

# Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  
Minister for Creative Industries



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## INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF IN MELBOURNE

A nine-day celebration of Indian film and culture, featuring some of India's biggest sporting and screen superstars, is descending on Victoria for the 2022 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.

Supported by the Andrews Labor Government and now in its 13th year, the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) is the Southern Hemisphere's largest annual celebration of Indian cinema.

This year's program includes more than 120 films, including documentaries and short films, showcasing the best of cinema from India and the subcontinent across a range of themes and genres.

Highlights include opening night thriller *Dobaaraa*, sports drama *83* about the 1983 cricket World Cup, and *Ladies Only*, a feminist portrait of modern urban women in India.

International guests include Bollywood actor and producer Abhishek Bachchan, acclaimed Indian actress Shefali Shah and Bollywood stars Taapsee Pannu, Tamannaah and Vaani Kapoor.

Festivities also include master classes, a Bollywood dance competition and a flag hoisting ceremony at Federation Square to celebrate India's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day – while Sunday IFFM Awards at the Palais Theatre will see some of India's biggest stars take to the red carpet.

Recognising the significant creative and cultural contribution the festival brings, the Labor Government has backed it with \$3 million in funding over the next three years – including \$2.3 million in new funding from the 2022 budget.

The additional support will enable IFFM to expand its awards program, introduce year-round screenings through *IFFM365* – while delivering the new *My Melbourne* initiative, a short film and mentoring initiative pairing local South Asian filmmakers with noted Indian film directors.

After being held online last year, IFFM 2022 returns as a hybrid festival with both in-person and online events, from August 12-30. For more information visit [iffm.com.au](http://iffm.com.au).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Steve Dimopoulos

*"Over the next few weeks Melbourne will attract some of the biggest Indian names in sport and film, bringing a spectacular celebration of Indian film and culture."*

*"Victoria is home to a proud and vibrant Indian community and the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne presents an unmissable opportunity to celebrate their stories, with a packed program of great films and live events."*

### Quote attributable to IFFM Director Mitu Bhowmick

*"We are back with all our most loved live events, over 120 films in 29 languages, along with some of the world's most respected film makers and stars."*