



World Plumbing Day

From hot showers to clean drinking water, plumbing provides us with essential comforts that we often take for granted. World Plumbing Day is an international event, initiated by the World Plumbing Council, held on 11 March each year to recognize the important role plumbing plays in societal health and amenity. The WPC, through its member countries and its partnerships with bodies like the World Health Organization, works all year round to promote the benefits of safe plumbing, but in 2010, it decided to launch the concept of embedding a single day on the world's calendar dedicated to plumbing.



Stars Shone, Teleprompters Struggled, and Hunger Won in the End



The Winners...



- Best Performance in a Leading Role (Male) - Kartik Aaryan (*Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*)
- Best Performance in a Leading Role (Female) - Nitanishi Goel (*Laapataa Ladies*)



- Best Direction - Kiran Rao (*Laapataa Ladies*)
- Best Performance in a Negative Role- Raghav Juyal (*Kill*)
- Best Performance in a Supporting Role (Female) - Janaki Bodiwala (*Shaitan*)
- Best Performance in a Supporting Role (Male) - Ravi Kishan (*Laapataa Ladies*)
- Best Story in Popular Category (Original) - Biplob Goswami (*Laapataa Ladies*)
- Best Story (Adapted)- Sriram Raghavan, Arijit Biswas, Pooja Ladha Surti, and Anukriti Pandey (*Merry Christmas*)



- Best Directorial Debut- Kunal Kemmu (*Madgaon Express*)
- Best Debut (Male)- Lakshya Lalwani (*Kill*)
- Best Debut (Female) - Ratibha Ranta (*Laapataa Ladies*)
- Best Music Director - Ram Sampath (*Laapataa Ladies*)
- Best Lyrics - Prashant Pandey (Sajni from *Laapataa Ladies*)
- Best Singer (Male) - Jubin Nautiyal (*Dua from Article 370*)
- Best Singer (Female)- Shreya



- Best Music Design - Subash Sahu, Boloy Kumar Doloi, Rahul Karpe (*Kill*)
- Best Screenplay - Sneha Desai (*Laapataa Ladies*)
- Best Dialogues - Arjun Dhawan, Aditya Dhar, Aditya Suhas Jambhale, Monal Thakur (*Article 370*)
- Best Editing - Jabeen Merchant (*Laapataa Ladies*)
- Best Cinematography - Rafi Mehmood (*Kill*)
- Best Choreography - Bosco Baezar (*Tauba Tauba from Bad News*)
- Best Special Effects - Red Chillies VFX (*Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*)
- Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema - Rakesh Roshan

#IIFA

When Cricket Took Over Bollywood & Jaipur's Unstoppable Energy

However, not everything was seamless. The vast distances between sections, coupled with an unpaved road beneath the carpet, proved to be a challenge for many. Additionally, long electrical wires ran underneath the carpeting, creating tripping hazards. As a result, quite a few people stumbled and fell while navigating the premises.



Shruti Kothari

And just like that, the curtains have closed on IIFA 2025! The excitement, the butterflies, the sheer star-studded magic, what a ride it has been. Watching so many celebrities come together on a grand, dazzling stage, set against the cultural vibrance of our beloved Jaipur, was nothing short of spectacular. Our dynamic hosts, Karan Johar and Kartik Aaryan, kept the energy soaring with their effortless charm and wit. But if that wasn't enough, the celebrations only intensified with Team India's phenomenal Champions Trophy victory, sending the crowd at JECC into an absolute frenzy. After all, Bollywood and cricket are more than just entertainment in India; they are emotions, festivals, and shared passions. So, it's safe to say that Jaipur didn't just witness an event on the night of March 9, it became part of history.



A Skyborne Overture

'Neele Neele Ambar Par'

The Mesmerizing Drone Spectacle at IIFA 2025

IIFA 2025 in Jaipur commenced with a spectacle unlike any other, a breathtaking drone show that painted the night sky with dazzling formations, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening. As the anticipation reached its peak, hundreds of synchronized drones ascended into the darkness, their luminous presence crafting intricate visuals that celebrated Bollywood's global legacy.

The opening act saw the sky illuminated with the unmistakable silhouette of the IIFA trophy, glowing with golden brilliance. From there, the drones formed majestic elephants, an ode to Rajasthan's royal heritage, flanking the iconic 'IIFA' emblem. A stunning tribute to 25 years of cinematic excellence soon followed, as the sky shimmered with the words '25 Years of IIFA', marking a milestone moment in the journey of Indian cinema's global celebration.

The crescendo of the display came in a breathtaking homage to the host city, Jaipur. Against the starlit canvas, the drones formed an intricate depiction of a royal elephant adorned with traditional embellishments, symbolizing the cultural richness of Rajasthan. The seamless interplay of light, art, and technology left the audience spellbound, settling the perfect tone for an evening where Bollywood met brilliance, and tradition embraced innovation.

'Jashn-e-Bahaara'

A Grand Finale in Frames The wrap it all up, let's take a moment to appreciate the true star of the evening, the breathtaking stage that embodied the essence of IIFA 2025. With its dazzling lights, vibrant colors, and larger-than-life design, it wasn't just a platform for performances but a spectacle in itself. Above are some spectacular photographs that capture the magic, grandeur, and sheer brilliance that brought the colors of IIFA to life!

When Bollywood Meets Drama, Both On Stage and at the Food Stalls: Award shows promise cinematic magic, but no one warns you about the real IIFA experience, teleprompter fumbles, actors who look

like they've been surviving on air and self-belief, and the absolute chaos of guests sprinting to spend their IIFA food cards before expiration, like it was the stock market crashing at 3 A.M.



Shailaza Singh  
Published Author  
Poet and a YouTuber

On Sunday night, Jaipur, transformed into the capital of Bollywood madness as the NEXA IIFA Awards 2025 unfolded with a mix of glitz, glamour, and enough fireworks to rival a Diwali celebration. This wasn't just another Bollywood awards night, this was IIFA's Silver Jubilee Spectacle, a celebration of 25 years of cinematic extravagance. Expectations were sky-high, and while the event delivered on glamor and nostalgia, it also came with its fair share of scripted jokes, teleprompter-induced awkwardness, and some serious 'Are we in a three-hour-long commercial?' moments. And what a night it was, questionable fashion choices, mid-show existential realizations, and a final performance that had people rushing...

Not to their cars. Oh, no! To the food stalls. Because in true IIFA 'gotcha' style, attendees had preloaded cash cards for food and drink, and those cards were set to expire at 3 A.M. Yes, you read that right. Bollywood, inspiring last-minute panic spending and questionable midnight food decisions since forever.



A Grand Start , Where Folk Music Met Fog Machines

The night kicked off with a Rajasthani folk performance, but this was not your usual cultural showcase. This was Bollywood's version, bigger, brighter, and just dramatic enough to make traditional folk singers wonder if they'd accidentally signed up for a Sanjay Leela Bhansali film. Lights flickered, fireworks exploded, and dancers twirled in

The Mystery of Bollywood's Disappearing Weight

Now, let's talk about the real shocker of the night, and no, it wasn't the award results. It was seeing Bollywood actors in real life. On screen, they are larger than life, chiseled, glowing, and seemingly immune to the laws of physics. But in person? They're TINY. Like, "Is this the same person who

Kartik Aaryan's Unexpected Gentleman Era

One of the unexpected highlights of the evening was Kartik Aaryan's insistence on escorting every female winner off the stage.

- Was it chivalry?
- Was it strategy?
- Was he inspired by Shah Rukh

Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies had a golden night, sweeping up!

- Best Picture
- Best Director

synchrony, but one couldn't help but wonder, does folk music really need so much extra garnish?

And then came the moment of the night, every actor who stepped on stage greeted the crowd with a resounding *Khamagani Jaipur!* Did they learn it on the flight here? Were they briefed backstage? Had someone whispered in their ears before they walked in? The world may never know!

looked like a Greek god on screen?" tiny. Like, "Has someone checked if they've eaten since 2019?" tiny. The camera is Bollywood's greatest special effect, turning mere mortals into immortals. Whatever their secret is, I want in.

Khan, the OG King of Escorting Women Downstairs? One audience member whispered, "Why is he doing this for EVERYONE? Shouldn't they have hired someone for this?" Little did they realize, this is exactly why fans fall in love with actors.

- Best Actress
- Best Supporting Actor

And then, there was Kartik Aaryan, taking home Best Actor (Male) for *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* because, well, clearly, we needed another sequel to remind us that ghosts love old mansions.

But this raised a classic Bollywood award show question, do all nominees actually travel to Jaipur on the off chance they might win? Or do they already know?

And why do the hosts always seem to walk away with an award? Coincidence? Luck? Or just really convenient scheduling?

#IIFA

The Never-Ending Advertisements: When Bollywood Turned into a Commercial Break

If you thought sitting through three hours of award show drama was the real challenge, think again. The true test of patience came in the form of strategically placed, painfully long ad narrations disguised as 'sponsor acknowledgments.'

From NEXA to Sobha Realty, the hosts and presenters dutifully delivered ad scripts with the same enthusiasm one reserves for reading out WiFi terms and conditions.

- Karan Johar: "And before we move on to the next award, let's take a moment to appreciate our official automotive partner, NEXA, because just like Bollywood, it drives dreams!"

- Kartik Aaryan: "And speaking of dreams, thank you to Sobha Realty for turning luxury living into an art form, just like our next category!" Translation: "Please clap now so the sponsors keep funding us."

After the third mandatory sponsor appreciation speech, the audience started to crack the code.

- The smarter ones? They used

The Hosts: Where Teleprompters Were the Real MVPs

Karan Johar and Kartik Aaryan, an unlikely duo but surprisingly hilarious, hosted the evening, bringing equal parts wit and scripted spontaneity. But the real showstopper? The teleprompter. Positioned right in my view, this magical screen dictated the night, guiding everyone from seasoned hosts to corporate CEOs who read their lines like they were reciting stock market reports.

While KJo and Kartik delivered their lines effortlessly, the business tycoons and sponsors



the time wisely, heading to the washrooms, refreshing their makeup, or texting each other their frustrations.

- The rest of us? We sat there, wishing we had a remote control to fast-forward the scripted corporate love letters. For a brief moment, it felt like we weren't at an awards show, but inside an extended commercial break they forgot to end.

At one point, someone in my section muttered, "Can they at least hand out free NEXA cars if they're going to make us sit through this?" Wishful thinking, my friend. Wishful thinking.

struggled, some reading as if their souls had momentarily left their bodies, others pausing dramatically at all the wrong moments. One particularly stiff CEO read his speech like he was announcing stock market losses, pausing in all the wrong places and making 'Best Editing' sound like an obituary announcement. At one point, I found myself more invested in the teleprompter than the show itself. Laapataa Ladies, Kill, and the Bollywood Award Show Algorithm!

Shah Rukh Khan and the Mystery of Mass Hysteria

Now, let's get to the big moment of the night, the one where Shah Rukh Khan took the stage, and all logic ceased to exist. Shah Rukh Khan is older, thinner, and absolutely still in charge of the universe, yet to his fans, he remains the man who will forever stand on a mustard field, arms wide open, waiting for Simran to run into them. Never mind that Raj from *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* would now have a mortgage, knee pain, and a strong opinion about property tax, in the hearts of millions, he is ageless.

So, when the moment of his grand entry arrived, the announcer hyped it up with the kind of build-up usually reserved for superhero movie trailers.

"Ladies and gentlemen, look to the sky, because stars don't walk, they descend from the heavens!" And like obedient devotees at the altar of Bollywood, we all immediately craned our necks.

- Was he arriving in a helicopter?

- Paragliding in, arms stretched wide?
- Had he finally mastered levitation?

For a full thirty seconds, we stared expectantly at the sky, half-expecting a celestial chariot.

And then, the sky lit up with the letters 'SRK' in glowing, dazzling lights.



zling lights. Drone technology. No magic. No grand descent. Meanwhile, the actual SRK was already standing on stage, probably smirking and thinking, "Fooled you guys. Again."

Because that's his real power, he doesn't need flying carpets or gravity-defying stunts.

He just needs to exist, lift an eyebrow, and the entire stadium erupts like it's the second coming of cinema itself.

The moment his name was announced, people,

- Stood on chairs.
- Screamed like their lives depended on it.
- Lost all semblance of compo-

sure. But what was he actually doing? Shaking his body to familiar tunes. That's it!

And yet, the crowd went wild. So, what is it about SRK?

1. *The Nostalgia Effect* - Every song he performs is a throw-back to an era when Bollywood felt like magic.
2. *The Charisma Factor* - SRK doesn't just perform. He exists, and we lose our minds.
3. *The Illusion of Accessibility* - He gives just enough to make fans feel connected, yet remains distant enough to be unattainable.

*The paradox?* The same fans who fuel his stardom are the ones he must constantly run from.

post-award-show guests stood in line for overpriced tacos, soggy fries, and of course, the infamous 100 IIFA plastic water glass.

- Forget afterparties, this was the real climax.
- Nothing bonds people like overpriced snacks and urgency.
- Somewhere, IIFA's financial planners were laughing.

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Final Thoughts - The IIFA Experience in a Nutshell

Cinematic excellence? Check. Mass hysteria over SRK? Check. Questionable award show logistics? Check. Unexpected hunger games at 3 A.M.? Big check. This time, I brought my own snacks and a backup water bottle! Would I finally understand the mystery of SRK's gravitational pull? Never. But that's okay, some things are meant to remain Bollywood's eternal enigma.

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A Relationship of Mutual Admiration

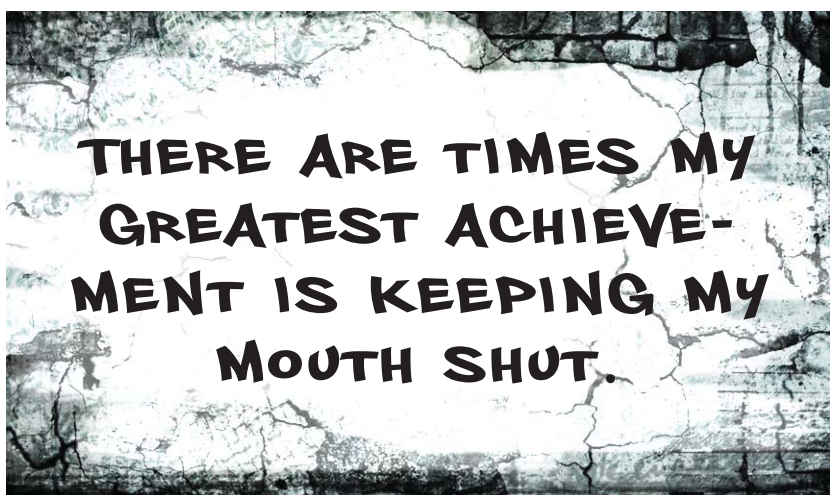
• Zakir Hussain

Rekha's association with IIFA over the years has been a celebration of her remarkable journey in cinema. Speaking about Rekha's presence at IIFA 2025, Andre Timmins, Co-Founder of IIFA, expressed his excitement, saying, "It is an absolute honour to welcome the eternal queen of Indian cinema, Rekha, to IIFA's historic Silver Jubilee celebration in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Having Rekha with us for this milestone event is truly special. We are



beyond thrilled to have her grace this grand occasion and make it even more unforgettable."

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman