

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-47

NOVEMBER 2024

Monthly Bulletin of the India Chapter of International Federation of Film Critics

Website: <https://fipresci-india.org>

FIPRESCI AWARD INTRODUCED IN KOLKATA FILM FESTIVAL

Kolkata International Film Festival is introducing the FIPRESCI award in its 30th edition coming up in the 'City of Cinema' from 4 to 11 Dec 2024. In a press conference held on



29 Nov 2024 [pic], chairman of the festival Goutam Ghose informed that 175 films would be screened in 20 venues across the city. He also informed that the festival would be opened with Tapan Sinha's Bengali feature film *Galpo Holeo Satti* (1966) for paying tribute to the master on his birth centenary (B. 2 Oct 1924). Homage will be paid to Utpalendu Chakraborty, Manoj Mitra, and Kumar Shahani as

they passed away in Kolkata this year. Since its inception in 1995 this is the first time the Kolkata Festival is installing a FIPRESCI International Critics Jury comprising of three eminent film critics Axel Timo Purr from Germany, Janusz Wróblewski from Poland, and V K Joseph from Kerala. The FIPRESCI jury will judge the films in International Competition section titled 'Innovation in Moving Images' with 14 films from different countries. After the International Film Festival of Kerala, Bengaluru International Film Festival, and Mumbai International Film Festival for Short, Documentary, and Animation Films (MIFF), Kolkata is the fourth international film festival in India having a FIPRESCI International Critics Jury. Besides this, FIPRESCI-India National Critics Jury is also there in the Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (previously known as Aurangabad International Film Festival).

CHIDANANDA DASGUPTA MEMORIAL COMPETITION ON FILM CRITICISM

FIPRESCI-India organised the 5th Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Competition for Best Film Criticism 2024. The jury composed of Dr Latika Padgaonkar, Dr Rita Dutta, Dr Minakshi Dutta, Meghachandra Kongbam, and Dr Pranjal Borah evaluated the entries received from different parts of the country. Best 10 entries according to the marks scored by the contestants are: 1st: Rhythm Mandal (Kolkata) [in pic], 2nd: Sayan Paul (Kolkata), 3rd: Prajapita Debroy (Agartala), 4th: Anju Devadas (Thiruvananthapuram), 5th: Gursimran Datla (Kapurthala), 6th: Labanya Dey (Kolkata), 7th: Chandrakant Kamble (Mumbai), 8th: Janet J (Malappuram), 9th: Abirbhab Maitra (Kalyani), and 10th:



Divya Sachar (Delhi). 1st and 2nd rank holders received a cash award of Rs.6,000/- and Rs.5,000/- respectively while others got Certificates of Merit. The result was published on 20 Nov 2024 to commemorate the birth anniversary of FIPRESCI-India's founder president Chidananda Dasgupta (B. 20 Nov 1921). All the above ten entries will be published in E-Cine-India @ <https://fipresci-india.org/e-cine-india/>.

5TH CHIDANANDA DASGUPTA MEMORIAL LECTURE BY MAITHILI RAO

Maithili Rao, winner of FIPRESCI-India's Satyajit Ray Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to Writing on Cinema 2024, delivered the 5th Chidananda Dasgupta



Memorial Lecture on 20 Nov 2024 [in pic] to commemorate the birth anniversary of Shri Dasgupta, the founder president of FIPRESCI-India. Topic of her lecture was 'Portrayal of Women in Indian Cinema'. The lecture is now available on the YouTube Channel of FIPRESCI-India at: <https://youtu.be/M-bEPJF7wrw> and also on the official website of the organization at: <https://fipresci-india.org/>

3RD FIPRESCI-INDIA FILM FESTIVAL HELD AT IIC NEW DELHI

Cinemas of India - a festival of award-winning contemporary Indian films organised by the FIPRESCI-India in collaboration with the India International Centre (IIC) New Delhi from the 5th to 18th Nov 2024 treated an enriching diverse cultural experience for Delhi's cinephiles. Six films namely Champa Shetty's *Chicken Curry* (Koli Esru) in Kannada, Parthajit Barua's *The Nellie Story* (Nellier Kotha) in Assamese, Bijukumar Damodaran's *The Portraits* in Malayalam, Sajin Baabu's *Biriyani* in Malayalam, Haobam Paban Kumar's *Nine Hills* *One Valley* in Manipuri and Anik Dutta's *Aparajito* in Bengali were showcased in the festival as scheduled. This is the third FIPRESCI-India Film Festival *Cinemas of India* after the successful conduct of the first at NFAI Pune on 9-11 Feb 2024 in collaboration with the Pune International Centre and NFAI/NFDC, and the second on 21-22 Aug 2024 at NANDAN Kolkata in collaboration with the Federation of Film Societies of India.



RITWIK GHATAK'S 99TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED IN RAJSHAHI



Film society activists and film enthusiasts of Bangladesh celebrated the 99th birth anniversary of the great master Ritwik Ghatak on 4th Nov 2024 at his ancestral house [in pc] in Rajshahi, Bangladesh which has been demolished recently. International Federation of Film Societies, Federation of Film Societies of India, Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies, Federation of Film Societies of Bangladesh, Ritwik Ghatak Film Society, Rajshahi Film Society, and other organizations were demanding for a long time to preserve this historical place as a museum of cinema. There was a big plan of the organizations to celebrate the master's birth centenary (B. 4 Nov 1925) here by next year.

FILM FEDERATION OF INDIA ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT

Film Federation of India (FFI) elected the National Award-winning film producer Firdausul Hasan as their next president for the third time (2025) after 2019 and 2020. Hasan won the election of FFI held in Goa on 19 Nov 2024. FFI is the apex organization of more than 30 trade bodies of the film producers, distributors, studio owners, exhibitors, and other stake holders of the Indian film industry which is well known for nominating the Indian entries for Oscar every year. After B N Sircar, and Ajit Bose, Hasan [in pic] is the most significant Bengali film producer elected for this coveted post.



55TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA CONCLUDED

The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held in Goa from 20 to 28 Nov 2024 showcasing more than 200 films from 75 countries. The official jury chaired by Ashutosh Gowariker awarded *Toxic* (Lithuania, 2024, 99 mins) by Saulė Bliuvaitė the Best Film award 'Golden Peacock' with a cash amount of Rs. 40,00,000/-. The film also bagged the



Best Actress award for the performance of Vesta Matulyte and Iva Rupeikaite. Actor Vikrant Massey was awarded the Personality of the Year. Navjot Bandivadekar won the Best Debut Director award for his Marathi film *Gharat Ganpati* (2024, 139

mins). Swedish filmmaker Levan Akin's *Crossing* was awarded the prestigious ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal. Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyce was presented with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the world of cinema. To celebrate their birth centenary, this year IFFI paid tribute to four legends of Indian cinema – Raj Kapoor (B. 14 Dec 1924), Tapan Sinha (B. 2 Oct 1924), Mohammed Rafi (B. 24 Dec 1924), and Akkineni Nageswara Rao (B. 20 Sept 1923). FIPRESCI member Prof. N Manu Chakravarthy took part in the seminar on Tapan Sinha along with Sharmila Tagore on 27 Nov at Goa, Kala Academy. Besides him, several other FIPRESCI members like G P Ramachandran, N Vidyashankar, Ashok Rane, Siladitya Sen, Meena Karnik, Sachin Chatte, Sreedevi P Arvind, S Viswanath, and others attended the IFFI on different assignments of the festival [some of them in above pic taken at Inox, Panjim on 26 Nov].

EL GOUNA FILM FESTIVAL

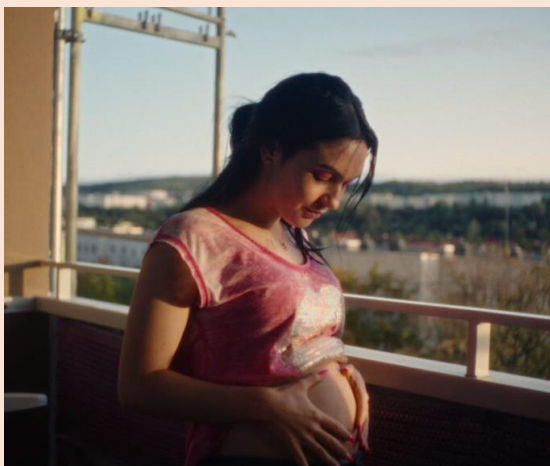
FIPRESCI prize in the 7th El Gouna Film Festival (Egypt, 24 Oct – 1 Nov 2024) awarded to the film *Girls Will be Girls* by Shuchi Talati (India, France, USA, Norway, 2024, 118 min). The jury was composed of Francisco Ferreira (Portugal), Letícia Alassé (Brazil), and Arwa Tag Eldeen (Egypt). The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival (Jan 2024) also participated in several other festivals like



58th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (June 2024), 29th Busan International Film Festival (Oct 2024). It won the NETPAC award at MAMI Mumbai Film Festival 2024.

TORINO FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI prize in 42nd Torino Film Festival (Italy, 22–30 Nov 2024) awarded to *Vena* by Chiara Fleischhacker (Germany, 2024, 116 min). The jury composed of Marco Lombardi (Italy), Massimo Arciresi (Italy), and Giuseppe Di Salvatore (Italy) in their motivation said that the film is awarded "For its ability to transform the intense story of a pregnancy into a plausible pathway of salvation from addiction. Thanks to a very compassionate performance, a story with strong emotional impact, and an editing that expertly marks the tempo of the narration, comprehensive signs of a directorial maturity that is uncommon in a first film".



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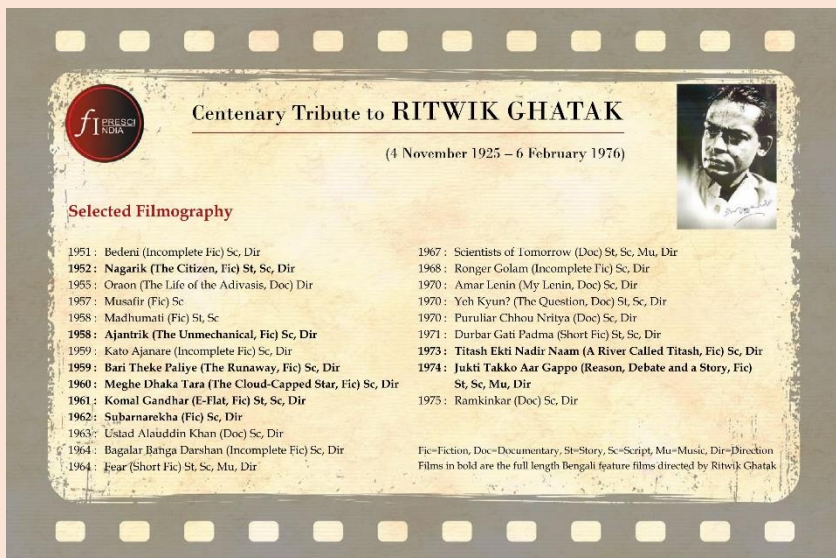
COTTBUS FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI prize in 34th Cottbus Film Festival (Germany, 5-10 Nov 2024) awarded to *When the Phone Rang* by Iva Radivojevic (Serbia, USA, 2024, 73 min). The jury was composed of Jana Běbarová (Czech Republic), Armando Russi (Colombia), and Silvia Bahl (Germany). The film also won the main award of the festival with a cash prize of €15,000 in the feature film competition section. Through an intimate reconstruction of an important phone call, this film investigates dislocation and the nature of remembering. This is the second narrative feature of the director which was the official selection in several other festivals like Locarno, Helsinki, and Sarajevo.



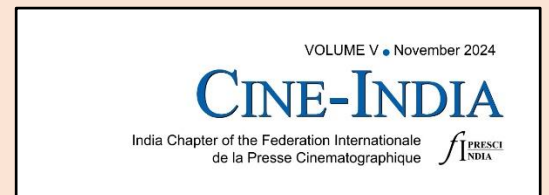
FIPRESCI-INDIA'S SIGNATURE CALENDAR 2025 ON RITWIK GHATAK

Like previous years this year also FIPRESCI-India has published its signature desktop calendar. Earlier theme of this acclaimed collectors' delight was Satyajit Ray (2022), All time ten best Indian films (2023), and Mrinal Sen (2024). Theme of this year's calendar (2025) is Ritwik Ghatak to commemorate his birth centenary (B. 4 Nov 1925). The calendar is designed with Ghatak's different moods in different pages, and selected frames of his finished and unfinished films.



FIPRESCI-INDIA'S ANNUAL FILM JOURNAL

5th volume of FIPRESCI-India's annual film journal **CINE-INDIA** (Nov-2024) is published. This 118-pages film journal is now available on demand at [<indiafipresci@gmail.com>](mailto:indiafipresci@gmail.com)



UPCOMING FESTIVALS

Athens, Greece, Panorama of European Cinema, Nov 21 – Dec 1, 2024. **Mar del Plata**, Argentina, Mar del Plata International Film Festival, Nov 21 – Dec 1, 2024). **Singapore** (Nov 28 – Dec 8, 2024). **Kolkata**, India, Dec 4–11, 2024. The Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF). **Havana**, Cuba, International Festival of the New Latinoamerican Cinema, Dec 5 – 15, 2024. **Kerala**, India, Dec 13 – 20, 2024. **Duhok**, Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq, International Film Festival, Dec 9 – 16, 2024. **Tunis**, Carthage Film Festival, Tunisia, Dec 14 – 21, 2024.



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