

iffloid

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ff56
International Film Festival of India
Celebrate the joy of cinema

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Along the Red Carpet...



Top row (left to right): Actor Vineet Singh; Actress Rajeshwari Sachdev; Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui at the red carpet.

Middle row: Rajinikanth Felicitated at 56th IFFI

Bottom row (left to right): Actor Rishab Shetty felicitated with headgear by Yakshagana artist; Actor Jay Bhanushali and Tisca Chopra as compères; Attendees at the IFFI Closing ceremony

A Useful Ghost (Phi Chaidai Kha)



The Press Conference for *Phi Chaidai Kha*

A Useful Ghost (Phi Chaidai Kha) Thailand, France, Singapore | 2025 | Thai | 130' | Colour

A Useful Ghost, the Closing Film of IFFI 2025, brought an inventive and emotionally layered finale to the festival. Directed by debutant Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke, the film blends grief, fantasy and environmental commentary through the unusual story of a man whose deceased wife returns by inhabiting a vacuum cleaner. Set against the backdrop of Thailand's severe air pollution, the film uses a unique premise to explore loss, remembrance and resilience.

The film and its creative motivations were discussed at a press conference organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) at IFFI 2025. Speaking about the film's breakthrough and rupturous reception, Ratchapoom said, "Who would have thought such a film with

such a crazy idea could travel so far and reach so many people." He explained that the team initially imagined the ghost appearing in a human form but decided that the idea lacked freshness. The vacuum cleaner concept, he said, allowed the film to be both playful and emotionally honest.

Cinematographer Song Pasit spoke about the visual language, noting that the team approached the film with a sense of creative freedom. "Don't be afraid not to be cinematic," he said while describing the offbeat camera movements, bold compositions and prominently used red colour scheme that gave the film its distinctive tone.

Actor Wisarut Homhuan reflected on the personal impact of the project. "This role changed things for me," he said, adding that the film helped him gain recognition as a serious performer.

With its blend of tenderness, humour and imaginative storytelling, A Useful Ghost offered a memorable and unconventional closing to IFFI 2025.

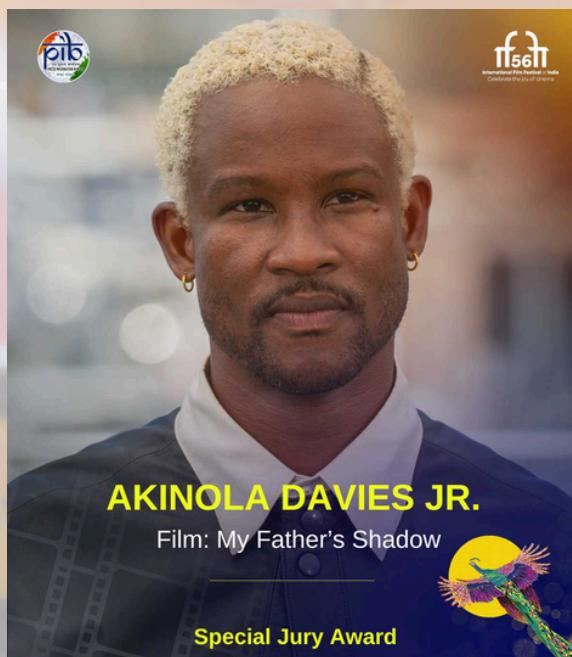
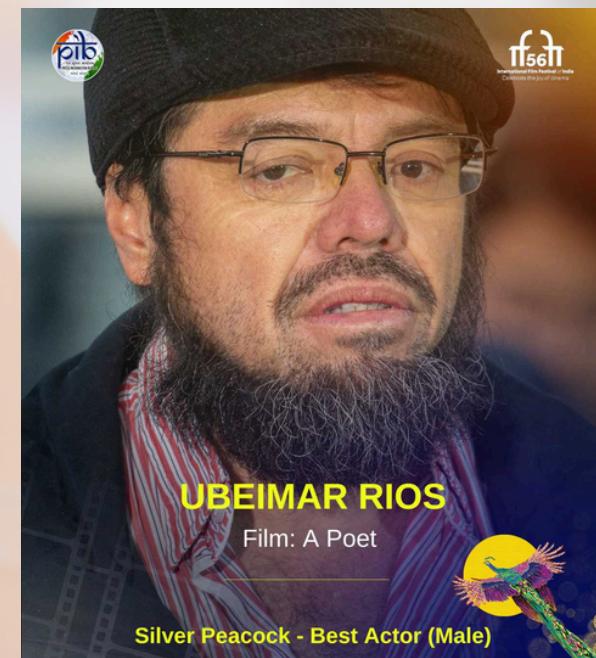
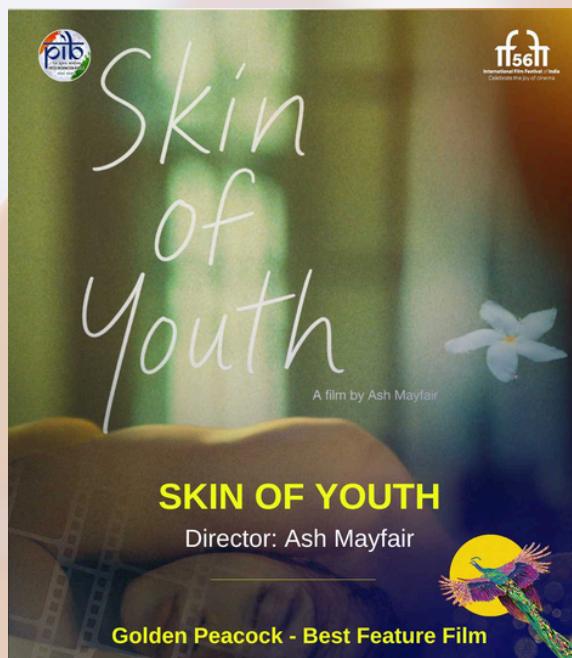
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AWARDS @ 56th IFFI



- GOLDEN PEACOCK - BEST FEATURE FILM
 - Skin of Youth
- SILVER PEACOCK - BEST DIRECTOR
 - Santosh Davakhar (Film: Gondhal)
- SILVER PEACOCK - BEST ACTOR (MALE)
 - Ubeimar Rios (Film: A Poet)
- SILVER PEACOCK - BEST ACTOR (FEMALE)
 - Jara Sofija Ostan (Film: Little Trouble Girls)
- SPECIAL JURY AWARD
 - Akinola Davies Jr (Film: My Father's Shadow)
- SILVER PEACOCK - BEST DEBUT FEATURE FILM OF A DIRECTOR
 - Hesam Farahmand (Film: My Daughter's Hair)
 - Tõnis Pill (Film: Frank)
- ICFT-UNESCO GANDHI MEDAL
 - Film: Safe House
- BEST DEBUT DIRECTOR OF INDIAN FEATURE FILM
 - Karan Singh Tyagi (Film: Kesari 2)
- THE BEST WEB SERIES (OTT) AWARD
 - Bandish Bandits Season 02



BANDISH BANDITS SEASON 2
Best Web Series (OTT) Award



Every year, IFFI brings new flavours: Dr. L. Murugan

WAVES FILM BAZAAR GENERATED BUSINESS WORTH OVER ₹1,050 CRORE, 50 FILMS DIRECTED BY WOMEN WERE SCREENED, REFLECTING RISE OF NARI-SHAKTI IN FILMS: MOS (I & B AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS) DR. L. MURUGAN



At the closing ceremony of IFFI 2025, Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. L. Murugan highlighted the festival's major achievements, new initiatives and India's growing stature in the global creative economy.

Dr. Murugan emphasised that IFFI continues to evolve each year, noting, "Every year, IFFI brings new flavours." He highlighted the introduction of state tableaux and cultural exhibits in Goa to showcase India's diverse heritage. He also underscored the significance of the WAVES Summit, held for the first time in Mumbai with participation from 77 countries, reflecting India's expanding creative partnerships. Marking major commemorations, he mentioned centenary celebrations of legends such as Guru Dutt, Raj Khosla, Ritwik Ghatak, Bhupen Hazarika, P. Bhanumati, Salil Choudhury and K. Vaikunth, along with a special honour for Rajinikanth, celebrating 50 years in cinema.

Dr. Murugan further shared that the WAVES Film Bazaar recorded a business of ₹1,050 crore, boosting opportunities for young filmmakers. Appreciating the increased representation of women, he said, "For the first time in IFFI's history, 50 films directed by women were screened, reaffirming our focus on empowering women in cinema." He stressed the role of the newly established Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) in Mumbai in driving creative-tech convergence.

In his remarks, Shri Sanjay Jaju recalled the Prime Minister's call for embracing the "orange economy," noting, "This is the time for the dawn of the orange economy." He said IFFI 2025 aligned with this vision by expanding opportunities for creators. He underlined that IICT's Mumbai campus will operate on a hub-and-spoke model, supporting creators nationwide, and added that the NFDC campus of IICT has already started functioning.

INDIA'S CULTURAL BRILLIANCE LIT UP THE IFFI 2025 FINALE

The Closing Ceremony of IFFI 2025 unfolded as a polished and powerful display of India's artistic identity. It presented a rich blend of folk traditions, classical forms, and modern creative talent, offering audiences a clear view of the country's cultural depth.



'Miracle on Wheels' opened the evening with an inclusive performance that created an emotional and majestic atmosphere. Their act set a thoughtful tone for the cultural journey that followed.

Rajasthan's colours were showcased through Samandar Khan's presentation of Colours of the Manganiyars. The artists revisited well-known desert melodies that had influenced Indian cinema. The performance created a refined ambience inspired by traditional royal gatherings.

Karnataka's strength was reflected in Vidya Kolyur's Yakshagana act. Her portrayal of mythological characters was crisp and expressive. The concluding ensemble added visual richness and highlighted the grandeur of this classical theatre form.

The Northeast found representation through a two-part showcase curated by Ranjit Gogoi. The first segment featured energetic choreography set to the music of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, S D Burman, R D Burman, Zubeen Garg,

and Papon. The second segment brought together folk dances from all eight Northeastern states. Each performance carried distinct rhythm and identity, creating one of the most striking moments of the evening.

Acyuta Gopi held center-stage with a mesmerising headline performance. Her spiritual music performance was elegant and immersive. She also collaborated with young artists from the Create India Challenge, adding a contemporary edge to the programme.

The ceremony was streamed on WAVES OTT, giving global viewers access to India's cultural excellence.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, PIB



The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has emerged as a premier platform for showcasing the richness of world cinema and the dynamism of India's creative industries.

While overseeing and coordinating the media and publicity activities of the festival, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) endeavored to work with a spirit of collaboration and professionalism, ensuring smooth logistical support for media personnel and the seamless conduct of all communication-related activities.

On behalf of PIB, I extend our heartfelt thanks to all stakeholders and the entire media fraternity for their steadfast support and dedicated efforts in making this edition of the festival a success. My regards to our team for their steady support in ensuring the smooth conduct of the festival.

We are guided by the belief that information and communication strengthen the festival's purpose. Our efforts aim to foster a culture of cinema appreciation, nurture a deeper understanding of filmmaking and support the media in contributing meaningfully to the celebration of IFFI.

As this edition of IFFI concludes, the next IFFI beckons. Building on this year's experiences and learnings, PIB will further strengthen its media and publicity framework. The objective will remain clear: to project IFFI as a truly global festival of cinema.

Smita Vats Sharma
Director General (West Zone)
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

IFFI closes but never ends...

