The timeless appeal of Indian mythology found a global platform on Day 3 of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), as Nitesh Tiwari's much-awaited epic, *Ramayana: Rise of a Legend (Part 1)*, premiered as the official opening film of the 'Films from BRICS' section.

Rooted in one of India's most enduring epics, the film brings a story that has travelled across generations and cultures to an international cinematic platform. Its selection as the opening film sets the tone for a showcase that celebrates the power of cinema to connect people beyond geographical and linguistic boundaries.



The inaugural segment also featured the felicitation of diplomatic representatives from participating countries. Mr. Saidu Dahiru Muhammed, Ambassador, High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, was felicitated by Shri Prabhat, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Ms. Erny Wahyuni, representing the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of

Indonesia, and Mr. Aleksandr Fursov, Acting Consul General, Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Mumbai, were felicitated by Shri Shambhu Lingappa Hakki, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Dr. Mostafa Goharifar, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Dr. Omid Babelian, IPIS Representative in India, were felicitated by Shri G. Krishnakumar, Chairman, National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).

Ms. Meiliza Karunia Harahap, Treasury, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, was also felicitated by Shri G. Krishnakumar. Festival Director Shri Ashutosh Gowariker felicitated director Nitesh Tiwari in recognition of his film, *Ramayana: Rise of a Legend (Part 1)*, which opened the 'Films from BRICS' section.



The 'Films from BRICS' showcase recognises the importance of cinema beyond entertainment. Films offer a window into the lives, values, traditions and aspirations of different societies. They allow countries to present their own perspectives while helping audiences understand cultures beyond their borders. In this context, the BRICS platform provides an opportunity to strengthen people-to-people connections, encourage creative collaboration and give greater visibility to cinematic voices from the Global South.

Together, these films make the 'Films from BRICS' section a celebration of cultural diversity and shared human experiences. By bringing stories from different parts of the world to one screen, IFFI reinforces cinema's role in fostering mutual respect, strengthening cultural ties and building a deeper understanding among nations. The showcase reflects the spirit of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, or 'the world is one family', and underlines how storytelling can bring people closer, even when their languages, histories and traditions differ.



Stories Without Borders: Celebrating Cultural Diversity in the 'Films from BRICS' Lineup

Spanning 11-member countries and 10 partner nations, the 'Films from BRICS' showcase at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) brings together a diverse range of contemporary storytelling across genres, languages and lived realities. From sweeping mythological spectacle and animated historical reimaginings, such as Nitesh Tiwari's *Ramayana: Rise of a Legend (Part 1)* and Brenda Lígia and Edu Felistoque's *Amadeo and the Hypothetical New World*, to intimate dramas and genre-blending narratives such as Nguyen Hoang Diep's *1982*, Sompot Chidgasornpongse's *9 Temples to Heaven*, Andrei Egorov's *And the Snow was Falling*, Nayla Al Khaja's *Baab*, Ariff Zulkarnain's *Baga: Tomorrow Belongs to No One*, Luis Ernesto Donas's *Baracoa*, Anastasia Kuzina's *Bo Bo*, Rashid Malikov's *Cotton* and Katrine Weber's *Dreaming of Serenada*, these films explore themes of family memory, social pressures, resilience and ecological belonging.

United under this year's theme, 'Stories Without Borders', the lineup highlights how cinema from across BRICS orbit captures distinct cultural identities while speaking to universal human emotions.



Read IFFILOID here: https://www.pib.gov.in/iffi/57/iffiLoid.aspx?yr=2026&lang=1&reg=48

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