IFFJK 2026: College students, public attend special screenings of global cinema at Wave Cinemas

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Numerous students from different colleges and institutions and a large number of people today attended the day long screenings of short films and movies from world cinema at the Wave Cinemas organised as part of International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir 2026.

The students who attended the screening of short films and movies under IFFJK 2026 were from Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for Women, Government MAM College, SPMR College of Commerce, Indian Institute of Mass Communication Bantalab, Government College for Women Parade, University of Jammu, Central University of Jammu and other educational institutions. A large number of locals also attended the screenings.

The students, while sharing their experiences and learnings from the screenings of different films from across the globe, said that it was a unique and novel experience for them to witness maiden Film festival aimed at promoting and exploring the film making opportunities in Jammu & Kashmir.

Himanshu Dubey, a student of IIMC Jammu, shared his enriching experience at the IFFJK 2026 Jammu. He described it as an occasion to explore international films, understand diverse perspectives and gain valuable insights into filmmaking and visual storytelling.

Students of Mass Communication from Central University of Jammu termed the IFFJK 2026 as a great opportunity for them to learn various aspects of filmmaking, videography, visual communication and much more. They appreciated the initiative and encouraged others to participate.

Professor Paramveer Singh, Central University of Jammu, said "films are often called a mirror of society."

He appreciated the Department of Information and Public Relations for taking this commendable initiative and described the First ever Film Festival as a positive step towards promoting cinema & visual storytelling in J&K.

Professor Rabia Javaid said that students thoroughly enjoyed the first-ever International Film Festival being organised in Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a historic and enriching experience for the region.

She noted that the Film Festival has provided a unique opportunity to learn, explore cinema, interact with filmmakers and industry professionals and gain valuable exposure beyond the classroom.

She also thanked the Department of Information and Public Relations for organising the festival and bringing such a vibrant platform to J&K, adding that events of this kind will inspire young talent and open new avenues for aspiring filmmakers and media students.

Later, in the evening the Cultural wing of DIPR, Jammu organised a cultural event featuring diverse performance of folk singing, instruments and theme based songs.

Prominent and talented Singers Vanshika Dogra and Aditya Rao enthralled the audience with their vibrant performances which received thunderous applause from one and all. The cultural event was anchored by Firdos and Prashant Khajuria

Deputy Director Information (PR) Moksha Dogra, Deputy Director (HQ) Ashu Kumari, Culture Officer Rajinder Kumar Digra, Field Publicity Officer, Mohit Sharma, District Information Officer Kathua, Gurpreet Singh, District Information Officer, Poonch, Hardeep Singh Choudhary, Assistant Information Officer, Jiwan Singh were present, along with other officials of the department.

IFFJK Day three spotlights J&K's storytelling talent and global cinematic opportunities

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 09: The cinematic spirit of Jammu & Kashmir came alive on the third day of the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), as SKICC Srinagar played host to a rich mix of thought-provoking discussions, masterclasses, and interactive sessions.

The day's programme brought into focus youth-led storytelling, emerging cinematic voices, international co-productions and opportunities for Jammu & Kashmir cinema to reach global audiences.

The day began with an In-Conversation Session, "Echoes of the Chinar: Empowering J&K's Next Generation of Storytellers," explored the role of youth, local institutions and new cinematic voices in shaping the representation of Jammu & Kashmir on screen. The session was moderated by Danish Renzu, with Rahhat Shah Kazmi, film director and writer, as the speaker.

Another key session, "Global Partnerships in the Valley: Co-Producing Jammu and Kashmiri Cinema for the World," examined avenues for international collaboration and strengthening the region's presence in the global film ecosystem.

The panel discussed international co-production, sustainable financing, creative partnerships and festival-market strategies for Jammu and Kashmiri cinema.

The session was moderated by Rabiranjan Maitra, Indian director and editor, and featured Kapil Matoo, Munjal Shroff and Saba Bhat as speakers.

Speakers emphasised that Kashmir has a wealth of stories waiting to be told and stressed the need to nurture storytellers from within the region. They said that a strong cinematic ecosystem must be developed in Jammu & Kashmir itself, providing young people with opportunities to learn, create and collaborate. He also called for greater engagement of youth from diverse academic and professional backgrounds and departments to build a vibrant and inclusive creative ecosystem for cinema in the region.

They emphasised Jammu & Kashmir is rich in talent, stressing the need to provide its young storytellers with the right direction, opportunities and ecosystem to realise their creative potential.

The panel discussion, "The Gentle Truth: AI and the Beautiful Soul of Jammu and Kashmir," explored the evolving relationship between artificial intelligence and documentary cinema, with speakers reflecting on the possibilities and challenges of using emerging technologies in non-fiction storytelling. The discussion covered ethics in documentary filmmaking, observational cinema and hybrid forms, while also examining how technology can complement authentic human stories and the rich cultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. The session was moderated by Sanskar Desai and featured Subbiah Nallamuthu, Arun Chadda, Yadu Vijaykrishnan, Supriyo Sen and Raja Shabbir Khan.

The panel discussion "Local Voices, Global Hearts: Celebrating Regional Cinema in the Valley" explored how compelling regional stories from across India are shaped, narrated and brought to audiences. The session also reflected on the rich cultural traditions and diverse storytelling potential of Jammu and Kashmir, and how its distinctive voices can contribute to and become part of India's vibrant regional cinema landscape.

The discussion was moderated by Arfi Laamba and featured Tribeny Rai, Dr. Pradeep Kenchanuru, Haobam Paban Kumar and Madhavi Tangella.

Among the day's key highlights was the masterclass, "Cutting Visuals, or Cutting Emotions," which explored the art and psychology of film editing, including rhythm, spatial continuity, temporal manipulation and the emotional impact of the cut. The session featured acclaimed Indian director and editor Rabi Ranjan Maitra, who shared insights into the craft of editing, exploring how rhythm, continuity, temporal manipulation and the psychology of the cut shape the emotional impact of a film.

Another major attraction was the masterclass, "Beyond the Stage: Inside the Actor's Craft," which examined the interplay between theatrical training, embodied performance and contemporary approaches to cinematic acting.

The session featured noted Indian actor and director Chittaranjan Tripathy, who shared insights into the craft and evolving dynamics of screen performance.

The masterclasses provided a valuable opportunity for students, film enthusiasts and aspiring filmmakers to learn directly from experienced practitioners and gain practical insights into the creative and technical aspects of filmmaking.

The day's sessions further strengthened IFFJK's role as a platform for meaningful dialogue, learning and collaboration, bringing together diverse perspectives on the art, craft, technology and future of cinema in Jammu & Kashmir.

The discussions highlighted the importance of creating greater opportunities for local talent while connecting the region's cinematic voices with wider national and international platforms.

Secretary Tribal Affairs discusses key tribal welfare issues with Minister Javed Rana

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 09: Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Anvy Lavasa, today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat here. Lavasa was recently assigned the additional charge of the Tribal Affairs Department.

During the meeting, the Minister and Secretary discussed key issues concerning the department and reviewed initiatives aimed at strengthening the welfare, development and socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Rana extended his best wishes to Lavasa and expressed confidence that her administrative experience would further strengthen the department's efforts towards the overall development of tribal communities in J&K.

Later, the Minister met several deputations at the Civil Secretariat and heard their grievances and demands. He assured them that all genuine issues would be examined and addressed on priority.

Rana reiterated that timely resolution of public grievances remains a key priority of the government and directed the concerned officers to ensure prompt action on the issues brought to their notice.

CS Dulloo charts roadmap for rolling out RuTAGe Smart Village Centres across J&K

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Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today held detailed deliberations with the stakeholders of the Manthan platform of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Government of India to deliberate upon the roadmap and institutional framework for implementing RuTAGe Smart Village Centres (RSVCs) across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was also attended by ACS, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, Education; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Director General, Rural Sanitation, besides other senior officers and concerned stakeholders.

The deliberations focused on translating the RSVC concept into a practical, outcome-oriented model suited to the diverse socio-economic and geographical requirements of J&K. The initiative envisages bringing appropriate science, technology and innovation closer to rural communities while creating avenues for entrepreneurship, skill development, livelihood enhancement, local value addition and improved delivery of services.

While speaking the Chief Secretary underscored the need for a day-long workshop to deliberate comprehensively on the possibilities, institutional arrangements and implementation strategy for the programme in the UT. He observed that such a workshop should bring together all relevant departments, universities, technology institutions, grassroots organisations and other stakeholders so that a clear and actionable roadmap is evolved.

He emphasised that developing local capacity would be crucial for ensuring that the initiative is sustained beyond its initial implementation phase and that the technologies introduced through RSVCs are adapted to local needs and translated into tangible benefits for communities.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Science & Technology Department to function as the nodal department for the initiative in J&K and maintain close coordination with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Government of India, as well as other stakeholders associated with Manthan, for technology identification, institutional partnerships, capacity building and implementation support.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary highlighted several sectors having significant potential for technology-led transformation through the RSVC framework. These included hydropower, agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, hospitality, education, geriatric care and drug-abuse rehabilitation, among other areas.

The Chief Secretary further stressed the importance of convergence with existing flagship initiatives of J&K, particularly Mission YUVA and the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), so that the RSVC network can leverage established grassroots institutions, entrepreneurial ecosystems, training mechanisms and community outreach platforms.

He observed that integration with Mission YUVA could provide a strong avenue for linking technology adoption with youth entrepreneurship, innovation and employment, while convergence with JKRLM could help extend the benefits of suitable technologies to rural self-help groups, producers and livelihood-based enterprises.

Encouraging the Manthan team and all concerned departments to adopt an ambitious and outcome-oriented approach, the Chief Secretary stated that availability of funds should not become a constraint where interventions demonstrate clear and significant potential for improving the lives and livelihoods of the people. He called for focusing on technologies and interventions capable of delivering measurable outcomes and creating sustainable community-level impact.

The proposed initiative is envisaged as an important step towards creating technology-enabled rural ecosystems in J&K, connecting local needs with appropriate innovations and converting scientific and technological advancements into opportunities for livelihoods, entrepreneurship, productivity and improved quality of life across the rural areas of J&K.

Health Department intensifies monitoring of Routine Immunization Programme in Poonch

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 09: Under the directions of the Director Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, Dr. Afsana Bano and under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer Poonch Dr. P.A. Khan, a team of the Health Department today conducted an extensive monitoring and supervision visit to various health institutions in the district.

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer, along with DIO Dr. Zohra Parveen and the accompanying team, visited PHC Chandak, PHC Mangnar, SC Knuyian and SC Khenatar to review the implementation of the Routine Immunization Programme and other related health programme activities.

During the visit, the team reviewed key components including ABHA generation and linking through the U-WIN Portal, maintenance and updating of due lists, cold chain management, upkeep of RCH registers and effective utilization of the DVDMS Mobile Application for vaccine and logistics management.

The officials also interacted with beneficiaries and frontline health workers, emphasizing the importance of timely vaccination and proper utilization of available health services. The beneficiaries were further briefed and motivated about family planning services, the benefits of maintaining a small and healthy family and the importance of HPV vaccination for eligible beneficiaries.

The visiting team stressed upon the concerned staff to ensure proper maintenance of records, timely updating of digital platforms and effective delivery of immunization and other essential health services to the community.

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