



walks and declares to her mum, 'I hate *Sandesh*.' I'd spent

depth to the bitter-sweet love story, making it one of the most emotionally resonant films of 2020.

# Aamir Khan to hoist the Indian national flag at IFFM 2025

**CJ Desk**

**B**ollywood superstar Aamir Khan will hoist the Indian national flag at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2025 in August.

The ceremony will take place as part of the festival's annual Independence Day celebrations.

"The flag hoisting ceremony at IFFM is more than just a formal tradition; it's a deeply emotional and unifying experience. Seeing the Tir-

anga unfurl on foreign soil, surrounded by artists, filmmakers, and members of the Indian and Australian communities, fills our hearts with pride," said festival director Mitu Bhowmick Lange.

The festival director added: "Having Aamir Khan, whose voice vision and cinema has had a profound impact on generations of film lovers not just in India but globally, lead this moment is truly a rare honour."

Bhowmick added that Aamir's presence represents the strength and integrity of Indian storytelling and "the values we stand for at IFFM, equality and unity in diversity.

We look forward to welcoming audiences from all walks of life to witness this inspiring moment."

IFFM, backed by the Government of Victoria, stands as the largest Indian film festival held outside of India. With a legacy of showcasing powerful and diverse Indian stories, the festival continues to be a beacon of inclusivity and cinematic excellence. In other news, the restored version of filmmaker Prem Kapoor's 1971 *Badnaam Basti*, which is described as India's first gay film, will be showcased at the The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) for its pride celebratory night.