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The **55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** concluded with grandeur on **28th November 2024** at the **Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium** in Goa. The nine-day festival celebrated the art of filmmaking, showcased global and Indian cinema, and highlighted the creativity of both emerging and established filmmakers.

#### **Theme and Highlights**

This year's theme, **"Young Filmmakers: The Future is Now,"** focused on nurturing young talent and exploring innovative storytelling techniques. Over **195 films** were screened, representing diverse narratives and cultures.

The festival closed with a screening of the Czech film **"Dry Season"** by Bohdan Sláma, a poignant story emphasizing sustainability and human relationships.

#### **Complete List of Award Winners at IFFI 2024**

#### **Golden Peacock Award: Best Film**

- Winner: Toxic
- Director: Saulė Bliuvaitė
- Country: Lithuania
- About the Film: A coming-of-age story highlighting friendship and adolescence in a challenging socioeconomic setting.

#### Silver Peacock Awards

- 1. Best Director
  - Winner: Bogdan Muresanu
  - Film: The New Year That Never Came
  - **Country:** Romania
- 2. Best Actor (Male)
  - Winner: Clément Faveau
  - Film: Holy Cow
  - Country: France
- 3. Best Actor (Female)
  - Winners: Vesta Matulytė and Ieva Rupeikaitė
  - **Film:** *Toxic*
  - o Country: Lithuania



#### **Special Jury Award**

- Winner: Louise Courvoisier
- Film: Holy Cow
- Country: France

#### **Best Debut Feature Film**

- Winner: Familiar Touch
- Director: Sarah Friedland
- Country: USA

#### **ICFT-UNESCO** Gandhi Medal

- Winner: Crossing
- Director: Levan Akin
- Country: Georgia
- Focus: Promoting peace, tolerance, and non-violence.

#### **Indian Talent Honored at IFFI 2024**

#### Best Debut Director of an Indian Feature Film

- Winner: Navjyot Bandiwadekar
- Film: Gharat Ganpati
- Language: Marathi

#### Best Web Series (OTT)

- Winner: Lampan
- **Director:** Nipun Dharmadhikari
- Platform: Sony Liv

#### Indian Film Personality of the Year

- Winner: Vikrant Massey
- For: Exceptional contributions to Indian cinema.

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#### Lifetime Achievement and Special Honors

#### Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award

- Winner: Phillip Noyce
- Country: Australia
- Recognition: Outstanding contributions to global cinema.

#### **Special Felicitations**

- 1. Ramesh Sippy: Renowned Indian filmmaker celebrated for his cinematic legacy.
- 2. Jaya Prada: Veteran actress honored for her contributions to Indian cinema.

#### Key Takeaways from IFFI 2024

#### Why IFFI 2024 Matters for Competitive Exams

- 1. Golden Peacock Award Winner: Toxic (Lithuania).
- 2. Theme: "Young Filmmakers: The Future is Now."
- 3. Notable Indian Achievements:
  - Navjyot Bandiwadekar for Gharat Ganpati.
  - Vikrant Massey as Indian Film Personality of the Year.
- 4. Global Contributions:
  - Phillip Noyce honored with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award.
- 5. Cultural Insights: The ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal for promoting peace and non-violence.

## Summary Table of Winners

Award	Winner	Film/Project	Country
Golden Peacock (Best Film)	Saulė Bliuvaitė	Тохіс	Lithuania
Best Director	Bogdan Muresanu	The New Year That Never Came	e Romania
Best Actor (Male)	Clément Faveau	Holy Cow	France



Award	Winner	Film/Project	Country
Best Actor (Female)	Vesta Matulytė, leva Rupeikaito	è Toxic	Lithuania
Special Jury Award	Louise Courvoisier	Holy Cow	France
Best Debut Feature Film	Sarah Friedland	Familiar Touch	USA
ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Meda	I Levan Akin	Crossing	Georgia
Best Debut Director (India)	Navjyot Bandiwadekar	Gharat Ganpati	India
Best Web Series (OTT)	Nipun Dharmadhikari	Lampan	India

The **55th IFFI** successfully showcased the power of storytelling and creativity, leaving an indelible mark on global cinema and reaffirming India's role as a hub for cultural and cinematic excellence.

