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One World, Countless Stories, Infinite Emotions: Goa Rolls Out Red Carpet for IFFI 57

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Somewhere between the first flash of light and the first frame on screen, the world finds a reason to come together. And today, Goa became that world. Against the shimmering backdrop of the Arabian Sea, Goa once again transformed into a global stage where filmmakers, celebrated screen icons and cinephiles converge, cultures collide and imaginations take flight.

With a spectacular inaugural ceremony at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium, Goa, the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened its doors to a universe of stories, bringing together 86 nations and over 150 films in a celebration of the limitless magic of the moving image. Inspired by the theme 'Stories Without Borders', this edition celebrates cinema's extraordinary power to transcend geography, dissolve cultural divides and turn different voices into one shared experience.

Addressing the gathering, Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said that IFFI, now an integral part of Goa's cultural calendar for over 22 years, celebrates cinema's power to transcend boundaries and bring cultures together. Linking the festival's theme to India's timeless philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'—the world is one family, he said, "Cinema allows us to experience different cultures and find the common ground that unites us."

Describing the inclusion of Ramayana in the BRICS Cinema section as a proud moment for India, he highlighted IFFI's role



in showcasing the richness of Indian cinema, particularly Marathi, Konkani and Goan films. He expressed hope that this recognition would inspire more young Goans to pursue filmmaking and take their stories to national and international audiences.

Outlining Goa's vision of becoming a comprehensive filmmaking hub, Dr. Sawant said, "We want Goa to be the destination where films are produced and completed." He highlighted the Goa Film Shooting Act, 2021, the online single-window clearance system and financial assistance schemes for filmmakers as key initiatives to strengthen the state's film ecosystem. He also announced the vision of a film city equipped with pre-production, post-production, VFX and film education facilities.

Emphasising the opportunities emerging from technological advancements in animation, artificial intelligence and virtual production, he said Goa aims to equip its young creative talent to be part of the evolving global film industry.