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# India premiere of Paweł Pawlikowski's Fatherland opens 57th IFFI, taking audiences through a divided post-war Germany

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 India premiere of Paweł Pawlikowski's Fatherland opens 57th IFFI, taking audiences through a divided post-war Germany.

A journey through a nation scarred by war, divided by ideology and grappling with the weight of its past marked the opening of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa today. Acclaimed filmmaker Paweł Pawlikowski's Fatherland ( Ojczyzna ) opened the nine-day festival with its India Premiere, offering audiences an evocative portrait of post-war Germany at the dawn of the Cold War.

The black-and-white drama, directed by the Oscar-winning filmmaker, weaves together history, family relationships and the complexities of a divided homeland through the story of Nobel Prize-winning German writer Thomas Mann and his daughter Erika. The film drew a full house across all screening halls of INOX, setting an impressive note for the opening of the nine-day festival.

Before the screening, Ewa Puszczyńska, Producer, Fatherland, Piotr Antoni Świtalski, Head of Mission, Poland Embassy, New Delhi and Małgorzata Wejsis-Gołębiak, Director, Polish Institute in New Delhi walked the red carpet at INOX, Panjim.

Speaking about the film, Ewa Puszczyńska highlighted how it's very making embodied the spirit of IFFI's theme. She said that although Fatherland tells the story of a German writer and the German people in the




German language, it was made entirely with Polish hearts and hands. This, she said, reflected the festival's slogan of stories without borders.

Piotr Antoni Świtalski said that while friendship between India and Poland was growing across multiple dimensions, culture remained its strongest foundation. He added that Paweł Pawlikowski brought a fresh focus and perspective to the traditional Polish school of filmmaking.

Felicitating the guests, Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, said that Fatherland offered a special opportunity to celebrate the creative relationship between Poland and India. Ashutosh Gowariker, Festival Director, IFFI, G. Krishnakumar, Chairman, National Film Development Corporation of India and Pankaj Saxena, Artistic Director, IFFI were also present.

A father-daughter journey through a fractured Germany