



## Delhi Hosts Prestigious International Film Festival 2026



ABHINAV GUPTA

The International Film Festival of Delhi (IFFD) 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam, marked a significant milestone in the capital's cultural and cinematic journey. Organised by the Delhi Government in collaboration with the Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC), the week-long festival from March 25 to March 31 brought together global filmmakers, industry experts, and cinema enthusiasts on a single platform.

The festival commenced with an inaugural ceremony led by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, alongside prominent figures from the film fraternity, setting a sophisticated tone and highlighting Delhi's growing prominence as a hub for international cultural events. Over the course of seven days, the festival featured screenings of more than 125 films from around the world, including international feature films, Indian regional cinema, documentaries, and restored classics, offering audiences exposure to diverse cinematic traditions and contemporary storytelling practices.

In addition to screenings, the festival emphasised knowledge exchange and professional development through panel discussions, workshops, and masterclasses conducted by acclaimed

filmmakers and industry professionals, focusing on themes such as evolving film technologies, digital content creation, and the future of global cinema. These sessions proved especially beneficial for students and aspiring media professionals.

A notable highlight of the festival was its focus on emerging talent and the creator economy, providing dedicated platforms for young filmmakers to showcase their work and interact with established industry leaders, thereby fostering innovation and collaboration. The festival concluded with a formal closing ceremony, where outstanding contributions to cinema were recognised through awards across multiple categories, including best film, direction, and documentary.

Overall, the event not only celebrated artistic excellence but also reinforced Delhi's position as a global hub for film tourism and creative industries, while creating meaningful opportunities for learning, networking, and artistic exchange, particularly

for students and emerging talent.

The festival also witnessed strong international participation, with delegates from Europe, Asia, and North America attending screenings and discussions. This global presence helped in strengthening cross-cultural dialogue through cinema. Special curated segments such as "World Cinema Spotlight" and "New Voices of India" attracted significant attention from audiences and critics alike. These sections highlighted both established auteurs and independent filmmakers.

An interactive film market was also set up within the venue, enabling producers, distributors, and content creators to explore collaboration opportunities and film distribution deals. Digital cinema and AI-driven storytelling were among the most discussed themes during technical sessions, reflecting the industry's rapid technological transformation.

The festival further introduced

a student film competition, where participants from various universities showcased short films on social issues, identity, and contemporary urban life. Masterclasses by renowned cinematographers and editors provided hands-on insights into filmmaking techniques, visual storytelling, and post-production processes.

Several films screened at the festival received standing ovations, indicating strong audience engagement and appreciation for global cinema narratives. The event also promoted sustainability in filmmaking by encouraging eco-friendly production practices and discussions on green cinema initiatives.

A dedicated red-carpet segment allowed filmmakers and artists to interact with media professionals, increasing visibility for upcoming projects and talent. Cultural performances, including live music and theatre acts, complemented the film screenings, making the festival a holistic celebration of art and creativity.



# Beyond the Stage: The Story of Varchasva



**RUPANSH ARORA**

**M**aking a documentary on my college fest, Varchasva, was never something I had meticulously planned from the very beginning. It didn't start with a script, a storyboard, or even a clear vision of how it would eventually look. Instead, it began with a very simple and instinctive thought: "This deserves to be captured properly."

As someone who is still learning and trying to grow in photography and videography, I didn't want to approach it in a casual or careless way, just shooting random clips the way most people usually do during events. I had seen how fest memories often get reduced to scattered videos and selfies that don't really tell the full story. I wanted to change that for myself. I wanted to create something meaningful—something that doesn't just show what happened, but actually makes you feel what it was like to be there. That intention became the foundation of my documentary, which I titled "Final Together."

The name itself wasn't chosen randomly. It came from the realization that a college fest is never the result of one person's effort. It is always a collective outcome—hundreds of small contributions, countless hours of planning, coordination, and execution coming together in the end. Every individual plays a role, but the real identity of the fest is formed only when everything merges into one final experience. "Final Together" represents that unity—the idea that everything only makes sense when it comes together at the end.

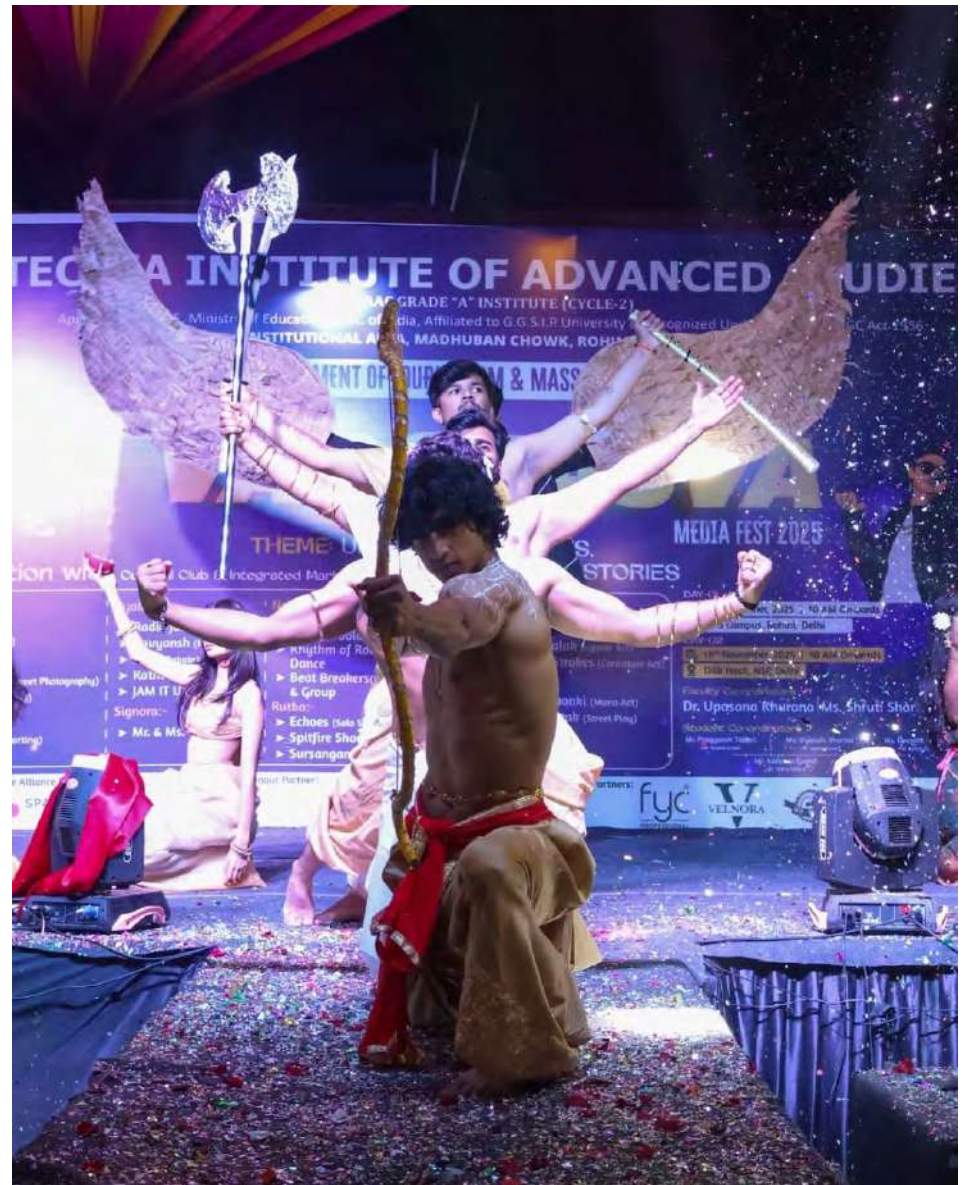
In the initial phase, I didn't really have a structured plan or professional-level setup. There was no detailed

production strategy or pre-decided shot list. What I did have, however, was awareness and curiosity. I knew I had to cover the entire journey of the fest—from the early stages of preparation to the final moments of performance and celebration. So I started observing more consciously than I usually would. I began noticing things I might have otherwise ignored: students rushing around with decorations, volunteers coordinating last-minute arrangements, participants repeatedly practicing their performances, and the visible stress mixed with excitement on the faces of organizers trying to make everything perfect.

I also realized very early that visuals alone wouldn't be enough. If I truly wanted to capture the essence of Varchasva, I needed voices too. That is why I decided to include interviews. I spoke to participants, organizers, and people involved in different roles. Through those conversations, I started understanding the depth of effort that goes into something the audience often experiences for just a few hours. What seems effortless on stage is actually the result of weeks of preparation, coordination, and sometimes even emotional pressure behind the scenes. These conversations added layers to my understanding and helped me shape the documentary into something more meaningful than just a visual montage.

When the fest actually began, everything became extremely fast-paced and unpredictable. The environment was full of energy, noise, and constant movement. I found myself shifting continuously from one location to another, trying to ensure I didn't miss important moments. There were times when I had to make difficult choices—whether to simply enjoy the moment as a student or step back and capture it as a creator. Most of the time, I chose the latter. It wasn't always easy, because I could feel myself missing out on experiences in real time, but I also knew that I was preserving those experiences for later in a different form.

Of course, things didn't go perfectly. There were mistakes throughout the process. I missed certain key shots,



The editing phase, however, turned out to be the most challenging part of the entire journey. Sitting alone with hours of raw footage, I had to go through everything carefully and decide what truly mattered for the story and what didn't. It was not just about cutting clips together—it was about finding meaning within the chaos. Slowly, as I kept working, the structure of the documentary started to emerge. It was no longer just about performances or isolated moments. It transformed into a complete narrative about effort, collaboration, emotions, and the journey behind Varchasva as a whole experience.

I spent a lot of time refining the flow, adjusting transitions, and selecting background music that could match the emotional tone of different segments. Every decision in editing felt important because it directly affected how the final story would be perceived. My goal was simple but difficult: I wanted anyone watching Final Together to feel emotionally connected to it, even if they had never attended the fest themselves.

In the end, I don't see this documentary as something

perfect or technically flawless. It has its limitations, imperfections, and learning gaps—but it is honest. It reflects my perspective, my effort, and my growth throughout the process. More importantly, it taught me lessons that go beyond technical skills. It made me realize that storytelling doesn't always depend on expensive equipment or professional setups. What truly matters is observation, patience, consistency, and the willingness to be honest with what you are trying to show. It also made me more comfortable with uncertainty, because in real shooting environments nothing really goes according to plan. You learn to work with what you have instead of waiting for perfect conditions that may never come.

For me, Final Together is not just a college project or an assignment submission. It represents a stage in my journey where I took a simple idea and turned it into something structured and meaningful through effort and persistence. It also serves as proof to myself that I am capable of building something from scratch, learning through mistakes, and expressing real stories through visual media.





**KRISHNAKANT**  
EDITOR

Dear Readers,

As this edition of The Youngsters reaches your hands, I feel both honoured and deeply excited to address you as its editor. Taking on this responsibility is not only a matter of pride but also a meaningful challenge that comes with a strong sense of duty. A student newspaper is far more than a regular publication that circulates news and reports—it is a living voice of the campus, a reflection of its intellectual energy, and a shared platform where ideas, creativity, and expression come together to form something truly collective.

In a time when communication is instant and digital media dominates our daily lives, a student-led newspaper continues to hold a unique and important place. It allows us to slow down, reflect, and present thoughts in a structured and meaningful way. It becomes a bridge between students, faculty, and the larger academic environment, ensuring that voices from every corner of the institution can find space and recognition.

## SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH THE YOUNGSTERS

It is truly encouraging to see The Youngsters continue to grow as a symbol of our academic spirit and commitment to student expression. This edition brings forward highlights from various campus activities, including the Endeavour Programme, Film Fiesta, and several other significant events held recently. Each of these activities represents more than just participation—they reflect teamwork, enthusiasm, creativity, and the vibrant spirit of our student community. Whether it is the curiosity and learning fostered during academic initiatives or the artistic expression seen in cultural celebrations, these moments collectively shape the identity of our institution.

Over time, The Youngsters has steadily earned recognition and appreciation not only among students but also beyond the campus community. This growing acknowledgement is both encouraging and motivating. It reminds us that what we create here has value and impact. It also places upon us a responsibility—to maintain quality, improve continuously, and ensure that every edition becomes more engaging, thoughtful, and relevant than the last. We are not just reporting events; we are documenting experiences, capturing memories, and preserving the evolving story of our campus life.

Looking ahead, we are committed to bringing

noticeable improvements in the content, presentation, and overall style of the newspaper. Our vision is to make The Youngsters more inclusive and participatory. We aim to involve a larger number of students from different departments and college groups, encouraging them to contribute their thoughts, opinions, creative writing, and perspectives on a wide range of topics. These may include academic discussions, social issues, personal experiences, or reflections on contemporary developments.

We strongly believe that every student carries a unique story, shaped by individual experiences, challenges, and aspirations. Each voice holds value, and when brought together, these voices create a powerful collective narrative. A campus becomes truly vibrant when its students feel heard, respected, and encouraged to express themselves freely. Through this newspaper, we hope to provide that space and nurture that confidence.

In today's rapidly changing world, education itself is undergoing a significant transformation. One of the most influential forces behind this change is the rise of artificial intelligence and digital technology. From personalized learning tools to advanced research assistance, AI is reshaping the way students study and how educators teach. It is making learning more interactive, accessible, and efficient, while

also opening new possibilities that were unimaginable just a few years ago.

At the same time, this transformation also brings important questions and responsibilities. As we embrace technology, it becomes essential to maintain balance—ensuring that innovation supports learning without replacing critical thinking, creativity, and human connection. In The Youngsters, we aim to explore and highlight these developments thoughtfully. We intend to bring forward discussions, articles, and student opinions that reflect how technology is influencing education and how we, as students, can adapt to and benefit from these changes responsibly.

Beyond academics and technology, college life itself remains one of the most formative phases in a student's journey. It is a time of discovery, where individuals begin to understand themselves better, explore their interests, and develop lifelong skills. It is a period filled with learning, not only from textbooks and classrooms but also from experiences, friendships, challenges, and achievements.

Let us move ahead with enthusiasm and commitment, and continue building a platform that truly celebrates ideas, talent, and the spirit of students.

Happy Reading!





DYANSHI SHARMA

In today's fast-moving world, shaped by rapid technological advancement, globalization, and constant innovation, young people often find themselves standing at a crossroads. On one side lies the pursuit of modern ambitions, careers, and global exposure; on the other lies the rich cultural heritage and traditional wisdom inherited over centuries. In this situation, the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) emerges not just as a historical reference, but as a deeply relevant and guiding framework for contemporary life.

The Indian Knowledge System is a vast and integrated body of knowledge developed over thousands of years across the Indian subcontinent. It includes diverse fields such as philosophy, science, mathematics, medicine, architecture, arts, linguistics, and ethical living. Unlike fragmented modern approaches, IKS is fundamentally holistic in nature, emphasizing the interconnection between human beings, society, and the environment. Whether it is the scientific principles embedded in ancient mathematics, the healing practices of Ayurveda, the physical and mental discipline of Yoga, or the aesthetic depth of classical music and dance, IKS reflects a civilization that sought

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## Indian Knowledge System (IKS) and Its Relevance for Modern Youth

balance, harmony, and sustainability in every aspect of life.

For today's youth, who are increasingly exposed to academic pressure, competitive environments, and digital overload, this system offers more than cultural pride—it offers practical solutions for well-being. Mental health challenges such as anxiety, stress, and burnout have become common in modern society. In this context, practices like Yoga and meditation, which originated from Indian traditions, are not merely fitness trends but powerful tools for self-regulation, emotional stability, and inner peace. Regular practice of these disciplines helps individuals develop focus, mindfulness, and clarity of thought, which are essential for both personal and professional success.

Beyond mental well-being, IKS also encourages a deep respect for nature and sustainable living. Ancient Indian traditions often viewed nature not as a resource to be exploited but as a living system to be respected and preserved. Concepts such as living in harmony with the environment, minimal waste generation, and ethical consumption are deeply embedded in traditional Indian thought. Today, when the world is facing severe challenges such as climate

change, pollution, and resource depletion, these ancient principles provide valuable guidance. If modern youth integrate these ideas into their lifestyle, they can actively contribute to building a more sustainable future.

Another significant contribution of IKS lies in value education and character development. It emphasizes essential human qualities such as discipline, humility, empathy, self-control, and responsibility. In a highly competitive and digitally driven world, where instant gratification and superficial success often dominate, these values act as grounding forces. They help individuals make ethical decisions, build meaningful relationships, and develop a strong moral compass. Stories from ancient Indian epics and texts also serve as moral guides, offering insights into leadership, duty, and righteousness.

Importantly, embracing the Indian Knowledge System does not require rejecting modern science or technological progress. Instead, it encourages integration. The real strength of today's youth lies in their ability to combine traditional wisdom with modern innovation. For example, scientific research today increasingly validates the benefits of Yoga and meditation, while sustainable design principles often reflect ancient architectural wisdom.

When tradition and modernity work together, they create more balanced, ethical, and effective solutions for contemporary problems.

Moreover, IKS can also help young individuals reconnect with their identity in an increasingly globalized world. While globalization offers exposure to diverse cultures and ideas, it can sometimes lead to cultural dilution or confusion about one's roots. Understanding India's intellectual heritage provides a sense of belonging and continuity. It reminds youth that they are part of a civilization that has contributed significantly to global knowledge systems for centuries.

In conclusion, the Indian Knowledge System is not a relic of the past but a living and evolving framework that continues to hold great relevance in the modern world. For today's youth, it offers not only cultural understanding but also practical tools for mental well-being, ethical living, and sustainable development. By reconnecting with these timeless principles while embracing modern innovation, young individuals can build a more balanced, meaningful, and responsible life.

Ultimately, true progress is not measured only by how far we move forward, but also by how wisely we choose what to carry from our past into the future.

