

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-67

July 2026

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

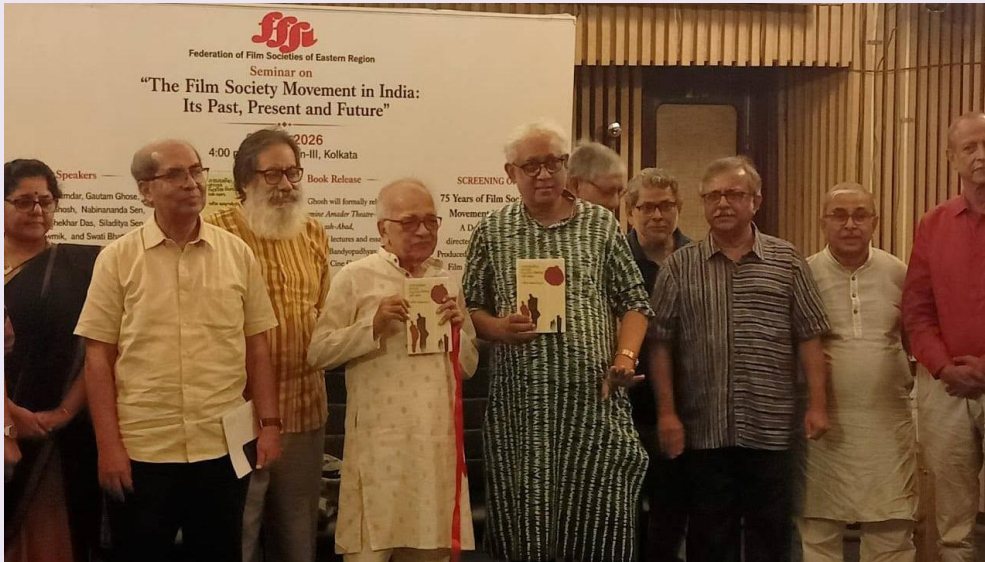
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72ND NATIONAL FILM AWARDS ANNOUNCED IN NEW DELHI



The winners of the 72nd National Film Awards for the year 2024 were announced on 18 July 2026 in New Delhi. Hindi film *Article 370* directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale won the Best Feature Film Award. Yami Gautam won the Best Actress in a Leading Role Award for *Article 370*, while Mammooty and Kartik Aaryan shared the Best Actor in a Leading Role Award for their performance in *Bramayugam* (Malayalam) and *Chandu Champion* (Hindi) respectively. Rajkumar Periasamy won the Best Director Award for the Tamil film *Amaran*. Shehnad Jalal won the Award for Best Cinematography for the film *Bramayugam*. Best Bengali Film Award won by *Chalchitra Ekhon* directed by Anjan Dutta. Fasil Muhammed's *Feminichi Fathima* won the Best Malayalam Film Award. Amartya Bhattacharyya won the Award for the Best Odia Film for *Lahari*. *Bhangaar* by Sumira Roy won the Award for Best Non-Feature Film and *Ram-Nami* by Bharatbala Ganapathy won the Best Documentary Award. Best Short Film Award won by *Hamsafar* (Marathi) by Abhijeet Arvind Dalvi. Award for the Best Book on Cinema won by Pradeep Kenchanuru for his Kannada book *Naaniruvude Nimagaagi Naadiruvude Nanagaagi: Kannada Cinemada Thathva matthu Rajakeeya* (I Stand for You, the State Stands for Us: Political and Philosophical dimensions of Kannada Cinema). Sanjeev Shrivastava won the Award for Best Film Critic. The Awards were announced by Jayaraj, Chairperson of the Feature Film Jury, Aseem Sinha, Chairperson of the Non-Feature Film Jury, and A. Chandrasekhar, Chairperson of the Best Writing on Cinema Jury in presence of Ajay Nagabhushan, JS (Films) and Dhirendra Ojha, Principal DG, PIB. Chairpersons of the Regional Panels were Akshaya Kr Parija (North), B S Basavaraj (East), Supratim Bhol (West), Manju Borah (South-I), and Gopi Desai (South-II). (In Pic. FIPRESCI Member Rwita Dutta who was in the Best Writing on Cinema Jury with other jury members announcing the awards in New Delhi) [News & Photo: PIB, MIB, GOI].

75 YEARS OF THE FILM SOCIETY MOVEMENT IN INDIA



Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI) Eastern Region presented a Seminar on 'The Film Society Movement in India: Its Past, Present and Future' followed by the grand premiere of the feature-length multilingual documentary *75 Years of The Film Society Movement in India* directed by Ashok Rane, produced by FFSI on 27 July 2026 at NANDAN, the Film Centre of West

Bengal in Kolkata. The film got an 'U' certificate from the CBFC on 15 July 2026. FIPRESCI members Siladitya Sen and Pranjal Borah, filmmaker Sekhar Das, film scholars Someswar Bhowmik, Nabinananda Sen and Manas Kr Ghosh, journalist author and social scientist Swati Bhattacharjee, and film society activists Anjan Das Mazumdar and Gautam Ghosh were there in the panel of speakers who emphasized on different aspects of the film society movement in India since its inception in 1947 with the establishment of the 'Calcutta Film Society' by Satyajit Ray, Chidananda Dasgupta and others. Shamik Bandyopadhyay chaired the seminar. Amitava Ghosh, General Secretary of FFSI released the Book *Je Manabjamine Amader Theatre-Cinemat Chash-Abad* (The Human Terrain Where Our Theatre and Cinema Have Been Cultivated) a collection of lectures and essays by Shamik Bandyopadhyay, published by Cine Guild Bally. The program including the seminar is available on the YouTube Channel of FFSI at <https://youtu.be/XINwvehxZGI>

9TH SOUTH ASIAN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

The 9th South Asian Short Film Festival opened on 3 July at NANDAN – the Film Centre of West Bengal in Kolkata concluded successfully on 9 July by giving away the awards by the jury members Sarmistha Maity, Debjani Banerjee, and Senjutee Suborna Tushee. Eminent filmmakers Anjan Bose, Sekhar Das, and Atanu Ghosh were present in the occasion. Satyajit Ray Golden Award for the Best



Documentary was given to the film *All That Matters to Them* by Mrinmoy Sarkar. *Friends of Jilipibala* by Debalina Majumder, and *In the Heart of the Tide* by Munmun Dhalaria won the Satyajit Ray Silver and Bronze Awards respectively for the 2nd and 3rd Best Documentaries. Jury Awards for the Best Documentary went to the films *Durga Puja of Kolkata* by Debasree Dutta, and *Gajon-Hymns of Nature* by Debanjan Majhi. Ritwik Ghatak Golden Award for the Best Short Fiction won by *Khooh Wala Ghar - Room at the Farm* by Jasmine Kaur Roy and Avinash Roy (*in pic above*). Ritwik Ghatak Silver Award for the 2nd Best Short Fiction went to the film *The Alter Echo* by Santanu Biswas. Ritwik Ghatak Bronze Award for the 3rd Best Short Fiction went jointly to the films *Under the Snow* by Nafiseh Zare, and *The One Who Plays – Khilawadi* by Shobhita Thakur.



KARLOVY VARY FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in the 60th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Czech Republic, 3 – 11 July 2026 awarded to the films *Only Beautiful Things to Look At* (Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Hungary, 2026, 90 min) by Ivan Ostrochovsky in the Crystal Globe competition, and *Petty Thieves* (Croatia, France, Germany, Serbia, 2026, 110 min) by Mate Ugrin in Proxima competition. The Jury comprising Laura Arias (Colombia), Giuseppe Sedia (Italy), Marita Nyrhinen (Finland), Isabel Jacobs (Czech Republic), Shiva Fouladi (France), and Wellington Almeida (Portugal) [in Pic. PC: FIPRESCI Website] in

their citation for *Only Beautiful Things to Look At* said, “Ivan Ostrochovský addresses a very touchy topic for bygone Czechoslovakia—the ethical implications of the state-sponsored sterilization campaign of Roma women. Steering clear of both inflexible realism and folklore, *Pramen* is also a visually alluring nostalgic trip into the Eighties, and most of all, a story of friendship and solidarity among two strong women from different backgrounds”.

GOLDEN APRICOT YEREVAN FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in the 23rd Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival, Armenia, 12 – 19 July 2026 awarded to the film *Dry Leaf* (Germany, Georgia, 2025, 186 min) by Alexandre Koberidze. The Jury comprising Diana Martirosyan (Armenia), Kees Driessen (The Netherlands), and Lika Glurjidze (Georgia) in their motivation said, “With its dreamlike approach to reality, and its inspired experimentation with technology generally considered outdated, this unorthodox road movie captured our imagination for all things seen, unseen, or only glimpsed. A soft-spoken political layer can be discerned underneath the impressionistic landscape, lamenting the loss of connections to the land and to each other. But by bending the arrow of time from a line into a circle, this subtle epic manages to turn a depressing sense of progressive disappearance into a renewed and refreshed awareness of presence. Seducing us with touches of silent cinema, a wonderful score, and surprising moments of off-beat humor. After careful deliberation, the Fipresci jury for the Regional Competition of the Golden Apricot International Film Festival has decided to award *Dry Leaf* by Alexandre Koberidze.”



EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in the 33rd European Film Festival Palic, Serbia, 18 – 22 July 2026 awarded to the film *Feels Like Home* (Hungary, 2025, 124 min) by Gábor Holtai. The Jury comprising Bozidar Zecevic (Serbia), Jana Bébarová (Czech Republic), and Michael Phillips (USA) [in Pic. PC: FIPRESCI Website] in their motivation said, “The FIPRESCI jury applauds this exceptional debut, which moved us with its wit, multi-layered theme and rigorously exacting style. More than merely topical, the FIPRESCI prize winner of the European Film Festival Palic speaks to us as a brilliant metaphor for the abuse of power, manipulation, and oligarchic practices in the governance of a nation—phenomena we witness on a daily basis, regardless of the country we call home”.

CINEHILL MOTOVUN FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in the 28th Cinehill Film Festival, Motovun, Croatia, 21 – 26 July 2026 awarded to the film *The Meltdown* (Chile, United States, Spain, Mexico, 2026, 108 min) by Manuela Martelli. The Jury comprising Petra Belc (Croatia), Nataliia Serebriakova (Ukraine), and Gabriele Barrera (Italy) [in Pic. PC. FIPRESCI Website] in their motivation said, “The FIPRESCI award goes to the film made with a subtle yet powerful cinematic language, a quiet, chamber-piece story about the multilayered relationship between mothers and daughters, set against a backdrop of both social and individual corruption”.



filmmakers Jayanta Madhab Dutta, Haobam Paban Kumar, Reema Borah, Parthajit Baruah, Himjyoti Talukdar, and Khanjan Kishore Nath, sound designer Amrit Pritam, film scholars Surajit Sharma and Ankan Rajkumar, and others attended the FAC to serve as the resource persons, and to present and discuss their films through interactive sessions.

5TH FAC IN JORHAT

The 5th Film Appreciation Course in Jorhat organised by Assam Film Society and People's Alliance for Change and Empowerment in collaboration with the CKB College Film Society and Federation of Film Societies of India inaugurated on 5 July 2026 concluded on 11 July successfully at CKB Commerce College Jorhat. The FAC was attended by more than 50 participants, mostly the students and film enthusiasts. FIPRESCI members Pranjal Borah and Minakshi Dutta,

FIPRESCI-INDIA FILM FESTIVAL IN DELHI AND RATNAGIRI

After Bengaluru and Kolkata, the 'Fipresci-India Film Festival: Cinemas of India' was held successfully in New Delhi, and Ratnagiri in July 2026. In Delhi the festival was presented by the India International Centre at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC New Delhi on 7, 13, 16, 20, 21 and 27 July showcasing *If on a Winter's Night* by Sanju Surendran, *Magazine* by Shubham Sanjay Shevade, *Adamyia* by Ranjan Ghosh, *Whispers of the Mountains* by Jigar Nagda, *Yakasi's Daughter* by Jayanta Madhab Dutta, and *Victoria* by Sivaranjini. In Delhi, the festival will also continue in August 2026 at the same venue. In Ratnagiri, Maharashtra the festival was held at Shravani Hall, Ratnagiri on 11, 18, and 25 July showcasing two films daily. Here the festival was hosted by Ratnagiri Film Society and FFSI Western Region showcasing the films *Whispers of the Mountains*, *If on a Winter's Night*, *Magazine*, *Yakasi's Daughter*, *Adamyia*, and *The Lost Path* by Khanjan Kishore Nath.



FESTIVALS COMING UP NEXT

Amman Intl Film Festival, Jordan, July 26 – Aug 3; Locarno, Switzerland, Aug 5–15; Beyond Borders International Documentary Film Festival, Kastellorizo, Greece, Aug 23–30; Mostra del Cinema di Venezia : Venice International Film Festival, Italy, Sept 2–12;

Published by FIPRESCI-India from the Regd. Office in Trivandrum, Kerala, India