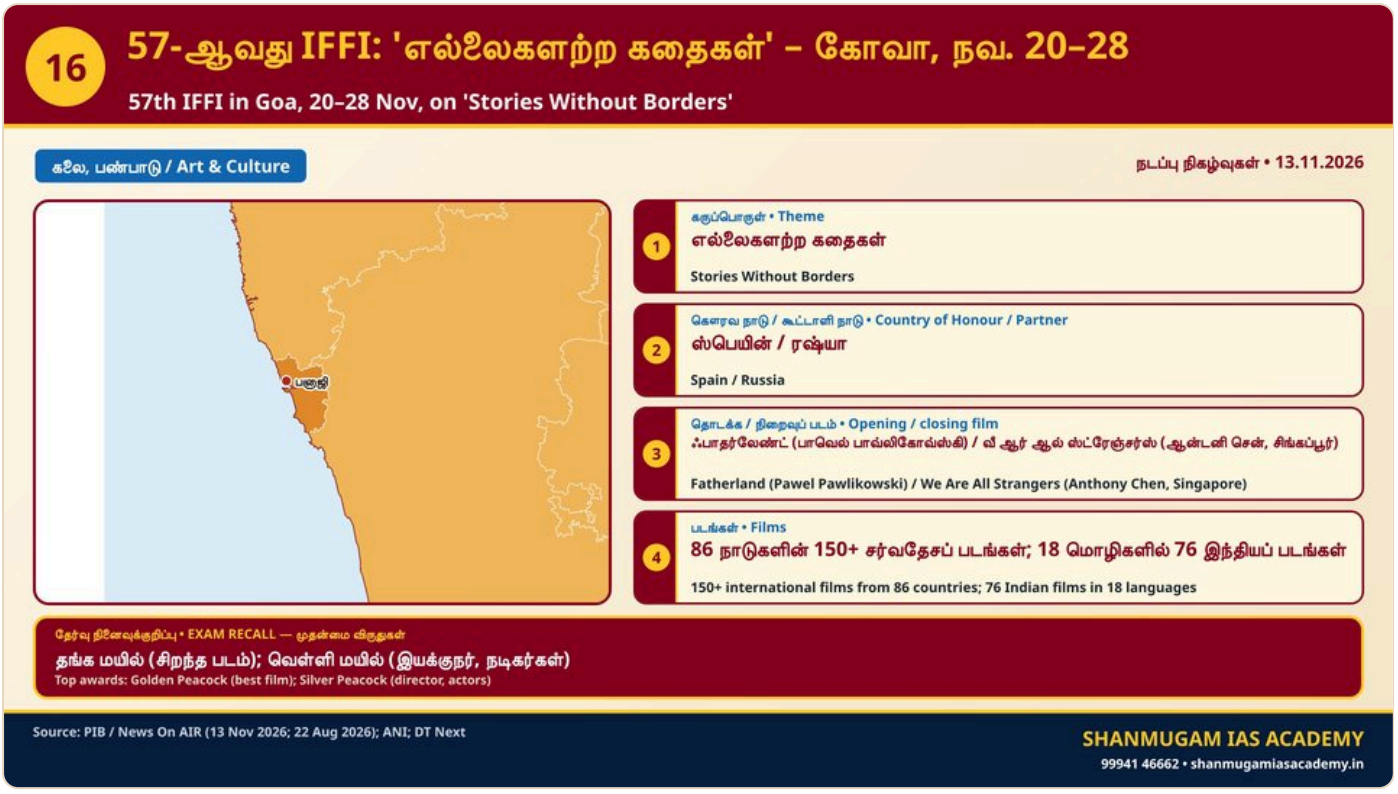
57th IFFI in Goa, 20–28 Nov, on 'Stories Without Borders'

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News

The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is being held at Panaji, Goa, for nine days from 20 to 28 November 2026, on the theme 'Stories Without Borders'. Details were announced at a curtain-raiser press conference in Goa on 13 November, attended by Goa Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant and Festival Director Ashutosh Gowariker. Over 150 international films from 86 countries and 76 Indian films in 18 languages will be screened, with 14 gala premieres. Spain is the 'Country of Honour' and Russia the 'Partner Country'. The opening film is 'Fatherland' by Polish director Pawel Pawlikowski (joint Best Director, Cannes 2026); the closing film is 'We Are All Strangers' by Singapore's Anthony Chen. 'Dhurandhar' opens the Indian Panorama and 'Ramayana' opens the BRICS section; two new sections – Animation and 'Films About Films' – have been added. Director Aanand L. Rai chairs the international competition jury, and the birth centenary of Polish director Andrzej Wajda is being marked. Prize money: Golden Peacock (best film) ₹51 lakh; Silver Peacock (best director) ₹20 lakh. Over 1,400 entries from 137 countries; 9 world premieres.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Edition / dates	57th IFFI – 20–28 November 2026
Venue	Panaji, Goa (permanent venue since 2004)

Point	Details
Theme	Stories Without Borders
Country of Honour / Partner	Spain / Russia
Opening / closing film	Fatherland (Pawel Pawlikowski) / We Are All Strangers (Anthony Chen, Singapore)
Films	150+ international films from 86 countries; 76 Indian films in 18 languages
Festival Director / Jury chair	Ashutosh Gowariker / Aanand L. Rai
Top awards	Golden Peacock (best film); Silver Peacock (director, actors)
Organisers	Union I&B Ministry (NFDC), Govt of Goa, Entertainment Society of Goa

Background

- IFFI is among Asia's oldest film festivals. The first edition was held in Bombay (Mumbai) from 24 January to 1 February 1952, and then travelled to Madras, Delhi, Calcutta and Thiruvananthapuram. A competitive section began in 1965 (3rd edition), the year the Paris-based International Federation of Film Producers' Associations (FIAPF) gave it 'A' category status.
- Goa became IFFI's permanent venue from the 35th edition in 2004. The best film in the international competition gets the 'Golden Peacock', and the best director and actors get 'Silver Peacock' awards; since 2021 the lifetime award is named the 'Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award'. The 'ICFT–UNESCO Gandhi Medal' goes to a film reflecting Gandhian ideals of peace, tolerance and non-violence.
- Under the Constitution, sanctioning cinematograph films for exhibition is a Union power under Entry 60 of the Union List; accordingly the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) works under the Cinematograph Act, 1952. Theatres and entertainments are a State subject under Entry 33 of the State List.
- Media reports say the opening film 'Fatherland' completes Pawlikowski's historical trilogy after 'Ida' and 'Cold War'. This year there is a separate section for films from all 11 BRICS members; the 6th edition of 'Creative Minds of Tomorrow' (CMOT) for young talent has 100 participants in 13 crafts.

Tamil Nadu link: The first IFFI, which began in Bombay in 1952, also travelled to Madras. Later, 'Filmotsav' (the non-competitive edition) in January 1978 and IFFI in January 1991 were held in Madras (Chennai). Union Minister of State for I&B Dr L. Murugan (Tamil Nadu) chaired the steering committee meeting that reviewed preparations for the 57th edition.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Edition / dates: 57th IFFI – 20–28 November 2026; Venue: Panaji, Goa (permanent venue since 2004); Theme: Stories Without Borders; Country of Honour / Partner: Spain / Russia.

What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. The first IFFI, opened in Bombay in 1952, later travelled to which city now in Tamil Nadu?

A) Bengaluru

B) Hyderabad

C) Pune

D) Madras (Chennai)

Answer: D – Explanation: Madras – along with Delhi, Calcutta and Trivandrum. Filmotsav 1978 and IFFI 1991 were also held in Chennai.

2. Which is the top award for the best film in IFFI's international competition?

A) Golden Lion

B) Golden Bear

C) Golden Peacock

D) Palme d'Or

Answer: C – Explanation: Golden Peacock (IFFI). Golden Lion – Venice; Golden Bear – Berlin; Palme d'Or – Cannes.

3. Which is the 'Country of Honour' at the 57th IFFI?

A) Japan

B) France

C) Australia

D) Spain

Answer: D – Explanation: Spain (4 films); Russia is the Partner Country. Japan was the Country of Focus at the 56th IFFI in 2025.

4. Sanctioning of cinematograph films for exhibition falls in which list of the Seventh Schedule?

A) State List

B) Concurrent List

C) Union List

D) Residuary powers

Answer: C – Explanation: Union List, Entry 60 – hence the CBFC is a Central body. Cinema halls fall under State List, Entry 33.

5. Which Paris-based international body accredits IFFI as a competitive film festival?

A) FIAPF

B) FIPRESCI

C) UNESCO

D) CILECT

Answer: A – Explanation: FIAPF – the federation of film producers' associations; 'A' status in 1965. FIPRESCI is for critics, CILECT for film schools.

Sources: PIB / News On AIR (13 Nov 2026; 22 Aug 2026); ANI; DT Next; ETV Bharat; iffigoa.org (history); festival-cannes.com. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.