

Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg e.V. • Friedrichstraße 37 •
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Ihnen schreibt

E-Mail

Stuttgart, July 2025

Winner of the 22nd Indian Film Festival Stuttgart

!!!! Please note the closing date up to and including Sunday, July 27, 2025, 7.30 pm!!!!

Dear colleague,

the winning films of the 22nd Indian Film Festival Stuttgart have been announced.

With the request for publication, you will receive the press release with the award winners below.

Please note the stated embargo period (until Sunday, July 27, 2025, 7.30 pm).

In this email you will also find a royalty-free film still of the winning film (Photo: IFFS).

If you have any questions, please contact me jahn@filmbuerobw.de. I would be pleased to receive proof of your publication (link or PDF).

Thank you and best regards

Hans-Peter Jahn

Press spokesman

Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg

E-mail: jahn@filmbuerobw.de

-----Begin of PM with embargo period until Sunday, July 27, 2025, 7.30 pm

German Star of India for director Vinod Kapri

**Main prize for feature film ‘Pyre’
at the 22nd Indian Film Festival Stuttgart**

STUTTGART – Vinod Kapri, winner of the Indian National Award, was awarded the main prize, the ‘German Star of India’ worth 1,000 euros, for his Hindi feature film ‘Pyre’ at the final of the 22nd Indian Film Festival Stuttgart. The moving drama, which has already won several international awards, depicts the life of an elderly couple in the Himalayas who are grappling with loneliness and migration.

The 500-euro trophy for the best short film went to ‘Almari Ka Achaar – Cupboard Pickle’ by director Raakesh Rawat. Set amidst the crowded lanes and corner stores of Mumbai, ‘Almaari Ka Achaar’ tells the tender story of Prakash and Mohan – two middle-aged Rajasthani migrants who have built a quiet life for themselves and work in a small kirana store.

The documentary film prize worth 500 euros was awarded to ‘Log Kya Kahenge – What will People say’ by director Rafina Khatun. The winning film focuses on the struggle of a young Muslim radio presenter who draws attention to injustices and the oppression of marginalized groups in a patriarchal society that wants to silence her.

The political thriller “Soch – A Perception” by director Ravi Gautam was honored with the ‘Director’s Vision Award’. Police officer Priyanka Negi discovers a charred corpse in the Himalayas, which is very likely to be that of missing activist Shaila. The evidence points to a truck driver. Religious prejudices among the population and prejudgment in the media heat up the atmosphere and plunge the policewoman into conflict.

The documentary film ‘Zero Se Restart’ by Jaskunwar Kohli was awarded the audience prize (500 Euro).

With its 22nd edition, the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart consolidated its reputation as Europe’s largest Indian film festival and at the same time an important address for the world’s largest film industry.

With a total of 70 current films from all over India, including numerous film premieres, and more than 20 Indian film guests, the film festival delighted the audience. Highlights included the Pride Special with queer Indian films, a family film in German ('Outhouse'), a guest screening of documentaries at the Linden Museum Stuttgart, a screening with the International Class of the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, a warm-up with 'Cinema Futuro' and a sold-out school day that addressed the global problem of bullying.

The 23rd Indian Film Festival Stuttgart will take place from July 22 to 26, 2025.

Below are the statements of the respective jury as well as the members of each jury:

Winner Feature:

Jury: Marco Kreuzer, Sven Bohse, Nandini Thilak

“In the jury’s opinion, the best feature film in the competition is a cinematic poem and a tribute to a generation that is forgotten in the course of a country’s progress and the departure of its successor generations.

Beautiful, cinematic images set against the overwhelming backdrop of the Himalayas are paired in this work with impressive acting. Full of empathy, sensitive, simple, and at the same time incredibly complex, the film creates a feeling of infinite sadness that is deeply moving.

The tragic story of Tulsi and Padam develops an inescapable pull that draws us imperceptibly through the fate of two individuals into a universal confrontation with rural exodus, isolation and loss. At the same time, it tells of community, true love, trust, and the deeply felt happiness of giving each other hope, even when a happy ending has become unattainable.

The German Star of India for the best feature film goes to ‘PYRE’ (2024) by Vinod Kapri.

Winner Shorts

Jury: Julia Schlingmann, Louis Wick, Bianca Beer

“There are many things that connect people – language, art, music – and then there is food. Cooking, preparing, and especially sharing meals can bring people together.

So, it is with Prakash and Mohan. They fell in love through their favourite dish. With great sensitivity, Raakesh Rawat invites the audience on a deeply emotional journey. He creates special moments where we can sense the profound love these two people share – a love they hold quietly, yet this silence is gently and humorously broken by the shared, endearing madness that binds them together. A bond that can no longer remain hidden when his wife comes to visit.

As we witness a global crack-down on sexual self-determination and public visibility of non-heterosexual partnerships, ‚ALMARI KA ACHAAR – CUPBOARD PICKLE‘ offers glimpses of hope and sends a crucial message: That sincerity is the precondition for true and sustainable change. Congratulations!”

Winner Documentary

Jury: Benjamin Rost, Mark Szilagyi, Sujatha Dovgal

“The winning film takes us into a Muslim community that is affected by poverty and marginalisation. And in the centre of it all: a wonderful protagonist who tries to change an entire society with her attitude and her actions.

In addition to running the household and caring for her father, she gives people in the district a platform and encourages others to speak out. As a tireless radio reporter, she fights for representation and unity.

Director Rafina Khatun succeeds in ensuring that her documentary has an impact far beyond the film itself. The images remain playful and sensitively filmed. The film is the perfect example of how focusing on emphatic storytelling can reach people far more than compared to films that emphasize technical effects.

And above all, it is a very honest film, an important film, with a great mission of unity and equality, which is why ‘LOG KYA KAHENGE – WHAT WILL PEOPLE SAY?’ wins the award for best documentary film.”

Director’s Vision Award

Jury: Therese Hayes and Oliver Mahn

“Priyanka Negi, chief inspector in a small town in the Himalayas has to solve the murder of a young woman whose burnt body is found.

The death of the young woman not only inflames the conflict between Hindus and Muslims, she also has to assert herself against her male colleagues at the police department.

The film is a powerful voice against prejudice and shows how determined the chief inspector is against all hasty conclusions. In the end, her strategy proves successful against communal tensions. Determined to find the truth rather than settle for popular bias she solves the case without being influenced by different opinions and groups. Director Ravi Gautam beautifully shows how important it is not to let emotions drag you into conflict.

However, he also shows how difficult it is for women to assert themselves in a male-dominated profession such as the police force. Such positive examples are very important for bringing about social change and for this reason, Ravi Gautam is receiving this year's Director's Vision Award.”