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IFFI 2026 Celebrates Kannada and Tulu Cinema

CHENNAI – 18 Nov, 2026 From the socially conscious parallel cinema of Girish Kasaravalli to contemporary family dramas, folklore-rooted epics and documentary storytelling, the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is bringing the richness and diversity of Kannada and Tulu cinema into focus in Goa.

Kannada Films:

Kantara: A Legend - Chapter 1, directed by and starring Rishab Shetty, is set during the Kadamba era. Berme, a young forest dweller, enters the neighbouring kingdom of Bangra and witnesses the harsh treatment of forest communities by its rulers. When Prince Kulashekara attacks the tribes and kills many of their people, Berme joins them in their fight for justice and dharma. The story brings together folklore, faith and a struggle to protect the forest communities. The film is featured in both Indian Panorama's Mainstream Cinema section and the International Competition.



Ruby-Cube, directed by P. Sheshadri, follows three generations of a family during a short holiday at a hill station. Rohini, a psychologist, reunites with her estranged husband Moorthy through their daughter Chitra, who is facing difficulties in her marriage. As the family spends time together, old tensions and unresolved emotions come to the surface. A Rubik's Cube becomes a symbol of the complexities of relationships, showing how patience and understanding can help people find a way forward.

The Hug of Emptiness, directed by Dr. Pradeep Kenchanuru (Dr. Pradeep Kumar Shetty K), tells the story of Chandrashekhar, whose property was taken over by the Sullia Cooperative Bank in 2003 after he failed to repay a loan. Believing the action to be unjust, he begins a legal battle that continues for more than two decades. Without a permanent home, he lives in his car while pursuing justice. The documentary portrays his long struggle, loneliness and determination in the face of an uncertain future.