57th IFFI opens in Goa: Polish film 'Fatherland' opens the festival, theme 'Stories without Borders'

Culture | GS-I | News reference: 20 November 2026 (opening)
Prelims: IFFI, NFDC, film festivals



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Why in news

The **57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** opened in Goa on 20 November 2026. The nine-day festival opened with the India premiere of **"Fatherland" (Ojczyzna)** by Oscar-winning director **Pawel Pawlikowski**. The festival's slogan is **"Stories without Borders"**.

The opening film and key facts

- **Film**: an 82-minute black-and-white drama set in the summer of 1949, at the dawn of the Cold War; the story of Nobel-winning German writer **Thomas Mann** and his daughter Erika returning to Germany after 16 years of exile in the United States.
- **Production**: a Poland-Germany-Italy-France co-production; Sandra Huller and Hanns Zischler in lead roles.
- **Honours**: screened at Cannes, San Sebastian and Telluride; Pawlikowski won the **Best Director award at Cannes** for the film.
- **Presence**: Information and Broadcasting Secretary Chanchal Kumar, Festival Director Ashutosh Gowariker, NFDC Chairman G. Krishnakumar and Polish diplomatic representatives - "culture is the strongest foundation of India-Poland friendship".

IFFI for the exam

- IFFI is India's premier international film festival, held since 1952; the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, NFDC and the Goa government are involved in organising it.
- Sections include the international competition, Indian Panorama and retrospectives; a platform for cultural agreements and cinema cooperation.

Prelims practice questions

Question 1: Consider the following statements:
Statement 1: The 57th IFFI opened with Pawel Pawlikowski's film "Fatherland"
Statement 2: The theme of IFFI 2026 is "Stories without Borders"

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

▼ Answer and explanation

Answer: (c) Both statements are correct.

Question 2: With reference to the film "Fatherland" (IFFI 2026 opener), choose the correct statement:

(a) It is a Polish production alone

(b) Its director has won the Best Director award at Cannes

(c) It is an Indian film

(d) It is a colour film

▼ Answer and explanation

Answer: (b) Pawlikowski won Best Director at Cannes for this film; it is a Poland-Germany-Italy-France co-production and a black-and-white film.

FAQ

In short: the 57th IFFI opened in Goa on 20 November 2026 with the India premiere of Pawel Pawlikowski's "Fatherland"; the theme is "Stories without Borders".

Q: Where is IFFI held and for how long?

In Goa; the 2026 nine-day edition began on 20 November.

Q: Whose story is "Fatherland"?

German writer Thomas Mann and his daughter Erika - their return to Germany in 1949 after 16 years of exile.

Q: Who organises IFFI?

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry, NFDC and the Goa government jointly; the festival has run since 1952.

Sources

1. PIB/Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 57th IFFI opening (20 November 2026): https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2339119&lang=2&reg=48
2. IFFI official, background and organisers: https://www.iffigoa.org/index.php/about-iffi