

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-53

MAY 2025

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

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

JAFAR PANAHI WON PALME D'OR AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

After winning the Golden Lion at Venice for *The Circle* (2000), and Golden Bear at Berlin (along with the FIPRESCI Prize) for *Taxi* (2015), Jafar Panahi now has won the Palme d'Or for *It Was Just an Accident* (2025) at the 78th Cannes Film Festival (13–24 May 2025). He is the fourth director to win these top honours at all three major festivals, after Henri-Georges Clouzot, Michelangelo Antonioni and Robert Altman. Jury President Juliette Binoche said, 'The film springs from a feeling of resistance, survival, which is absolutely necessary today. It's very human and political at the same time, because he comes from a complicated country. When we watched the film, it stood out'. Indian filmmaker Payal



Kapadia was also a member of the grand jury. FIPRESCI jury composed of Laurent Delmas (France), Mariana Hristova (Bulgaria), CJ Johnson (Australia), Michael Ghennam (France), Eva Novrup Redvall (Denmark), Hosam Mostafa Fahmy (Egypt, Germany), Yannis Raouzaïos (Greece), Olga Ruin (Sweden), and Freddie Wong (Hong Kong) awarded the films *The Secret Agent* by Kleber Mendonça Filho (Brazil, France, Germany, Netherlands, 2025, 158 min), *Urchin* by Harris Dickinson (Great Britain, 2025, 99 min), and *Dandelion's Odyssey* by Momoko Seto (France, Belgium, 2025, 76 min) in the Official Selection – Competition, *Un Certain Regard* (to a first or second feature film in the Official Selection), and Directors' Fortnight or Critics' Week (to a first feature film in the parallel sections) respectively. *A Useful Ghost* (Thailand, France, Singapore, Germany, 2025, 130 mins) won the Grand Prix in Critics' Week section. Honorary Palme d'Or was awarded to Robert De Niro during the festival's opening ceremony, while the other awards were conferred in the closing ceremony. The 4K version of Satyajit Ray's 1970 masterpiece *Aranyer Din Ratri* (Days and Nights in the Forest) restored under the initiative of the filmmaker Wes Anderson by Martin Scorsese's The Film Foundation through its World Cinema Project initiative at L'Immagine Ritrovata in collaboration with Shivendra Singh Dungarpur's Film Heritage Foundation, Janus Films, and the Criterion Collection was showcased in Cannes Classic Section. The film was screened for the first time at Cannes, and in the presence of the lead casts Sharmila Tagore and Simi Garewal. Wes Anderson was also present on the occasion to present the film. The restoration of *Aranyer Din Ratri* was made possible with the support of the Golden Globe Foundation, using the original camera and sound negatives preserved by the Kolkata based producer of the film Purnima Dutta.





FIPRESCI-INDIA HONOURED PRADIP BISWAS WITH SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD 2025

To commemorate Satyajit Ray Birth Centenary (2 May 1921-2021), FIPRESCI-India installed an award titled: 'SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO WRITING ON CINEMA' in 2021. The award is announced every year on Satyajit Ray's birthday conferring it on an author to acknowledge her/his outstanding contributions to writing on cinema in any Indian language including English, for propagation of film culture which was Ray's primary area of concern. Earlier recipients of this award are Aruna Vasudev (2021), I. Shanmughadas (2022), Ashok Rane (2023), and Maithili Rao (2024). FIPRESCI-India is honoured to declare the veteran author and film critic **Pradip Biswas** as the recipient of this coveted award for the year 2025.

Pradip Biswas was born in Kolkata in 1945. He did his Masters from the University of Calcutta in English, Linguistic, and Journalism in 1965-1967. Immediately after passing out from the University, he started writing in the *Junior Statesman* and the *Cine Advance*. Thereafter he started writing for English daily the *Hindustan Standard*, and Bengali daily the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*. He also contributed to English daily the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* since 1975, in English weekly the *Screen* since 1979, and in English daily *The Telegraph* since 1982 - where he continued writing on cinema till 1995. Since 1995 till date, he has been writing in English dailies the *Indian Express* and the *Financial Express*. He also contributed to the *Sunday Mail* since 1985, *Cinema India International* since 1995, *Cinema in India* since 1996, and *Sense and Sensibility* since 2004. He also wrote on cinema in the Bengali daily *Basumati Patrika* from 1986 to 1992. His first book on Indian Cinema was published in 1995 by the Directorate of Film Festivals under the I&B Ministry. Thereafter he has written 35 books in English including *Buddhadeb Dasgupta: Cinema of Imprinted Times* (1998), *Yilmaz Guney: Cineaste Militant* (1999), *Sandip Ray: Take One* (1999), *Films of Nabyendu Chatterjee: A Montage* (2001), *Eternity and Angelopoulos* (2003), *Mrinal Sen, Suchitra Sen and Aparna Sen: Sense and Sensibility* (2004), *Films of Nabyendu: Signature of Humanism* (2006), *Nabyendu's Manik Trilogy* (2007), *Revisiting Angelopoulos* (2008), *Cinema of Cristian Mungiu* (2008), *A Girish Kasaravalli Film: The Shadow of the Dog* (2008), *Ray on Ray* (2008), *Naomi Kawase: Woman Director in Progress* (2009), *Films of Samira Makhmalbaf* (2009), *Girish & Gulabi Talkies: A Critique* (2009), *Five Indian Directors* (2009), *Anjan Bose: Road to Documentaries* (2009), *Three Women Directors: Interviews* (2011), *Cinema of Zhang Yimou* (2011), *Cinema of Abbas Kiarostami* (2012), *Girish: Riding the Stallion of Dreams* (2012), *Gita Sen: Ethics of Resilience* (2012), *Andrey Zvyagintsev* (2014), *Sabiha Sumar: A Vigilant Outsider* (2015), *Orion: A Poetry Collection* (2018), *Deepti Naval: Dreams, Memories, Reflections* (2019), *Mrinal Sen: Iconoclast of Indian Cinema* (2019), *Sandip Ray: Take Two* (2023), *Foreign Directors: Critical Readings* (2024), and others. He won the award for best book by the Korean Film Foundation in 2014 for his title *Kim Ki-duk: Times of Scarred Memories* (2014). He was honoured with the National Award in 1989 as the Best Film Critic.

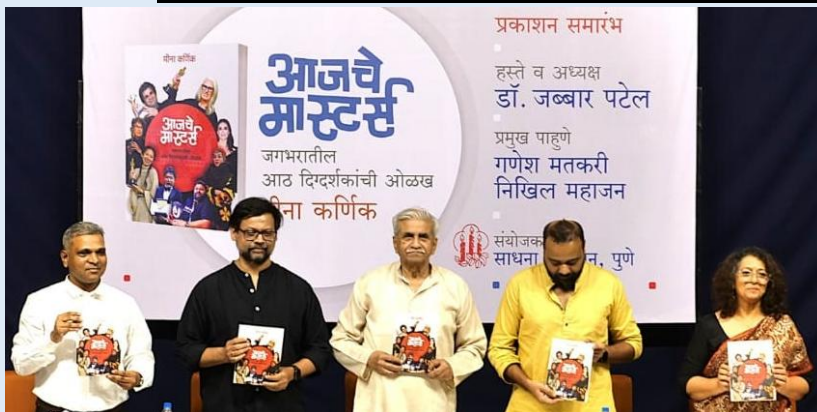
The citation for the 'Satyajit Ray Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to Writing on Cinema 2025' will be handed over to **Pradip Biswas** in a program soon. From this year a cash component of Rs.10,000/- is added to this award as a token of respect which has already been given to him after announcement of the award on 2 May 2025.

NARAYAN ATHAWALE JOURNALISM AWARD 2025 TO ASHOK RANE

The 'Narayan Athawale Memorial Journalism Award,' instituted in the name of the fearless journalist Late Narayan Athawale, founder of Lokvishwas Pratishthan in Goa, was presented this year to Ashok Rane. Internationally acclaimed artist Dr. Subodh Kerkar handed over the award to Rane where the senior journalist Vijay Kuwalekar was present as the president of the ceremony. The institution's president Anup Priolkar and secretary Savita Desai were also present on this occasion. This award is conferred upon senior journalists who have made significant contributions in their respective fields of journalism. Ashok Rane was honoured with this award in recognition of his invaluable work in not only film journalism but also in the field of film academics and for fostering a strong and vibrant film culture far and wide. The award function was held at Siddharth Bandodkar Sabhagruh, Goa on 28 April 2025 (pic).



MEENA KARNIK'S BOOK ON CINEMA PUBLISHED IN PUNE



Dr. Jabbar Patel released Meena Karnik's book *Aajache Masters* at the S.M. Joshi Foundation's Hall in Pune on 10 May 2025 (pic). He has also written the foreword for the book. Ganesh Matkari and Nikhil Mahajan spoke at the function. The 176 pages book in Marathi language priced Rs. 350/- published by Sadhana Publications is a collection of Meena

Karnik's articles written over a period of five years on eight directors which include Jafar Panahi, Jane Campion, Hirokazu Koreeda, Chloe Zhao, Bong Joon Ho, Nadine Labaki, Lijjo Jose Pelisarry, and Mania Akbari.

WORLD AUDIO VISUAL ENTERTAINMENT SUMMIT HELD IN MUMBAI

India's first World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit – WAVES 2025 held from 1 to 4 May 2025 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. The four-day summit was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The summit witnessed participation from over 90 countries, with more than ten thousand delegates. On behalf of



FIPRESCI-India, Ashok Rane attended the summit. Numerous entertainment companies, both from India and abroad, actively working with cutting-edge technologies like AI and VR, along with their top-level technologists and executives, participated in the event. There were masterclasses, workshops, and panel discussions. In one such panel, *The Magic of Smita Patil in Shyam Benegal Classics*, moderated by Shivendra Singh Dungarpur on 3 May, Ashok Rane participated as a speaker along with editor-director Aruna Raje and director Ketan Mehta (pic). WAVES-2025 was organized by the Government of India, with the Government of Maharashtra hosting it.

FIPRESCI-INDIA PUBLISHED TOP-10 LIST FOR GRAND-PRIX 2024

FIPRESCI-India Published the List of TOP-10 Indian Films of 2024 as per maximum number of votes given by the members in the first round. The list published on 23 May is available on IMDb at: <https://www.imdb.com/list/ls592819190/> (in alphabetical order):

1. *All We Imagine as Light*, Malayalam, Hindi, 118M, Dir. Payal Kapadia
2. *Angammal*, Tamil, 117M, Dir. Vipin Radhakrishnan
3. *Boong*, Manipuri, 94M, Dir. Lakshmi Priya Devi
4. *Feminist Fathima*, Malayalam, 100M, Dir. Fasil Muhammed
5. *Girls Will Be Girls*, English, Hindi, 119M, Dir. Shuchi Talati
6. *Humans in the Loop*, Hindi, Kurukh, 74M, Dir. Aranya Sahay
7. *In The Belly of A Tiger*, Hindi, 91M, Dir. Jatla Siddhartha
8. *Undercurrent- Ullozhukku*, Malayalam, 123M, Dir. Christo Tomy
9. *Victoria*, Malayalam, 85M, Dir. Sivaranjini
10. *Village Rockstars 2*, Assamese, 108M, Dir. Rima Das.



Winner of Grand-Prix-2024 will be announced after second round voting by the members.

FIPRESCI CELEBRATED THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY AT CANNES



FIPRESCI celebrated its 100th anniversary at the 78th Cannes Film Festival (13–24 May 2025). On 16 May the Hungarian director István Szabó received the FIPRESCI-100 Lifetime Achievement Award before the world premiere of the restored version of his film *Sunshine*. Szabó, who won the FIPRESCI prize at Cannes in 1980 for his film *Mephisto*, received the award from the festival general delegate Thierry Fremaux and FIPRESCI

president Ahmed Shawky. On 19 May, members from more than 30 countries gathered with the jury and board members in a FIPRESCI cocktail organised in the Egyptian Pavilion, at the international village. Partner festivals of Cairo and El Gouna hosted FIPRESCI members for this special event celebrating the federation's centennial. On 20 May the jury and board members were invited to join the festival's annual international press dinner. (Courtesy: FIPRESCI, PC: Muhammed Hamed).

UPCOMING FESTIVALS WITH FIPRESCI INTERNATIONAL JURY

Krakow Film Festival, Poland, May 25-June 1 (Jakub Demianczuk, Poland, Yael Shuv, Israel, Giulia Dobro, Romania); **Flying Broom Intl. Women's Film Festival**, Turkey, May 27-June 4 (Senem Erdine, Turkey, Adriana Fernández, Mexico, Bettina Hirsch, Germany); **Guadalajara International Film Festival**, Mexico, 6-14 June (Muge Turan, Turkey, Giancarlo Fernandez Ciprian, Peru, Diego Faraone, Uruguay); **Bishkek Intl. Film Festival**, Kyrgyzstan, June 11-15 (Elena Rubashevskaya, Ukraine, Rafael Grillo, Cuba, Gulnara Abikeeva, Kazakhstan); **Transylvania Intl. Film Festival**, Romania, June 13-22 (Mihai Fulger, Romania, Ladislav Volko, Slovakia, Pierre Charpillot, France); **ART FILM FEST Košice**, Slovakia, June 20-27 (Maria Ferencuhova, Slovakia, Jonathan Murray, UK, Malik Berkati, Germany); **Brussels Intl. Film Festival**, Belgium, June 20-28 (Djia Mambu, Belgium, Eirik Bull, Norway, Sofia Alvarez Salas, Peru).

Edited & Published by: General Secretary, FIPRESCI-India (Reg No TVM/TC/7/2021) from Chirakkulam Rd, Thiruvananthapuram-695001, Kerala, India. Ph+91-98301-40517. E-Mail: indiafipresci@gmail.com