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PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTED 72ND NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, presented the 72nd National Film Awards for the year 2024 in various categories at a function held at Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat on 22 Sept 2026. She also conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024 upon veteran actor Anant Nag in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema. Speaking on the occasion, the President congratulated all the award winners who, through their exceptional talent and hard work have carved a niche for themselves at the national level. She said that the image of India is reflected in films across all languages and regions. Indian cinema embodies the dreams, traditions, and struggles of the Indian people, as well as the possibilities for the future. The President commended the jury members for selecting films that address significant issues concerning society and the nation. She said that women's participation in every regional jury should be ensured. She underlined that in any field a holistic human perspective can be formed by incorporating the viewpoint of women. (*Pic. Veteran actor Mammootty receiving the Best Actor award from the President for his role in the Malayalam film Bramayugam*) [Courtesy: PIB, Govt. of India]

ANUPARNA ROY WINS AGAIN AT VENICE

Anuparna Roy has won the NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film at the 83rd Venice International Film Festival (2-12 Sept 2026) for her second feature, *Lovers in the Blue Night*. The film was presented in the Orizzonti (Horizons) section and received the honour for its sensitive portrayal of marginalised lives and migrant workers in Mumbai. Set against the restless margins of Mumbai, the film follows four migrants whose lives intersect through loneliness, desire, love and the struggle for survival. Told in Hindi, Sylheti and Marathi, it explores displacement, urban alienation, gender, class and the human longing for dignity and belonging. The NETPAC jury praised Roy's confident filmmaking and the film's nuanced and sensitive treatment of its characters. The award marks Roy's second consecutive recognition at Venice. In 2025, her debut feature, *Songs of Forgotten Trees*, won her the Orizzonti Award for Best Director, making her the first Indian filmmaker to receive that honour. Roy has described the NETPAC recognition as deeply personal, dedicating the achievement to her village, its people and their stories. Her success further highlights the growing international presence of independent Indian cinema and establishes her as a distinctive emerging voice in contemporary filmmaking.

WORLD FILM FESTIVAL KOLKATA CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY

5th World Film Festival Kolkata (Nandan, 8-13 Sept 2026) organised by the Federation of Film Societies of India Eastern Region concluded successfully with the presentation of awards to the winners. Bimal Roy Golden Award for the Best Feature Film won by *Jaya Aar Sharmin* (Bangladesh, 2026, 86 min) by Piplu R Khan while the Bimal Roy Silver Award for the 2nd Best Feature Film given to *River Tales* (India, Assamese, 2025, 103 min) by Pankaj Borah. Jury Mention in Feature Film category went to *Pantrum* (Sri Lanka, 2025, 99 min) by Nadie Wasalamudaliarachchi. Harisadhan Dasgupta Golden Award for the Best Documentary won by *Dolls Don't Die – Putulnama* (India, Bengali, 2024, 70 min) by Ranajit Ray, and the Harisadhan Dasgupta Silver Award for the 2nd Best Documentary won by *River Still Flows* (India, Assamese, 2024, 60 min) by Dip Bhuyan. Jury Mention in Documentary category went to *Mamun - In Praise of Shadows* (Bangladesh, UK, 2025, 60 min) by Makbul Chowdhury. Chidananda Dasgupta Golden Award for the Best Short Fiction won by *The Tale of Katha* (India, Bengali, 2026, 26 min) by Dhritisree Sarkar, and Chidananda Dasgupta Silver Award for the 2nd Best Short Fiction won by *Suddenly Rise* (Iran, 2025, 17 min) by Mohammad Sajad Motaharizadeh. (*Pic: Actor Jaya Ahsan, Filmmaker Sudeshna Roy and Sisir Sahana, and the jury members Ujjal Chakraborty and Rita Dutta in the Award Ceremony at Nandan*).

FIPRESCI-INDIA FILM FESTIVAL IN KERALA

After Kolkata, Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Guwahati, Nagpur, Satara, Ratnagiri, Cooch Behar, Baharampore, Midnapore, and several other places, FIPRESCI-India Film Festival: CINEMAS OF INDIA 2026 held in Kerala from 21 Sept 2026 at Payyannur in collaboration with FFSI Kerala Region. The Kerala edition brings together films representing the richness of India's regional and linguistic cinemas, offering audiences an opportunity to discover diverse cinematic voices beyond mainstream production. The festival's central objective is to promote meaningful engagement with Indian cinema and strengthen the culture of film appreciation through screenings and discussions. Showcasing of CINEMAS OF INDIA 2026 in Kerala also underlines the festival's commitment to taking quality Indian films to audiences across different regions of the country. The collaboration with FFSI Keralam further strengthens the network of film societies and cultural organisations working to promote serious cinema. With Kerala now added to its expanding itinerary, the festival continues its journey across India. Schedules for other venues are expected to be announced soon, promising audiences in more cities an opportunity to experience the country's rich and multifaceted cinematic landscape. It is to be mentioned that out of 10 feature films of FIPRESCI-India Film Festival: CINEMAS OF INDIA 2026, the Malayalam film *Feminist Fathima* by Fasil Muhammed recently won the 72nd National Award, and the Marathi film *Gondhal* selected as India's Official Entry to Academy Awards (Oscar) this year as reported by the Film Federation of India, central trade body of the Indian film industry.

FIPRESCI GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN BUDAPEST

For the third consecutive year, the General Assembly of FIPRESCI was held during the Budapest Classics Film Marathon (15-20 Sept 2026), organized by the National Film Institute Hungary. This year the Assembly took place on 17 Sept bringing together 22 delegates representing national sections and the Federation's Board. The Assembly opened with welcome address by György Ráduly, Artistic Director of the Budapest Classics Film Marathon, and Ahmed Shawky, President of FIPRESCI. The delegates reviewed the Federation's activities and finances over the past year and discussed priorities for its continued development. Among the central topics were FIPRESCI's international jury work and revised Prize regulations, editorial activities and new approaches to encouraging contributions from members, membership development, archive, educational and thematic initiatives, and possibilities for strengthening cooperation within the organization, and with the international cultural partners. Several proposals submitted by the national sections also opened discussions about the future development of existing initiatives and potential new areas of activity. Assembly reaffirmed the importance of maintaining an organization that is both internationally connected and responsive to the changing realities of film criticism and film culture. (Courtesy: FIPRESCI)

FIPRESCI GRAND PRIX 2026

The FIPRESCI Grand Prix 2026 was officially presented on 18 Sept 2026 during the opening ceremony of the 74th San Sebastián International Film Festival, celebrating *One Battle After Another* by Paul Thomas Anderson as the film critics' choice for Best Film of the Year. FIPRESCI Vice President Paola Casella took the stage at the opening gala to present the award. On behalf of the film and its director, the Grand Prix was received by Carlos Prada, Vice President of Warner Bros (*in pic*). A total of 591 members of FIPRESCI from 69 countries voted it as the Best Film of the Year. This is the fourth time that a film by Paul Thomas Anderson bagged this recognition after *Magnolia* (1999), *There Will Be Blood* (2007), and *Phantom Thread* (2018). *One Battle After Another* was also the winner of Academy Awards, scooping six statuettes: Best Picture, Director, Actor, Supporting Actor, Casting, Adapted Screenplay and Editing. The other four finalists of FIPRESCI Grand Prix 2026 were *Stille Freundin / Silent Friend* by Ildikó Enyedi, winner of FIPRESCI Prize in Venice; *The Voice of Hind Rajab* by Kahouter Ben Hania, winner of Silver Lion – Grand Jury Prize in Venice and City of Donostia / San Sebastián Audience Award; *Hamnet* by Chloé Zhao, winner of the Audience Awards at the Toronto and Valladolid festivals; and *Fjord* by Cristian Mungiu, winner of Palme d'Or, Jury Prize and FIPRESCI Prize at Cannes Festival. Since its inception in 1999, the FIPRESCI Grand Prix has been awarded to filmmakers like Maren Ade, Pedro Almodóvar, Paul Thomas Anderson, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Alfonso Cuarón, Jean-Luc Godard, Ryûsuke Hamaguchi, Michael Haneke, Aki Kaurismäki, Abdellatif Kekiche, Kim Ki-duk, Yorgos Lanthimos, Richard Linklater, Terrence Malick, George Miller, Cristian Mungiu, Jafar Panahi, Roman Polanski, Chloé Zhao, and Walter Salles. (Courtesy: FIPRESCI)

FIPRESCI PRIZE IN VENICE

FIPRESCI Prize in 83rd Venice International Film Festival, Italy, 2 – 12 Sept 2026 awarded to the films *Possible Love* by Lee Chang-dong (South Korea, 2026, 164 min) in Concorso section, and to *The Color of the Sun* by Xavier Tera (Canada, Italy, Japan, 2026, 110 min) in Orizzonti section. The jury consisted of Carmen Gray (New Zealand), Marco Lombardi (Italy), Berke Göl (Turkey), Anna Maria Osmólska-Metrak (Poland), Alvise Mainardi (Italy), and Jorge Roig Graterol (Venezuela) in their motivation for *Possible Love* said, "For a multi-layered and perfectly paced film of subtle power games that explores exploitation, class, disillusionment, love, desire, and the ownership and ethics of storytelling". The jury in its motivation for *The Color of the Sun* said, "For a striking movie that blends the specific political tension in Okinawa with a more universal journey of a young man through self-acceptance".

FIPRESCI PRIZE IN BRUSSELS

FIPRESCI Prize in 9th Brussels International Film Festival, Belgium, 4 – 12 Sept 2026 awarded to the film *The Incomer* by Louis Paxton (UK, 2026, 102 min). The jury consisted of Frédérique Morin (Belgium), Andrzej Fogler (Poland), and Hamed Soleimanzadeh (Iran) in their motivation said, "For its thoughtful engagement with the concept of conflict of interest in the civilized world; its contemporary narrative and the creation of a cinematic language that conveys its ideas with clarity and fluidity; its modern approach to comedy and its creation of an absurdist atmosphere in service of the narrative; its considered direction, meaningful mise-en-scène, and powerful performances, the FIPRESCI Award at the 9th Brussels International Film Festival goes to *The Incomer*, directed by Louis Paxton."

FIPRESCI PRIZE IN TORONTO

FIPRESCI Prize in 51st Toronto International Film Festival, Canada, 10 – 20 Sept 2026 awarded to the film *Ancestors* by David Turpin (Ireland, UK, 2026, 106 min). The jury composed of Victor Stiff (Canada), Savina Petkova (Bulgaria), Enoe Lopes Pontes (Brazil), Catalin Olaru (Romania), and Pragya Mishra (UK) in their motivation said, "In this story of lost people finding each other, we saw an extraordinary command of translating the dreamy landscape of memories and recollections into compassionate cinematic language. It immersed us in someone else's life, a time of love and turmoil, a past that returns through photographs and memories to haunt, bring longing, and give hope at once."

FIPRESCI PRIZE IN SAN SEBASTIAN

FIPRESCI Prize in 74th San Sebastian International Film Festival, Spain, 18 – 26 Sept 2026 awarded to the film *In My Father's Room* by Maha Harada (Japan, 2026, 109 min). The jury composed of Agus Izquierdo (Spain), Loreta Gandolfi (UK), and Guillermo Courau (Argentina) in their motivation said, "A film that elevates sensitivity and connection through poetry and artistic expression, exploring a father-daughter relationship that transcends time, death, and distance. A debut feature that upholds the discovery and awareness of one's own origins. Through a minimalist approach, *In My Father's Room* transforms absence into presence and transformation".

FIPRESCI PRIZE IN BRASÍLIA

FIPRESCI Prize in 59th Brasília Festival of Brazilian Cinema, Brazil, 11 – 19 Sept 2026 awarded to *The Gentle Ghosts* by Caetano Gotardo (Brazil, 2026, 120 min). The jury composed of Maja Korbecka (Poland), Helvecio Parente (Brazil), and Héctor Llanos (Spain) in their motivation said, "We chose this film because it tells the story of an everyday heroine who knows herself deeply, allowing herself to live in a world filled with both sorrows and joys. For its story, beautifully brought to life by the actors, who dance with the words in a script masterfully written by the filmmakers".

FIPRESCI PRIZE IN GREECE

FIPRESCI Prize in 49th Drama International Short Film Festival, Greece, 6 – 12 Sept 2026 awarded to *We Were Here* by Pranav Bhasin (India, 2026, 10 min). The jury composed of Sofía Alvarez Salas (Peru), Yun-hua Chen (Germany), and Anastasios Dertilis (Greece) in their motivation said, "For its humorous take on the challenges of AI in modern society and for its light-hearted way of undermining the establishment without underestimating its characters in day-to-day contemporary India".

FIPRESCI PRIZE IN CINEFEST MISKOLC

FIPRESCI Prize in 22nd CineFest Miskolc International Film Festival, Hungary, 4 – 12 Sept 2026 awarded to *Prosecution* by Faraz Shariat (Germany, 2026, 113 min). The jury composed of Kathy Vanhout (Belgium), José Solís (Honduras), and Zsuzsa Borbély (Hungary) in their motivation said, "Is there anything less objective than a legal system upheld by the same people who created and benefit from it? Using genre conventions from thrillers and courtroom dramas, director Faraz Shariat takes us on an emotional journey as we follow a young German prosecutor of Asian descent who becomes an outcast within her own system. Thoroughly researched, cut with precision, and powered by an astonishing performance by Chen Emilie Yan, *Prosecution* offers an urgent, fresh perspective on privilege, corruption, and the true meaning of justice".

FIPRESCI PRIZE IN ODESA IFF UKRAINE

FIPRESCI Prize in 17th Odesa International Film Festival, Ukraine, 27 Aug – 4 Sept 2026 awarded to the film *To the Victory!* by Valentyn Vasyanovych (Ukraine, Lithuania, 2025, 106 min). The jury composed of Natalia Moussienko (Ukraine), Iryna Zubavina (Ukraine), and Liudmila Novikova (Ukraine) in their motivation said, "For its bold perspective on some of the most pressing issues of our time and its original artistic vision". Due to the extraordinary circumstances under which the festival has taken place in 2026, the FIPRESCI jury was composed exceptionally of members of the Ukrainian Section of FIPRESCI. The Federation remained committed to supporting the Odesa International Film Festival and Ukrainian film culture during this challenging time.

(Courtesy: FIPRESCI)

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