

# 'SPECIAL FOCUS ON INDIA AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL'

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R. Madhavan

Anurag Thakur, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, on Wednesday said India had been chosen as the first Country of Honour at the upcoming Marche' Du Film, organised alongside the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival, in France.

The Minister said: "It is the first time the Marché du Film has an official Country of Honour, and this special focus will continue annually with different nations in the spotlight at future editions."

Another highlight for India at this edition of Cannes Film Festival would be the world premiere of the movie *Rocketry* produced by actor R. Madhavan.

It would be showcased at the Palais des Festivals of the market screening on May 19.

## Diplomatic ties

Mr. Thakur said given that it was the 75 years of diplomatic ties between India and France, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris and his meeting with President Emmanuel Macron had special significance.

He said the Country of Honour status ensured India's presence as a "focus country" at the opening night of Marche' Du Films being organised at the Majestic Beach with the spotlight on India, its cinema, culture and heritage.

Adding an Indian flavour to the night would be special performances by Indian choir bands along with folk music and fireworks. Both Indian and French cuisine will be served at the event.

The Minister said India was also a Country of Honour at the Cannes Next, in which five new start-ups would be given an opportunity to pitch to the audio-visual industry, and 10 professionals would participate at the Animation Day in Cannes networking event.

India will also pitch five select movies at the "Goes to Cannes Section", which are part of the Work In Progress lab under the Film Bazaar. They include *Baghjan* by Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia (Assamese, Moran); *Bailadila* by Shailendra Sahu (Hindi, Chhattisgarhi); *Ek Jagah Apni* (A Space of Our Own) by Ektara Collective (Hindi); *Follower* by Harshad Nalawade (Marathi, Kannada, Hindi); and *Shivamma* by Jai Shankar (Kannada).

## One-hour conference

Mr. Thakur said a dedicated one-hour conference would be organised at the main stage, comprising leaders of the entertainment sector and would position 'India as the content hub of the World'.

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