G'day India

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

FREE   **AUSTRALIAN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE**

Albanese ties the knot as sitting PM, sparking global buzz and congratulations from leaders worldwide, including PM Modi

PM Modi and Putin forge bold new chapter as Delhi summit turbocharges India-Russia trade, defence and energy ties amid global tensions

New Indo–Australian screen pacts unveiled at IFFI, strengthening cinematic and creative ties

A story of grit, gratitude, and home: Monica Kilam's journey

Ex-banker Satinder Chawla rewrites his life with a bold cinematic leap

Global dancer to Melbourne mentor, Sanchita Abrol moves with resilient purpose

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India and Australia Sign Landmark Film Alliances at IFFI Goa

Three major MOUs spark a new era of cross-border storytelling, education, and cinematic collaboration.

As the sun dipped behind the coconut-lined skyline of Panjim, the red carpet at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) shimmered with a rare fusion of stardust and diplomacy. Actors, filmmakers, and global screen leaders converged on Goa—not just to celebrate cinema, but to rewrite the script of India–Australia creative relations.

Front and centre was Australian icon Rachel Griffiths, dazzling at the 4K restored screening of Muriel's Wedding, alongside acclaimed director Garth Davis of Lion fame. Yet their presence marked more than nostalgia. It signalled a new chapter—one where storytelling stretches beyond borders, strengthened by three historic memoranda of understanding signed between leading Australian and Indian institutions.

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) led the Australian charge, guiding a powerhouse delegation of filmmakers, producers, animators, and creatives. Melbourne's Lord Mayor, Councillor Nick Reece, added political heft to the moment. For IFFI—India's cinematic jewel running from 20 to 28 November—this was no ordinary year.

A Cinematic Alliance Like Never Before

In a ceremony brimming with symbolic weight, IFFM, Mind Blowing Films, NFDC, FTII, IICT, PVR INOX, and Deakin University cemented a trio of partnerships aimed at transforming how the two nations collaborate on screen.

The NFDC–IFFI–IFFM agreement is perhaps the most ambitious: a robust framework spanning festival exchange, talent development, shared programming, and a pioneering Co-Distribution Fund designed to give South Asian films stronger reach across India and Australia.

The education-focused MOU between Deakin University, FTII, and IICT promises to reshape the future of film training. With curriculum collaboration, faculty exchange, and advanced workshops, it brings India's and Australia's next generation of filmmakers into a shared creative classroom.

And then came the showstopper: a distribution pact between PVR INOX—India's largest cinema chain—and Mind Blowing Films, ensuring Australian films finally gain a stable theatrical footprint across one of the most influential movie markets in the world.

A Vision Shared Across Borders

The excitement was palpable.

"These partnerships launch a new era of Indo–Australian screen collaboration," said IFFM Director Mitu Bhowmick Lange, whose efforts have been instrumental in bringing these alliances to life.

Deakin University's Ravneet Pawha called it a "heightened phase of cross-cultural knowledge engagement," while Victoria's Creative Industries Minister Colin Brooks said the agreements will "boost careers now and prepare the next generation for global collaboration".

Even audiences found themselves part of the story. "More Australians than ever are embracing Indian cinema," noted Melbourne's Lord Mayor Nick Reece, reaffirming the cultural bridge between the two nations.

A Curtain Rises on the Future

As the deals were signed and cameras flashed, a deeper truth settled over the festival: cinema had once again proven its power to build relationships, amplify cultures, and carve new pathways between people and nations.

At IFFI Goa, the lights didn't just shine on stars—they illuminated the beginning of an Indo–Australian creative renaissance.

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