

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-60

DECEMBER 2025

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

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

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO T.V. CHANDRAN



To celebrate 100th Anniversary of FIPRESCI, the India Chapter Fipresci-India felicitated the eminent filmmaker T.V. Chandran with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to cinema. Internationally acclaimed filmmaker Goutam Ghose handed over the award to Chandran on 15 Dec 2025 at the Open Forum at Tagore Theatre Thiruvananthapuram during the 30th International Film Festival of Kerala (12-19 Dec 2025) (in pic above). T.V. Chandran is a film director, screenwriter, and actor, working in Malayalam cinema for more than four decades. He made his directorial debut with *Krishnan Kutty* (1981). He came into prominence after *Alicinte Anveshanam* (1989), which was nominated for the Golden Leopard at the Locarno International Film Festival. This was followed by his most famous film *Ponthan Mada* (1993). He is highly acclaimed for his films which have references to history, politics and feminism. He is well renowned for his trilogy on 2002 Gujarat riots, consisting of *Kathavasheshan* (2004), *Vilapangalkappuram* (2008), and *Bhoomiyude Avakashikal* (2012). His highly acclaimed films include *Mangamma* (1997), *Dany* (2001), *Paadam Onnu: Oru Vilapam* (2003), and others. He won several awards including six National Film Awards and ten Kerala State Film Awards. In 2023, he was honoured with the J. C. Daniel Award, the highest one in Malayalam cinema. He has received a number of awards at various international film festivals. The award function was followed by a seminar on the topic 'Film Criticism in the Age of AI'. Like previous years, this year also the seminar was conducted by Fipresci-India in collaboration with the Kerala Region of the Federation of Film Societies of India, and Kerala State Chalachitra Academy. Goutam Ghose delivered the key note address. Besides the FIPRESCI members Premendra Mazumder, G.P. Ramachandran, Aparajita Pujari, Dr P Sreedevi, Madhu Janardanan, and Dr Latika Padgaonkar, several dignitaries like T.V. Chandran, Kamal, and others took part in the discussion. The program was chaired by the Fipresci-India President V.K. Joseph.

FIPRESCI AWARD IN 30th INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF KERALA



FIPRESCI Prize in the 30th International Film Festival of Kerala (12-19 Dec 2025) awarded to the film *If on a Winter's Night* by Sanju Surendran (India, 2025, 100 min) in the International Competition section, and to the film *Desire* by Fazil Razak (India, 2025, 111 min) in the Malayalam Cinema Competition. Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan handed over the awards to the recipients in presence of the great master Adoor Gopalakrishnan, eminent filmmaker Saeed Akhtar Mirza, Minister for Culture Saji Cherian, along with several other dignitaries including the FIPRESCI jury members Aparajita Pujari (India), Ashanti Omkar (UK), Christopher Small (UK) (*in pic above*). Japanese drama film *Two Seasons, Two Strangers* written and directed by Sho Miyake won *Suvarna Chakoram* for Best Film in the International Competition. *Rajata Chakoram* for Best Director awarded to Carina Piazza ad Lucía Bracelis for the Argentine film *Antes del cuerpo*. *Rajata Chakoram* for Best Debut Director awarded to Tanushree Das and Saumyananda Sahi for the Bengali film *Baksho Bondi* which also won the FFSI KR Mohanan Award for the Best Debut Director from India. NETPAC Award for the Best Asian Film won by the Turkish-Iranian film *Cinema Jazireh* by Gözde Kural, and the NETPAC Award for the Best Malayalam Film won by *If on a Winter's Night* by Sanju Surendran and *Life of Phallus* by Unnikrishnan Avala. *Life of Phallus* by Unnikrishnan Avala, received the Audience Poll Award and the Jury Prize. The Spirit of Cinema Award presented to the Canadian filmmaker Kelly Fyffe-Marshall.



FIPRESCI AWARD IN DUHOK

FIPRESCI Prize in 12th Duhok International Film Festival, Iraq, 8-16 Dec 2025 awarded to *All the Mountains Give* by Arash Rakhsha (Iran, Kurdistan, 2024, 91 min). The jury composed of Olivia Popp (Germany), Meghachandra Kongbam (India), and Kovan Hussein (Iraq) (*in pic: PC-FIPRESCI*) in their motivation said, "This impressive feat of filmmaking blurs the lines between fiction and documentary through its compelling storytelling style. Through high-risk, immersive shots, we discover

a hidden world through minimalist but powerful mise-en-scène that carves out a cinematic landscape in the mountainous borderlands between Iran and Iraq. The film challenges conventions of narration and harkens back to core identities of Kurdish cinema and continues the legacy of Yılmaz Güney. The director, who also serves as cinematographer and editor, reveals a resounding human story of resilience, desperation, and survival."

FIPRESCI AWARD IN SINGAPORE

FIPRESCI Prize in 36th Singapore International Film Festival, 28 Nov – 8 Dec 2025 awarded to *Human Resource* by Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit (Thailand, 2025, 122 mins). The jury composed of Amarsanaa Battulga (Mongolia), Rita Dutta (India), and Nguyen Le (Vietnam) in their motivation said, “The film *Human Resource* shows us the world we live in today, full of economic coercion, environmental crisis, and political apathy. A world where problems are normalized and the prerequisite to earn a future is to be less human. Through rich visual metaphors and understated direction, the filmmaker deconstructs the myth of liberty and choice under capitalism, portraying



characters desiring desperation despite themselves.”

FIPRESCI AWARD IN HAVANA

FIPRESCI Prize in 46th Festival Internacional del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano, Havana, Cuba, 4-12 Dec 2025 awarded to *On the Road* by David Pablos (Mexico, 2025, 93 mins). The jury composed of Daryl Hernández Vázquez (Cuba), Zoraida Rengifo (Peru), and Juan Pablo Russo (Argentina) in their motivation said, “For being a cinematic work that engages



with a complex, patriarchal social context in which different forms of masculinity converge without resorting to archetypal or superficial formulas. The film develops a perspective on identity, violence, and gender, expressed through a raw aesthetic combined with the symbolic weight of its geographical setting.”

HYDERABAD SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

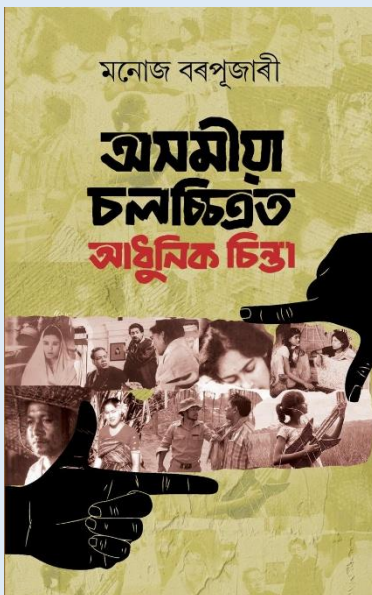
1st Hyderabad International Short Film Festival was organised by Dadasaheb Phalke School of Film Studies, Green Valley, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad from 19 to 21 Dec 2025 at Prasad Multiplex, Hyderabad with the support of the Telangana Film Development Corporation, Government of Telangana. Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Jishnu Dev Varma, launched the logo of the festival at Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad.



The festival focused on the cultural heritage of India's North-East region.

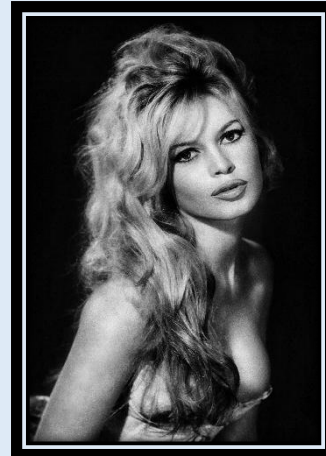
MANOJ BARPUJARI'S BOOK RELEASED

Axomiya Chalachitrat Adhunik Chinta is film critic Manoj Barpujari's new book on how modernism took roots and has been flourished in Assamese films. A critical assessment on the subject, it is a collection of 20 selected articles and lectures on recent films and trends in cinemas of Assam with a historical perspective. They were either published or delivered during the period of 2011-2025. While discussing the most important films enriching Assamese filmmaking history, the writer-critic Manoj Barpujari, a member of FIPRESCI, has thrown lights on the creative thrusts and original ideas reflecting cultural ethos of the land in the individual styles of filmmakers. The 184-page Assamese language book, priced 300 INR is published by a leading publication house Bandhav, of Guwahati. The book hit the stands on 29 Dec 2025 during Guwahati Book Fair.

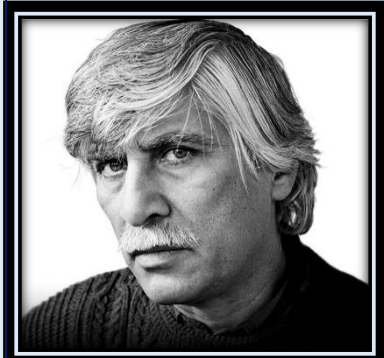


BRIGITTE BARDOT (1934–2025)

Brigitte Bardot, the French actress, singer, and animal-rights activist whose image and spirit reshaped modern notions of beauty and freedom, died on 28 Dec 2025 at her home in Saint-Tropez in France. She was 91. Born in Paris on 28 Sept 1934, Bardot rose to international fame in the 1950s, becoming one of the most recognizable faces of the postwar era. Her breakthrough role in *And God Created Woman* (1956) transformed her into a global sensation and a symbol of youthful sensuality and rebellion. Bardot embodied spontaneity and natural allure, influencing fashion, cinema, and popular culture worldwide. Her film career included acclaimed works such as *La Vérité*, *Viva Maria!*, and Jean-Luc Godard's *Contempt*, in which she revealed a more complex and introspective presence. At the height of her fame, Bardot decided to leave acting in 1973, turning her back on celebrity life. In her later decades, she devoted herself passionately to animal welfare, founding the Brigitte Bardot Foundation in 1986. Her activism, outspoken and often controversial, reflected the same fierce independence that defined her screen persona. Brigitte Bardot leaves behind a legacy that transcends cinema: a woman who lived on her own terms and forever changed the cultural landscape of the twentieth century.



BAHRAM BEYZAIE (1938–2025)



Bahram Beyzaie, the towering figure of Iranian cinema and theatre whose work bridged myth, history, and modern identity, passed away in USA on 26 Dec 2025, his 87th birthday. Born in Tehran in 1938, Beyzaie was a visionary director, playwright, screenwriter, and scholar whose influence reshaped Iranian cultural life. A founding voice of Iran's New Wave cinema, he brought literary depth and formal innovation to the screen, creating films that challenged conventions and explored themes of power, gender, exile, and collective memory. Works such as *Downpour*, *The Stranger and the Fog*, *Bashu*, *the Little Stranger*, and *Maybe Some Other Time* are regarded as milestones of Iranian cinema. He authored and directed numerous plays, drawing from Persian mythology, folklore, and classical texts, while infusing them with contemporary relevance. Later in life, Beyzaie continued teaching and writing abroad, inspiring generations of artists and scholars. Bahram Beyzaie leaves behind a legacy of fearless imagination and intellectual rigor, standing as one of Iran's most profound and influential cultural voices.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS IN 2026

Palm Springs, USA, January 2-12; **International Film Festival Rotterdam** (IFFR), The Netherlands, January 29-February 8; **Tromsø International Film Festival**, Norway, January 19-25; **Göteborg Film Festival**, Sweden, January 23-February 1; **Bengaluru International Film Festival**, India, 29 January-6 February; **Berlinale**, Germany, February 12-22; **Luxembourg City Film Festival**, Luxembourg, March 5-15; **Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival**, Greece March 5 – 15; **Sofia International Film Festival**, Bulgaria, March 12-22; **CPH:DOX, Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival**, Denmark, March 15-21; **REGARD – Saguenay International Short Film Festival**, Quebec, Canada, March 18-22; **D'A Festival Cinema Barcelona (Spain)**, March 19-29; **Guadalajara International Film Festival**, Mexico, April 17-25; **Julien Dubuque International Film Festival**, Iowa, USA, April 18 – 25; **ZagrebDox International Documentary Film Festival**, Croatia, April 19-26..... *to be continued*