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WINNERS RECEIVED FIPRESCI-INDIA GRAND-PRIX-2024 IN GOA



The Jnanpith awardee novelist, critic, and screenwriter Damodar Mauzo handed over the Award of FIPRESCI-India Grand-Prix-2024 to the joint winners *All We Imagine as Light* (Malayalam, Hindi, 118 mins) by Payal Kapadia and *Humans in the Loop* (Hindi, Kurukh, 74 mins) by Aranya Sahay. Kani Kusruti, lead actor of *All We Imagine as Light*, and Aranya Sahay, director of *Humans in the Loop* received the awards from Mr. Mauzo in a colourful ceremony on 27 Nov 2025 at Clube Tennis De Gaspar Dias, Miramar, Panaji, Goa attended by the FIPRESCI members, and many young filmmakers participating the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI-Goa). The awards consist of specially designed plaques and a cash amount of 10,000 INR each sponsored by the Custard Apple. The award ceremony was held after the Annual General Meeting of FIPRESCI-India chaired by the president VK Joseph and attended by the members from different parts of the country. FIPRESCI-India's annual film journal CINE-INDIA (Vol-VI, Nov 2025) and the signature desk-top calendar for 2026 paying centenary tribute to 12 legendary film personalities of India were released on this occasion. To welcome the members, guests, and awardees, FIPRESCI-India hosted a courtesy lunch at the exotic garden restaurant in the 100 years old heritage property of the Clube Tennis De Gaspar Dias at Miramar beach in Goa.

FIPRESCI-INDIA CELEBRATED CHIDANANDA BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



FIPRESCI-India celebrated the birth anniversary of the founder president Chidananda Dasgupta (B. 20 Nov 1921) by presenting the 6th Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Lecture by Dr C S Venkiteswaran on: 'The first 100 Years of Ritwik Ghatak', available online on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/ulILSByLhIw> The lecture was introduced by FIPRESCI-India on 20 Nov 2020 to commemorate Chidananda Dasgupta's birth centenary, and the first lecture was given by Aruna Vasudev, followed by M K Raghavendra (2021), I Shanmughadas (2022), Manu N Chakravarth (2023), and Maithili Rao (2024).

FIPRESCI-INDIA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO GOUTAM GHOSE

To celebrate 100th Anniversary of FIPRESCI, the Indian national section felicitated the eminent filmmaker Goutam Ghose with the 'FIPRESCI-India Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cinema' in the 31st Kolkata International Film Festival (6-13 Nov 2025) during the award ceremony on 13 Nov 2025. Goutam Ghose



is an eminent filmmaker, actor, music director and cinematographer based in Kolkata. He made his first documentary *New Earth* in 1973 followed by *Hungry Autumn* in 1974 which made him famous and won the main award in Oberhausen Film Festival. Thereafter he made many important and acclaimed documentaries on the life and works of the legends like Satyajit Ray, Bismillah Khan, Raja Rammohan Roy, and others. He made his first feature film *Maa Bhoomi* (1980) in Telugu, which won the Best State Film Award of Andhra Pradesh. His second feature film *Dakhal* (1981) made in Bengali won him his first National Film Award for the Best Feature Film. Thereafter he won many national and international awards and honours for his films. His third feature film *Paar* (1984) made in Hindi was nominated for the Golden Lion competition in Venice Festival. Later it won the FIPRESCI Award in Verna Film Festival. Besides 17 documentaries, and four short films, he has made 16 feature films and won the National Film Award for 16 times for 13 feature films and three documentaries. His noteworthy films include *Antarjali Jatra* (1987), *Padma Nadir Majhi* (1992), *Patang* (1993), *Gudia* (1997), *Dekha* (2001), *Abar Aranye* (2003), *Moner Manush* (2010), *Shankhachil* (2016), and others. He is the only Indian recipient of the Vittorio Di Sica Award, Italy, in 1997. He was awarded the Knighthood of the Star of the Italian Solidarity in July 2006 for his contributions to cinema. The FIPRESCI-India Lifetime Achievement Award was handed over to Goutam Ghose by Safaa Elaisy Haggag, Virat Nehru, and Madhu Janardanan who were attending the festival as the members of FIPRESCI Jury. (For the report of FIPRESCI Award in Kolkata Festival see pg.5 below).





FIPRESCI-India
Presents

6th Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Competition
for
Best Film Criticism 2025

Young Critics Award (up to 30 Yrs)
Best Award:
Hemadri Pradeep Ludbe (Mumbai)

Certificate of Merit:
B. Geetha (Bengaluru)
Pritirekha Neog (Sivasagar)
Sayan Paul (Shirakole, WB)
Kalpajyoti Bhuyan (Guwahati)
Mayukh Mondal (Kolkata)
Soumoyadip Samanta (Kolkata)



Senior Critics Award (30+ Yrs)
Best Award:
Vinu A (Ernakulam, Kerala)

Certificate of Merit:
Sudarshan Yadav (Ranchi)
Aparna Ajith (Kollam, Kerala)
Subha Das Mollick (Kolkata)
Tanmoy Dutta Gupta (Kolkata)
Garima Kalita (Guwahati)





FIPRESCI-INDIA COMPETITION ON FILM CRITICISM

FIPRESCI-India organised the 6th Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Competition for Best Film Criticism 2025. The jury, composed of the FIPRESCI members Dr Rita Dutta, Dr Minakshi Dutta, and Dr Pranjal Borah awarded Best Young Critic Award (below 30 years) to Hemadri Pradeep Ludbe (Mumbai) and Best Senior Critic Award (above 30 years) to Vinu A (Ernakulam) with a cash amount of 5,000 INR each. Certificate of Merit (Young Critic) awarded to: B. Geetha (Bengaluru), Pritirekha Neog (Sivasagar), Sayan Paul (Shirakole), Kalpajyoti Bhuyan (Guwahati), Mayukh Mondal (Kolkata) and Soumoyadip Samanta (Kolkata). Certificate of Merit (Senior Critic) awarded to: Sudarshan Yadav (Ranchi), Aparna Ajith (Kollam), Subha Das Mollick (Kolkata), Tanmoy Dutta Gupta (Kolkata) and Garima Kalita (Guwahati). Like previous years, this year also the result was announced on 20 Nov, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Chidananda Dasgupta (B. 20 Nov 1921).

FIPRESCI-INDIA AWARD IN JAGRAN FESTIVAL

In 13th Jagran Film Festival Mumbai (13 to 16 Nov 2025) the FIPRESCI-India Award was given to the film *Whisper My Name* (Iran, 2025, 109 mins) by Rasoul Sadrameli for the Best Feature Film in the International section, and *Tanvi the Great* (India, Hindi, 2025, 160 mins) by Anupam Kher for the Best Feature Film in the National section. Special Jury Mention awarded to *Mog Asum* (India, Konkani, 2025, 96 mins) by Radheshyam Pipalwa and Agnelo Braganza. The FIPRESCI-India Jury (in pic) composed of VK Joseph, Ashok Rane, and Dr Rita Dutta awarded the films in the closing ceremony of the festival held in Mumbai on 16 Nov 2025. This is the first time FIPRESCI-India National Jury was installed in the Mumbai edition of Jagran Film Festival which opened on 4 Sept 2025 at Siri Fort Auditorium in Delhi, and then travelled to 14 cities in north India. The festival concluded in Mumbai by conferring FIPRESCI-India Award, along with many other awards in different categories.



director to her mother, who got a cancer diagnosis. It opens up the view on the dramatic story of the mother's life and restrictions she has experienced in a patriarchal society. *The Red Moon Eclipse* was for us a strong cinematic experience, which made us look forward to Caroline Guimbal's next films".

FIPRESCI AWARD IN LEIPZIG

FIPRESCI Prize in 68th International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, Germany, 27 Oct – 2 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *The Red Moon Eclipse* by Caroline Guimbal (Belgium, 2025, 76 min). The jury composed of Jan Storø (Norway), Kay Hoffmann (Germany), and Saleem Albeik (Palestine) [pc: FIPRESCI website] in their motivation said, "A very personal and poetic documentary about the intense relation of the

FIPRESCI AWARD IN THESSALONIKI

FIPRESCI Prize in 66th Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Greece, 30 Oct – 9 Nov 2025 awarded to the films *Karla* by Christina Tournatzés (Germany, 2025, 105 min) in the International Competition section, and *Bearcave* by Krysianna Papadakis and Stergios Dinopoulos (Greece, 2025, 127 min) in the Greek section. The jury was composed of Gena Teodosievska (North Macedonia), Ifigenia Kalantzi (Greece), and Robert Horton (USA) [pc: FIPRESCI website]



FIPRESCI AWARD IN STOCKHOLM

FIPRESCI Prize in the 35th Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden, 4 – 16 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *No Other Choice* by Park Chan-wook (South Korea, 139 min). The jury composed of Stephen Aspelng (South Africa), Julia Finnsiö (Sweden), and Leonardo Goi (Italy) [pc: FIPRESCI website] in their motivation said, "Few films have captured the cut-throat depravities of late-stage capitalism with such insight and inventiveness. For a story that's so rooted in its geo-cultural context, this parable of a man who's suddenly made redundant feels both topical and universal...."

FIPRESCI AWARD IN COTTBUS

FIPRESCI Prize in 35th Festival of East European Cinema Cottbus, Germany, 4 – 9 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *Wrooklyn Zoo* by Krzysztof Skonieczny (Poland, 2024, 129 min). The jury composed of Ladislav Volko (Slovakia), Andrei Liimets (Estonia), and Barbara Schweizerhof (Germany) [pc: FIPRESCI website] in their motivation said, “For blending punkish energy and the anti-authoritarianism of skate culture with the mysticism of Roma folklore and a timeless Shakespearean love story. The film is youthful, playful, creative and borderless both in cultural influences as well as its fresh filmmaking. Going through a troubled past and talking to a divided present, it provides much needed cues for a better future”.



FIPRESCI AWARD IN TAIPEI

FIPRESCI Prize in 62nd Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival, Taiwan, 6 – 23 Nov 2025 was awarded to the film *Amoeba* by Tan Siyou (Netherlands, France, Spain, South Korea, Singapore, 2025, 99 min). The jury composed of Hung Jian-luen (Taiwan), Giovanni Stigliano Messuti (Italy), and Andreea Patru (Romania) [pc: FIPRESCI website] in their motivation said, “This film tells a coming-of-age story that employs a compelling approach to camera movement and editing that allows the filmmaker to use it metaphorically to reference the history and the sense of identity of a country. Through the

tender friendship among the young protagonists, this work presents an original depiction of female adolescence in a repressive environment that resonates universally”.

FIPRESCI AWARD IN MAR DEL PLATA

FIPRESCI Prize in 40th Mar del Plata International Film Festival, Argentina, 6 – 16 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *Night Stage* by Filipe Matzembacher and Marcio Reolon (Brazil, 2025, 117 mins). The jury composed of Adam Kruk (Poland), Enoe Lopes Pontes (Brazil), and Bartolomé Armentano (Argentina) [pc: FIPRESCI website] in their motivation said, “For the way it thrives at the elusive intersection of reality and dreams, for its courageous direction and inventive blend of genres, for its playful narrative and its exploration of performance on multiple levels, the FIPRESCI Jury has chosen to give the prize to ‘Night Stage’ by Filipe Matzembacher and Marcio Reolon.”



FIPRESCI AWARD IN MANNHEIM-HEIDELBERG

FIPRESCI Prize in 74th Internationales Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg, Germany, 6-16 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *Reedland* by Sven Bresser (Netherlands, Belgium, 2025, 111 min). The jury composed of Britta Schmeis (Germany), Tereza Brdecková (Czech Republic), and Assiya Issemberdiyeva (Kazakhstan) [pc: FIPRESCI website] in their motivation said, “Beautifully and artistically crafted, this film unfolds through mesmerising, hypnotic imagery. It explores the complexity of human existence and modern life on a deceptively simple ground. Elemental forces shape its meditative and metaphysical rhythm, drawing us into a world that feels both intimate and universal. The protagonist’s inner struggle – between silent temptations and the hidden revelations of ageing – is portrayed with remarkable depth by a non-professional actor, Gerrit Knobbe.”

FIPRESCI AWARD IN KOLKATA

FIPRESCI Prize in 31st Kolkata International Film Festival, India, 6 – 13 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *To the West, in Zapata* by David Bim (Cuba, Spain, 2025, 75 min). The jury composed of Safaa El-laisy Haggag (Egypt), Virat Nehru (Australia), and Madhu Janardanan Narayana Mangalath (India) [in pic] in their motivation said, “From 14 incredible films, there was one whose images and visual grammar spoke volumes, with immense clarity and conviction. After much deliberation, our jury was unanimous that this film was a real triumph of considered craft meeting purposeful storytelling”. The film in the International Competition section also won the Golden Royal Bengal Tiger which is the main official award of the festival.



FIPRESCI AWARD IN TALLINN

FIPRESCI Prize in 29th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Estonia, 7 – 23 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *Hercules Falling* by Christian Bonke (Denmark, 2025, 104 min). The jury composed of Jason Gorber (Canada), Alexander Melyan (Armenia), and Martin Oja (Estonia) [pc: FIPRESCI website, photo by: Mia Tohver] in their motivation said, “Not all the scars caused by conflict are visible, and as this tale admirably demonstrates, the wounds to one’s humanity often cut even deeper than those to one’s flesh. We award this film for its documentary-like precision, its captivating and emotionally impactful storyline, its precise staging and assured direction of both professionals and non-actors alike, it’s astonishing that this powerful film is the work of a first-time feature director”.

FIPRESCI AWARD IN RABAT

FIPRESCI Prize in Rabat International Author Film Festival, Morocco, 7-14 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *Songs of Adam* by Oday Rasheed, (Iraq, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, USA, 2024, 97 mins). The jury composed of Beat Glur (Switzerland), Leticia Alassë (Brazil), and Schayan Riaz (Germany) [pc: FIPRESCI website] in their motivation said, “Through a delicate and evocative fable, the work frees the history of a nation from the reductive narratives often perpetuated by the media. Blending philosophy, poetry, and striking landscapes, it guides us through an intimate journey from the 1940s to the present. By approaching the scars of conflict with simplicity and visual grace, the director offers a profound reflection on how we perceive the stories of others.”



FIPRESCI AWARD IN LJUBLJANA

FIPRESCI Prize in 36th Ljubljana International Film Festival, Slovenia, 11–23 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *Ida Who Sang So Badly Even the Dead Rose Up and Joined Her in Song* by Ester Ivakič (Slovenia, Bosnia, 2025, 109 min). The jury composed of Diana Martirosyan (Armenia), Shahla Nahid (France), and Tinkara Uršič Fratina (Slovenia) [pc: FIPRESCI website] in their motivation said, “A sensitive and profound film about coming to terms with life and death, entirely carried by the pre-adolescent lead actress, inhabited by her character. A film that lives in the space between worlds, where atmosphere and subtlety outweigh explicit explanation. It creates an authentic feeling of childhood in the countryside, woven through with elements of magical realism that reflect the main character’s emotions.”

FIPRESCI AWARD IN CAIRO

FIPRESCI Prize in 46th Cairo International Film Festival, Egypt, 11-21 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *The Things You Kill* by Alireza Khatami (Turkey, France, Canada, Poland, 2025, 114 min). The jury composed of Ahmed Shawky (Egypt), Laura Pertuy (France), and Thierry Verhoeven (The Netherlands) [pc: FIPRESCI website] in their motivation said, “The film we’ve chosen to award the FIPRESCI Prize plays with both the power of perspectives and the realm of nightmares, while being unafraid to make bold choices. It explores the psyche of someone who seems to have their life all figured out, while they have perhaps only been fooling themselves the whole time. With elegant, powerful but restrained direction, the film skilfully tackles its themes – the way masculine violence is transmitted through generations and the deeply hidden aspects of seemingly normal people – while offering its actors complex roles. The result is a remarkable work about one’s inner darkness brought into the light.”



essential subject, brought to life by an extraordinary actress. This prize reveals two talents: Cécilia Verheyden (director) and Femke Vanhove (actress)”. Special mention was given to the film *Sugarland* by Isabella Brunäcker (Austria, 2025, 86 min).

FIPRESCI AWARD IN IDFA

FIPRESCI Prize in 38th International Documentary Film Festival, Netherlands, 12 – 23 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *Paikar* by Dawood Hilmandi (Netherlands, Afghanistan, 2025, 97 min). The jury was composed of Jean-Max Méjean (France), Suncica Unevaska (Macedonia), and Boaz van Luijk (The Netherlands). Afghan artist-filmmaker Dawood Hilmandi is called Paikar—the Persian word for “war” or “warrior”—by his family. His parents use this nickname proudly, but in this family portrait, it seems more of a burden than a blessing. In *Paikar*, Hilmandi shows his return home, where he hopes to mend his relationship with his aging, authoritarian father.



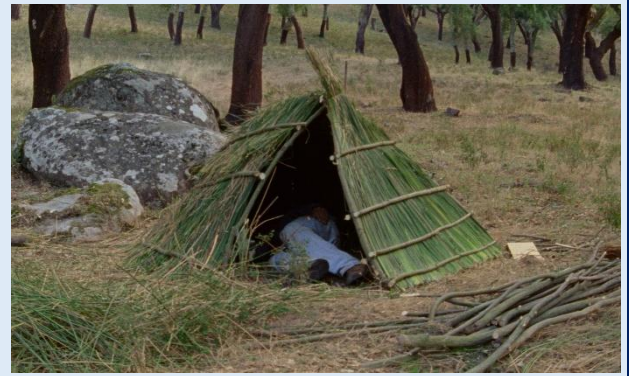
tells the story of a family living in Iceland. They are facing the wild nature, the difficult relationship between a married couple and complicated desires of creativity that portraits strong femininity. The bravery of the character is reflected through art, nature and the style of filmmaking. Hlynur Pálmason managed the three fundamental aspects of the film – direction, screenplay and cinematography – in a radical and confident way”.

FIPRESCI AWARD IN LEECE

FIPRESCI Prize in 26th European Film Festival Lecce, Italy, 15-22 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *The Love That Remains* by Hlynur Pálmason (Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, France, 2025, 109 min). The jury composed of Nicola Davide Angerame (Italy), Stojan Sinadinov (North Macedonia), and Susanne Gietl (Germany) in their motivation said, “The film

FIPRESCI AWARD IN COIMBRA

FIPRESCI Prize in 31st Caminhos do Cinema Português, Portugal, 15-22 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *The Seasons* by Maureen Fazendeiro (Portugal, France, Spain, Austria, 2025, 82 min). The jury composed of Michael Ranze (Germany), José Antonio Teodoro (Canada), and Yasmine Bouchfar (Morocco) in their motivation said, “For its contemplative rapture and beguiling capacity to collapse past and present, for its tender attention to the minutia of human and animal life ever blooming in Portugal’s wondrous Alentejo region, and for its fusion of archaeology and cinematography as a means of making history legible in a landscape, we the members of the International Federation of Film Critics are thrilled to award the FIPRESCI Prize to *As Estações*, or *The Seasons*, from director Maureen Fazendeiro.”



through an approachable complexity. More than this, for its warmth and use of disproportions to carve a place in the world, in the face of family history and geopolitical turmoil”.

FIPRESCI AWARD IN TORINO

FIPRESCI Prize in 43rd Torino Film Festival, Italy, 21-29 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *The Anatomy of Horses* by Daniel Vidal Tocha (Peru, Spain, France, Colombia, 2025, 106 min). The jury composed of Chiara Spagnoli Gabardi (Italy), Igor Angjelkov (Macedonia), and Paul Risker (UK) in their motivation said, “The film reflects on a necessary truth that revolution is one of action and bloodshed, but is a state of mind doomed to fail. This sensitive exploration of indigenous culture is brought to life through magic realism, drawing from the spirit of Eadweard Muybridge. As a work of visual poetry, that is impervious to time, the film shows that what man has enslaved is more free than the human being.”



beginning we sense an atmosphere of harm. In this film, the beauty of art is created in an environment of competition and manipulation. Compellingly told from the perspective of innocence to be lost, the result is a polyphony of *Broken Voices*”.

FIPRESCI AWARD IN MONTREAL

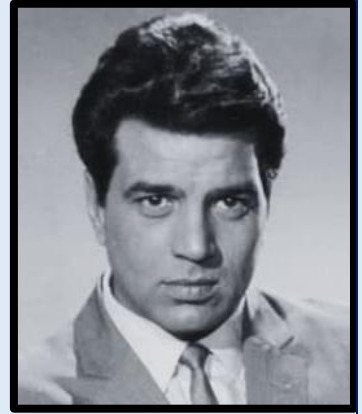
FIPRESCI Prize in 28th Montreal International Documentary Festival, Canada, 20-30 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *Soul of the Foot* by Mustafa Uzuner (Canada, Turkey, 2025, 66 min). The jury composed of Mathieu Li-Goyette (Canada), Inge Coolsaet (Belgium), and Paola Casella (Italy) in their motivation said, “For succeeding in finding sense out of displacement, in an uncompromising way and

FIPRESCI AWARD IN ATHENS

FIPRESCI Prize in 37th Athens Panorama of European Cinema, Greece, 21-27 Nov 2025 awarded to the film *Broken Voices* by Ondrej Provaznik (Czech Republic, Slovakia, 2025, 106 min). The jury composed of Gerhard Midding (Germany), Andrea Bosco (Italy), and Philippos Chatzikos (Greece) in their motivation said, “This should be the story of youthful dreams fulfilled, but from the

DHARMENDRA PASSED AWAY IN MUMBAI

Veteran actor of mainstream Hindi cinema, Dharmendra Kewal Krishan Deol, popularly known as Dharmendra, passed away on 24 Nov 2025 in Mumbai. He was 89 (B. 8 Dec 1935). Celebrities, including his family members Hema Malini, Esha Deol, Sunny Deol, Bobby Deol, and friends and admirers like Amitabh Bachchan, Salim Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan, Jaya Bachchan, Salman Khan, Deepika Padukone, Karan Johar, Shabana Azmi, Akshay Kumar, Kajol, Kareena Kapoor, Saira Banu, and many others were present at the crematorium. President Droupadi Murmu said Dharmendra's demise is "a great loss to Indian cinema". Prime



Minister Narendra Modi said Dharmendra's demise "marks the end of an era in Indian cinema". In a career spanning over 65 years, Dharmendra worked in more than 300 films, holding the record for starring in the highest number of box-office hits in Hindi cinema. His best-remembered films included *Phool Aur Patthar* (1966), *Mera Gaon Mera Desh* (1971), *Chupke Chupke* (1975), and *Sholay* (1975).

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO ILDIKÓ IN CAIRO

On 20 Nov, during the 46th Cairo International Film Festival, the Hungarian director Ildikó Enyedi received the FIPRESCI 100th Lifetime Achievement Award, a special distinction created to mark the federation's centennial and honour artists whose work has consistently captured critical attention, earning them multiple FIPRESCI prizes over the course of their careers.



INTERNATIONAL FILM CRITICISM CONFERENCE IN RIYADH

For the third consecutive year, from 7 to 9 Nov 2025, FIPRESCI took part in the International Film Criticism Conference, held in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. The theme of this year's edition, Cinema, the Art of Place, invited participants to explore how location, memory, and imagination converge within the cinematic form. After two successful editions, the conference once again brought together film critics, scholars, researchers, and festival programmers to examine the concept of place in cinema as a metaphorical and philosophical space.



A BOOK TITLED 'CINEMATIC CARTOGRAPHY' RELEASED IN KOLKATA



A book titled 'Cinematic Cartography: Mapping the Breadth of Indian Film Landscapes' edited by Dr Rita Dutta, a member of FIPRESCI, was released on 10 Nov 2025 in Kolkata. The book (369pgs. PB. 600 INR) containing 21 articles on different aspects of Indian

cinema published by Avenel Press Kolkata was released by the FIPRESCI members Safaa Haggag (Egypt) and Virat Nehru (Australia), along with the eminent filmmaker Haobam Paban Kumar (Manipur), and legendary cinematographer Sunny Joseph (Kerala)

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