



The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be inaugurated in Goa today

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The Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India has a fully functioning media centre with state of art facilities located at Old GMC Building to give updates on daily activities and events happening at the IFFI 2017. For information about the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) accredited media persons will be receiving SMSs, E-mails, Press and Photo Releases (on pib.nic.in). Various social media handles including

@PIB_India, @PIBHindi, @MIB_India, @MIB_Hindi, @PIB_Panaji, @IFFIGoa, @airnewsalerts, @DDNewsLive, @DDNational, @prasarbharati on Twitter are active and vibrant in disseminating information and photos of the International Film Festival of India -2017 in real time. The updated information will also be available on Facebook pages of **IFFI Goa, Ministry of I&B, PIB New Delhi** and **PIB Goa**. Also, Live-streaming of major activities will be on the YouTube Channel of Press Information Bureau. **#IFFI2017** is being used to promote the festival on Social Media. **The opening and closing ceremonies at IFFI-2017 are being live-streamed on YouTube, Facebook & Periscope of the main Social Media Platforms.**

Press Conferences will be starting from 21st November 2017. The Opening Press conference will be about the Film "Beyond The Clouds" from acclaimed filmmaker Majid Majidi. Those addressing this press conference will be Vishal Bhardwaj (Dialogue Writer), Ishaan Khatter (Actor), Malavika Mohanan (Actor), Reza (EP) Majid Majidi (Director), A R Rehman (Music Composer) Sharin Mantri (Producer, Namah Pictures), Sujay Kuttu (Producer, Zee Studios), Kishor Arora (Producer, Namah Pictures). **The second Press Conference will be on the section "Country Focus - Canada".**

IFFI 2017 has already garnered a great amount of buzz owing to its stellar announcements that include many firsts. The Festival, that is credited with a Grade "A" status by the International Federation of Producers' Associations (FIAPF) announced that the festival will be presenting 195 films from over 82 countries of which there will be 10 World Premieres, 10 Asian and International premieres and over 64 Indian premieres as part of the Official programme.

The Festival will open with the much talked about new feature, "Beyond The Clouds" from acclaimed filmmaker Majid Majidi and presented by Namah Pictures and Zee Studios and close with the World premiere of the Indo Argentinian Co-production "Thinking of Film" directed by Pablo Cesar. While noted actor Shahrukh Khan will grace the opening ceremony of the festival as a special guest, the closing ceremony will be graced by noted actor Salman Khan, this in addition to a galaxy of noted industry professionals, international guests, dignitaries and film celebrities.

The press and delegate screenings that will kick off on the 21st of November will also see the opening of the Indian Panorama section, with the section being inaugurated by renowned actress Sridevi. The same day will also see the IFFI 2017 Country Focus on Canada being celebrated with a grand red carpet opening, amidst the presence of noted Canadian actors and celebrities. The Country focus Canada that has been organized in association with the government of Canada with the collaboration of Telefilm Canada, curated by the Toronto International Film Festival,

The International Competition section of IFFI 2017, which carries a cumulative cash prize of over Rs. 1 Crore (Rs.10 Million) will showcase 15 of the finest films of this year, competing for the Golden and Silver Peacock awards. The International Competition jury will be headed by renowned filmmaker Muzaffar Ali, who is joined by his fellow jury members Festival director Maxine Williamson from Australia, Actor-Director Tzahi Grad from Israel, Russian Cinematographer Vladislav Oplyants, Director and Production Designer Roger Christian from the United Kingdom.

This edition of the Festival will also be presenting films from a record number of women filmmakers (Over 30) in addition to a carefully curated section of Restored classics from across the globe, which includes the recently completed restorations of Fritz Lang's Metropolis and Tarkovsky's Sacrifice among some other notable films.

Among many other firsts at the Festival, IFFI 2017 will present a specially curated section celebrating the most loved spy in films, James Bond. The section will showcase films featuring the various leading actors who have played the iconic character, through a package of 9 films. Additionally, the Festival will present 4 films from young filmmakers of the Biennale College as a first of its kind collaboration with the Venice International Film Festival. Speaking about the same, Venice International Film Festival Director, Alberto Barbera said "I am particularly grateful to IFFI for the collaboration that gives the Venice Film Festival the opportunity to present four films produced in the frame of the Biennale College Cinema, a projects we are greatly proud of for the results obtained in supporting young filmmakers from all over the world. I am sure that the audience of the prestigious IFFI will appreciate the quality of these micro-budget films, and combined efforts of our two institutions to offer them a larger visibility. I wish that we will be able to continue our collaboration, which is based on shared feelings of love for good cinema and passion for young talented film directors".

The 2017 edition of the Festival will also host a Mixed Reality Sidebar featuring Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality activities in addition to a series of Master Classes and Panel Discussions featuring the who's who of the entertainment industry, including noted filmmakers Atom Egoyan, Shekhar Kapur, Nitesh Tiwari and Farah Khan, as well as Oscar winning sound designer Craig Mann.

IFFI 2017 will present the coveted Indian film personality of the year award on acclaimed actor Amitabh Bachchan and the

Lifetime Achievement award to celebrated Canadian director Atom Egoyan.

PIB IFFI Team/12Noon/No.2

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