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MAJOR FESTIVALS WITH FIPRESCI AWARDS IN INDIA COMING UP



31st Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) will open in the first week of Nov 2025 marking the beginning of the major festival circuit in the subcontinent. KIFF, one of the most important film festivals in India, is running by the Govt. of West Bengal since 1995 without any break. From the last edition of this FIAPF accredited festival, the FIPRESCI Award has been introduced by the initiative of the India Chapter of FIPRESCI, and support of our former General

Secretary Klaus Eder. The 31st edition of KIFF will be held from 6 to 13 Nov 2025 in Kolkata, known as the 'City of Cinema', where three great masters – Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, and Mrinal Sen lived and worked at the same time. FIPRESCI (International) Jury has already been appointed in this edition with three members – Safaa Haggag from Egypt, Virat Nehru from Australia, and Madhu Janardanan from India, who will watch the films in the International Competition Section known as the 'Innovation of Moving Images' for selecting One Best Film for the FIPRESCI Award. The festival will showcase 215 films in 37 categories at 20 important venues in the city including the main venue NANDAN, the Film Centre of West Bengal. Eminent filmmaker Goutam Ghose, who is also the Chairman of KIFF, will be felicitated with the 'FIPRESCI-100 Lifetime Achievement Award' during the official award ceremony of the festival on 13 Nov. The 56th International Film Festival of India, organised by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) under Govt. of India will be held in Goa from 20 to 28 Nov 2025. Earlier FIPRESCI (International) Jury was there in this festival but it was discontinued since the festival shifted its venue from Delhi to Goa in 2004. India Chapter of FIPRESCI is negotiating with

the Govt. of India to re-install the FIPRESCI Jury in IFFI-Goa. The International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), one of the most prominent film festivals of India, organised by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, Govt. of Kerala is hosting the FIPRESCI (International) Jury for a long time without any break. The 30th edition of IFFK will be held from 12 to 19 Dec 2025 at Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala –



the most beautiful state in India popularly known as the 'God's Own Country'. Eminent filmmaker T V Chandran will be felicitated with the 'FIPRESCI-100 Lifetime Achievement Award' during the official award ceremony of the festival on 19 Dec. Besides Kolkata (KIFF), and Kerala (IFFK), FIPRESCI (International) Jury will also be there in Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFES) run by the Kanataka Chalanachitra Academy, Govt. of Karnataka, and Mumbai International Film Festival for Short, Documentary, and Animation Films (MIFF) run by the NFDC, Govt. of India coming up in March and June respectively next year. Other than these festivals, FIPRESCI-India National Critics Jury will also be installed in 13th Jagran Film Festival (Mumbai, 13 to 16 Nov 2025) and 11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (Aurangabad, 28 Jan to 1 Feb 2026).



RITWIK GHATAK BIRTH CENTENARY

Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI), Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI), and Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce (BFTCC), will celebrate the birth centenary of the great Indian filmmaker, writer, and thespian, Ritwik Kumar Ghatak (B. 4 Nov 1925) by hosting a special event of Ritwik Ghatak Memorial Lecture by the internationally acclaimed cinematographer Sunny Joseph (famous for G Aravindan's *Vastuhara*, Shaji N Karun's *Piravi*, Adoor Gopalakrishnan's *Nizhalkuthu*, Pamela Rooks' *Train to Pakistan*, and many others) on the topic 'Cinema of Empathy - A Journey from Ghatak to AI', followed by a screening of the restored version of *Subarnarekha* (Bengali, 1965, B/W, 143 mins) directed by Ritwik Kumar Ghatak in the SRFTI Main Auditorium on 4 Nov 2025.

ODESA INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 16th Odesa International Film Festival, Ukraine, 24 Sept to 4 Oct 2025 awarded to the film *A Simple Soldier* by Juan Camilo Cruz and Artem Ryzhykov (Ukraine, USA, England, 2025, 96 min). The jury was composed of Sergiy Trymbach (Ukraine), Dmytro Sydorenko (Ukraine), and Ihor Kromf (Ukraine). The film also won the award for the 'Best Ukrainian Feature Documentary' with 'Golden Duke' statuette and a cash of 75,000 hryvnias from the official partner bank (in photo). 100th Anniversary of FIPRESCI was celebrated in the festival through a round table discussion on '100 Years of Film Criticism in Times of War: A Ukrainian Perspective'.



SCHLINGEL INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 30th Schlingel International Film Festival for Children and Young Audience, Germany, 27 Sept – 4 Oct 2025 awarded to *Brightly Shining* by Ida Sagmo Tvedte (Norway, 2025, 90 min). The jury was composed of Ingrid Beerbaum (Germany), Vladimir Angelov (North Macedonia), and Michela Manente (Italy). The film is about two sisters, Ronja and Melissa, navigating

their father's struggle with addiction while trying to create a magical Christmas.

FESTIVAL DU NOUVEAU CINÉMA

FIPRESCI Prize in 54th Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, Canada, 8 – 19 Oct 2025 awarded to *The Devil Smokes (And Saves the Burnt Matches in the Same Box)* by Ernesto Martínez Bucio (Mexico, 2025, 97 min). The jury composed of David Voigt (Canada), Luciana Rodríguez Díaz (Uruguay), and Calin Boto (Romania) in motivation said, "For its portrayal of the horrors of quotidian life: the sudden responsibilities, fears, and helplessness that children face when the devils of society take them out to play.

However, it's also a story of genuine strength and joy. It emotionally shows how even the most vulnerable seek hope in unexpected places. It's a thoughtful mise-en-scène, a form that accommodates the blinding light of childhood alongside the intense, harrowing darkness that can come with being part of a family. Because, as we often learn with age, it's sometimes better to deal with the devil we know rather than the devil we don't."





WARSAW INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 41st Warsaw International Film Festival, Poland, 10-19 Oct 2025 awarded to *The World of Love* by Yoon Ga-eun (South Korea, 2025, 119 min), and *Nino* by Pauline Loques (France, 2025, 97 min). The jury (in photo) composed of Nataliia Serebriakova (Ukraine), Katrin Hillgruber (Germany), and Kaja Klimek (Poland) in the motivation for *The World of Love* said, "Through its delicate direction and authentic emotional resonance, this film not only reflects the

challenges of social judgment, but also celebrates the resilience of the human spirit, making it a deeply impactful and culturally significant work of art."

EL GOUNA FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 8th El Gouna Film Festival, Egypt, 16 – 24 Oct 2025 awarded to the film *Always* by Deming Chen (USA, France, China, Taiwan, 2025, 95 min). The jury composed of Omnia Adel Hassan (Egypt), Pamela Cohn (US), and Govindapurath Pisharath Ramachandran (India) in their motivation said, "... It's thrilling to discover such an exciting talent, a filmmaker who uses his young protagonist's poetic voice and sensibility within which to structure a story that felt like a prayer, an offering to the future. Like a finely distilled perfume, moment by moment, the story unveils itself through the director's intimate and loving lens: with devotion, with fortitude, with commitment, and most of all, through sheer audiovisual beauty. This film spoke to us in a multitude of cinematic languages, orchestrating and displaying..." (Pic: Hon'ble Ambassador of India to Egypt with



FIPRESCI jury members and guests).

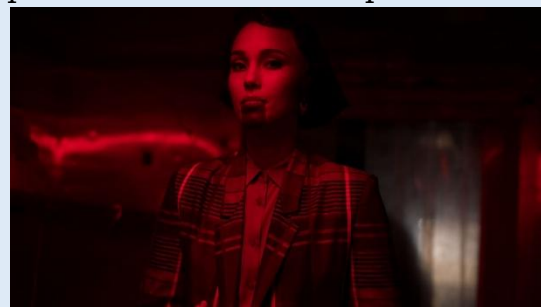
VALLADOLID FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 70th Valladolid International Film Festival, 24 Oct – 1 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *Two Prosecutors* by Sergei Loznitsa (France, Germany, Netherlands, Latvia, Romania, Lithuania, 2025, 118 min). The jury composed of Giuseppe Sedia (Italy), Loreta Gandolfi (UK), and Elsa Tebar (Spain) in their motivation said, "*Two Prosecutors*

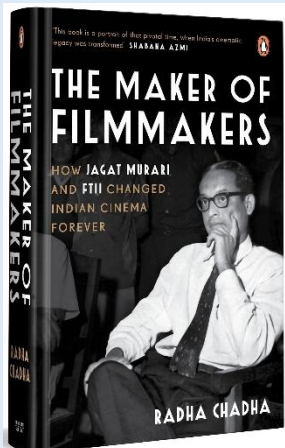
stands out as a rigorous statement about the delusion of believing in justice. Bureaucracy has been enabling the systematic annihilation of freedom. Sergei Loznitsa's mise en scène, cinematography and editing create an oppressive atmosphere where the state prison and state office feed each other in an endless loop."

VIENNALE INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in Viennale International Film Festival, Austria, 16-28 Oct 2025 awarded to the film *Blknws: Terms & Conditions* by Kahlil Joseph (USA, Ghana, 2025). The jury composed of Roman Scheiber (Austria), Yun-hua Chen (Germany), and Max Borg (Switzerland) in their motivation said, "*Blknws: Terms and Conditions* is a playful visual album that unfolds like a techno score, it opens new perspectives on an important and urgent subject that has been neglected for far too long in history. It encourages us to learn, to unthink, to rethink. Creative and humorous in equal measure, it enriches the world of cinema in a personal and innovative way..."



THE MAKER OF FILMMAKERS



The Maker of Filmmakers: How Jagat Murari and FTII Changed Indian Cinema Forever. Penguin-Viking, 2025, 534 pages. By Radha Chadha

The cover page of this monumental work by Radha Chadha carries a quote by Shabana Azmi: “The book is a portrait of that pivotal time when India’s cinematic legacy was transformed.” Radha is the daughter of Jagat Murari, the legendary director of the Film Institute of India (now FTII) in Pune. Her book’s launch was organised on these very premises (where the Muraris had lived in the 60s and 70s) on 7 October with great fanfare and deep emotion by Adoor Gopalakrishnan, erstwhile student and later the Institute’s Director. In the audience were former and current students, teachers and film lovers. There was an air of nostalgia, a mix of the celebration of cinema and of Murari and, in the words of Vice Chancellor Dhiraj Singh, a reflection of the soul of FTII. A thoroughly researched and wholly readable book – “racy”, as someone called it, it tells the story of Jagat Murari and FTII’s early days when the times were quiet and the seeds of training, learning and expanding were just being sown. But Murari, who had studied in the Univ of Southern California, pumped life into it, supported the student body, took on challenges and built the institution. Radha has a flair for writing, for attention to the small picture and the big. Her book certainly deserves a wide readership for an understanding of the birth and flowering of the 7th Art in India. (By: Latika Padgaonkar).

SANDHYA, ASRANI, AND SATISH SHAH PASSED AWAY

Veteran actress **Sandhya Shantaram** (B. 13 Sept 1938) passed away on 4 Oct. She starred in many of V Shantaram classics, including *Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje* (1955), *Do Aankhen Barah Haath* (1957), and *Navrang* (1959). Popular actor Govardhan **Asrani** (B. 1 Jan 1941) passed away on 20 Oct. His career in Indian cinema spanned over five decades, during which he appeared in more than 350 Hindi and Gujarati films. He is particularly noted for his role as the Jailor in *Sholay* (1975) caricaturing Hitler and for his appearances in 25 films with Rajesh Khanna as the lead actor between 1972 and 1991. Actor **Satish Shah** (B. 25 June 1951) passed away on 25 Oct. He will be remembered forever for his iconic comic roles in films like *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro* (1983), *Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi* (1984), and the television series *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai* (2004) and many others.

FESTIVALS COMING UP IN NOVEMBER 2025 WITH FIPRESCI AWARD

(1) International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, Oct 27 – Nov 2 (2) Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Greece, Oct 30 – Nov 9 (3) Festival of East European Cinema, Cottbus, Germany, Nov 4 – 9 (4) Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden, Nov 5-16 (5) Kolkata International Film Festival, Kolkata, India, 6 – 13 Nov (6) Mar del Plata International Film Festival, Argentina – Nov 6-16 (7) International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg, Germany, Nov 6-16 (8) Taipei, Taiwan, Golden Horse Film Festival, Nov 6 – 23 (9) Rabat International Author Film Festival, Morocco, Nov 7 – 14 (10) Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Estonia, Nov 7–23 (11) Lecce, Italy, Festival of European Cinema, Nov 15-22 (12) Ljubljana International Film Festival, Slovenia, Nov 12-23 (13) Cairo International Film Festival, Egypt, 13-21 Nov (14) IDFA – International Documentary Film Festival, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Nov 13-23 (15) Coimbra, Portugal, “Caminhos do Cinema Português”, Nov 15-22 (16) Gijon International Film Festival (FICX), Spain, Nov 15 – 23 (17) Panorama of European Cinema, Athens, Greece, Nov 20-26 (18) Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM), Nov 20–30 (19) Torino Film Festival, Italy, Nov 21-30.