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# STARS, SHENANIGANS AND SUPERSTARS: SIIMA 2016 WAS A SMASH HIT

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**G**litz and glamour, pomp and show, grit and glory, awards and accolades — Godrej Goldlocks SIIMA 2016, in its fifth edition, had all the trappings of a perfect South Indian pot-boiler. If the red carpet shenanigans of reigning divas of tinseltown set the temperatures soaring, the high octane *naach-gaana* and drama on stage kept the entertainment quotient at an all-time high. And, of course, for all those who walked away with awards in hand, there was a happy ending too.

Held at the Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre, Singapore, the two-day extravaganza that celebrates South Indian cinema and recognizes talent from the Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam film industries got off to a glitzy start on Day 1, with Rana Daggubati welcoming Singapore's South Indian diaspora in true *filmi* fashion, complete with a punch dialogue. Taking the baton from him were hosts for the evening, Lakshmi Manchu and Ali, who kept the audience in splits with their easy banter through the show. Sandalwood's Akul Balaji brought in a fresh dash of humour with his brilliant emceeing as well. The first evening, which awarded the best talent of Telugu and Kannada films of 2015, saw a stellar attendance from stars across the South, including matinee idols Chiranjeevi, Khushbu, Vikram, Suhasini, Rana, Allu Arjun, Puneeth Rajkumar, Nithya Menen, and more. Huma Qureshi's pres-

ence added some Bollywood glam to the do, while Kabir Bedi made an appearance to mark his foray into South cinema. The stalwarts cheered on as veteran playback singer S Janaki was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement award.

Song and dance acts by Pragya Jaiswal, Pranitha Subhash and Rachita Ram added a *filmi tadka* to the show. The highlight was Sayeasha's tribute to the big four of Telugu cinema — Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna, Venkatesh and Balakrishna. She shimmed to hit numbers of the stalwarts and pulled off Chiru's iconic 'veena step'. Devi Sri Prasad's high-energy gig had the whole crowd on its feet.

Day 2, which was dedicated to Tamil and Malayalam films, saw the auditorium packed to capacity. And keeping them entertained were a bunch of funny men and lovely women — Shiva, Sateesh, Ranjini Haridas and Dhanya. Star power was stellar too — with Vikram, Nivin Pauly, Prithviraj, Nayanthara, Radhika Apte and more making their presence felt. Veteran filmmaker Panchu Arunachalam was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement award. Hansika, Amyra Dastur, Aishwarya Rajesh and Huma Qureshi put up some sexy performances. Mollywood's Neeraj Madhav performed and set some pretty high standards. The rockstar of the evening though was Anirudh. He made a smashing entry, complete with exotic dancers and dragons, and had the crowd on its feet for 10 whole minutes; that too at 2.30 in the morning. It was a fitting finale to the grand *filmi* weekend.



Rakul Preet Singh



Samantha, Shruti Haasan and Allu Arjun



Nayanthara



Hansika



Vikram



Shriya Saran



Rana Daggubati



Ashok Kheny



Brinda Prasad



CJ Roy



Rajesh Krishnamurthy

## MEGA SELFIE MOMENT ON STAGE



In a fitting tribute to Chiranjeevi, a montage of all the greatest moments from the Megastar's career was played on stage. But what made the moment truly special was when he was joined by all his yesteryear heroines on stage, including Radikaa, with whom he's done scores of films and Suhasini. Taking him by surprise, Suhasini broke into a song: "Malli malli idi rani roju..." getting Chiru all moist-eyed. Allu Aravind called him "the most wonderful human being", who still surprises him with the empathy he has towards everybody. The Mega bonhomie ended with all the actors crowding around Chiru for a mega selfie.

## KANNADA AWARD WINNERS

- Best Film:** Mythri
- Best Actor:** Puneeth Rajkumar (Rana Vikrama)
- Best Actress:** Rachita Ram (Ranna)
- Best Director:** Upendra (Uppi 2)
- Best Actor - Critics:** Ninasam Satish (Rocket)
- Best Actress - Critics:** Shanvi Srivastava (Masterpiece)
- Best Comedian:** Chikkanna (Masterpiece)
- Best Debutant Director:** Anup Bhandari (RangiTaranga)
- Best Debutant Actor (Male):** Vinay Rajkumar (Siddhartha)
- Best Debutant Actor (Female):** Manvitha Harish (Kendasampige)
- Best Music Director:** Arjun Janya (Vajrakaya)
- Most streamed song of the year:** No problem - Arjun Janya (Vajrakaya)
- Best Playback Singer (Male):** Santosh Venky - Rajarani (Rhaatee)
- Best Playback Singer (Female):** Inchara Rao - Kareyole (RangiTaranga)
- Best Lyricist:** Anup Bhandari - Ee Sanje (RangiTaranga)
- Best Supporting Actor (Male):** Pannaga Bharana (Mrugashira)
- Best Supporting Actor (Female):** Tejaswini Prakash (Goolihatti)
- Best Actor in a Negative Role:** Saikumar (RangiTaranga)

## SPECIAL AWARDS

- Youth Icon of South India:** Samantha
- Lifetime Achievement Award:** SJanaki and Panchu Arunachalam

## KANNADA CINEMA'S BIG WINNERS



Puneeth Rajkumar, Anup Bhandari, Ninasam Satish, NS Rajkumar



Saikumar, Chikkanna, Arjun Janya, Manvitha Harish



Vinay Rajkumar, Tejaswini Prakash, Pannaga Bharana, Inchara Rao

## S JANAKI MAKES IT AN 80S PARTY ONSTAGE...

Veteran of over 48,000 songs in South Indian cinema as well as Bollywood, S Janaki, was honoured with a lifetime achievement award. As a tribute, Usha Uthup, who is a self-confessed fan of Janakiamma, performed a medley of all her timeless hits. The 78-year-old singer proved that her music is timeless indeed when she got onstage and rendered a few lines from all the songs she's sung for the actresses present there — Suhasini, Khushbu, Sripriya, Radikaa, et al. The singer, known for her versatile voice, proved that she can sing in a child's voice even today, and ended her acceptance speech by lisping, "Thank you very much" in a toddler's voice.



Usha Uthup, S Janaki and Chiranjeevi



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