

**19<sup>th</sup> Mumbai International Film Festival (2026)**  
**Competition Section**  
**Consolidated Award Winners in Competition Section**

**NATIONAL COMPETITION**

S. No.	Category of the award	Details of the film & Citation
1.	<b>Best Documentary Film</b>	<p>Film Name: <b>Waii</b></p> <p>Director Name: <b>Sainath S Uskaikar</b></p> <p>Producer Name: <b>Bharatbala Ganapathy</b></p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For its visually striking depiction of a fading nomadic musical tradition, for its compassion and sensitivity, and its representation of the modern day transfer of memory, voice, and inheritance, the award for Best Documentary is presented to: WAAI.</p>
2.	<b>Best Short Fiction Film</b>	<p>Film Name: <b>Small Clouds</b></p> <p>Director Name: <b>Shubham Sumit</b></p> <p>Producer Name: <b>Film and Television Institute of India, Pune</b></p> <p><b>Citation :</b> Taking the viewer on a journey of growing up and growing apart amidst the haunting beauty of misty seascapes and rain-soaked backyards; for capturing the fragile bonds of childhood and the inevitable passage of time with remarkable sensitivity; and for its masterful storytelling, innovative cinematic style, and rich metaphorical depth, the Award for Best Short Film is presented to: ‘Small Clouds’.</p>
3.	<b>Best Animation Film</b>	<p>Film Name: <b>Armstrong from Angaalamman Temple Street</b></p> <p>Director(s) Name: <b>Bunz</b></p> <p>Producer Name: <b>Bunz</b></p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For its daring depiction of a distant future, it’s social critique between old traditions and a changing world, and for using animation not merely as a visual form, but as a powerful cinematic language, the Award for Best Animation Film is presented to: BUNZ for Armstrong From Angaalamman Temple Street.</p>

## Sponsored Awards – National Competition

S. No.	Category of the award	Details of the film & Citation
4.	<b>Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari Award for Best Debut Director</b>	<p>Film Name: <b>Razaa</b></p> <p>Director Name: <b>Pooja Tolani</b></p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For sensitively unveiling a family secret through a woman’s lens, while exploring the unique characteristics of the short film medium to create a compelling and memorable experience of gender dynamics within human relationships, the Award for Best Debut Director is presented to: Pooja Tolani for ‘Razaa’.</p>
5.	<b>IDPA Award for Best Student Film</b>	<p>Film Name: <b>The Old Bull knows, or Once Knew</b></p> <p>Director Name: <b>Milan Kumar</b></p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For its black-and-white portrayal of a fading nomadic tradition, and the quiet acceptance of separation between an ageing bull and its owner.</p>
6.	<b>Special Award for Best short film on “Viksit Bharat/ 150 Years of Vande Mataram/ Bharat@2026”</b>	<p>Film Name: <b>The Last Shelter</b></p> <p>Director(s) Name: <b>Bharat Arora, Rajesh Bhatia</b></p> <p><b>Citation:</b> “The Last Shelter” is a film that sensitively portrays the hardships faced in Leh while highlighting India’s efforts to a resilient,empowered lives through inclusive development and better social support.</p>

## National Competition - Technical Awards

7.	<b>Best Cinematographer</b>	<p>Film Name: <b>Small Clouds</b></p> <p>Cinematographer: <b>Ranadhir Biswas</b></p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For its exceptional use of camera movement, composition, and color... in a manner that truly elevates the story. A film whose images even without dialogue create a deeply emotional connection. The technical award for best cinematography is presented to: SMALL CLOUDS.</p>
8.	<b>Best Editor</b>	<p>Film Name: <b>Mayday</b></p> <p>Editor: <b>Akhil Krishnan</b></p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For its exceptional use in creating tension, misdirection, and action, to highlight the powerful theme that without understanding and empathy, we are capable of great harm, even to those we love, the technical award for best editing goes to: MAYDAY.</p>

9.	<b>Best Sound Designer</b>	Film Name: <b>Kovarty</b>  Sound Designer: <b>Bigyna Dahal</b>  <b>Citation:</b> For its immersive sound design that gently blurs the line between reality and fantasy, creating a world that is playful, emotional, and deeply alive, the award for best sound design is presented to: KOVARTY.
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**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Category of the Award</b>	<b>Details of the film &amp; Citation</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Best Documentary Film of the Festival</b>	<p><b>Film:</b> Silver (Poland)</p> <p><b>Director:</b> Natalia Koniarz</p> <p><b>Producer:</b> Maciej Kubicki</p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For its poetic yet uncompromising exploration of poverty, labor and dignity, transforming a local reality into a profound reflection on global injustice.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Best Short Fiction Film</b>	<p><b>Film:</b> Under The Snow (Iran)</p> <p><b>Director:</b> Nafiseh Zare</p> <p><b>Producer:</b> Deepankar Prakash, Kottukathira Prakash, Nafiseh Zare, Pouya Saeedi</p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For its courageous and nuanced portrayal of a young woman's struggle between personal truth and societal constraint, expressed through a subtle and deeply affecting cinematic language</p>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Best Animation Film</b>	<p><b>Film Name:</b> Maya's Song (Germany)</p> <p><b>Director Name:</b> Franziska Schöenberger, Jayakrishnan Subramanian</p> <p><b>Producer:</b> Franziska Schöenberger</p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For its imaginative and emotionally resonant animation, eloquently portraying a profound journey of identity, belonging and self-discovery with universal appeal.</p>

**Sponsored Awards – International Competition**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Category of the Award</b>	<b>Details of the film &amp; Citation</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Pramod Pati Special Jury Award for Most Innovative/ Experimental Film</b>	<p><b>Film:</b> The Hoarders (Taiwan)</p> <p><b>Director:</b> Chuan-Ying LIAO</p> <p><b>Citation:</b> In recognition of its bold narrative experimentation and innovative cinematic vision, elevating a deep personal story into unique and thought provoking work of art</p>

### International Competition – Technical Awards

Sr. No.	Category of the Award	Details of the film & Citation
14.	Best Cinematographer	<p><b>Film Name:</b> Turtle Walker (India)</p> <p><b>Cinematographer:</b> Krish Makhija</p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For its masterful underwater cinematography transforming the depths of the ocean into a mesmerizing visual experience while illuminating the fragile world of sea turtles.</p>
15.	Best Editor	<p><b>Film Name:</b> About the Cow (Russian Federation)</p> <p><b>Editor:</b> Evgeny Smirnov &amp; Maksim Smirnov</p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For its elegant craftsmanship where time, emotion and character flow with effortless precision, creating a deeply affecting and beautifully layered narrative with humor.</p>
16.	Best Sound Designer	<p><b>Film Name:</b> Deva Aaj Pan Vhay (India)</p> <p><b>Sound Designer:</b> Abhay Rumde (Purple Haze Studio)</p> <p><b>Citation:</b> For crafting a powerful landscape that gives voice to the elements beautifully mirroring a young boy's journey through storm and terrain.</p>

## FIPRESCI AWARD

Sr. No.	Category of the Award	Details of the film & Citation
17.	<b>FIPRESCI Jury Award (Documentary Film)</b>	<b>Film:</b> The Hug of Emptiness <b>Director:</b> Pradeep Kenchanuru <b>Citation:</b> Our award goes to a film that left us deeply moved by its portrait of a solitary fight for justice — a man who, stripped of everything, finds a way to survive and rebuild when his entire world falls apart. With a camera that never intrudes and a voice that simply tells its own story, the film turns twenty-four years of solitude into a quiet act of resistance.