

PRESS-RELEASE

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SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD 2022

To commemorate Satyajit Ray's Birth Centenary (2nd May 1921-2021), FIPRESCI-India installed an Award titled: "SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO WRITING ON CINEMA" in 2021.

The Award is given on Satyajit Ray's Birthday to an author to acknowledge her/his outstanding contributions to writing on cinema (books, essays, articles, discourses) in any Indian language (including English) for propagation of film culture which was Ray's primary area of concern. Ray started his journey in the field of cinema as a writer and performed his role as an author very seriously throughout his life by writing on cinema both in English and Bengali. His writings on cinema are no less important than his films. The first recipient of this Award (in 2021) was **Dr. Aruna Vasudev**.

FIPRESCI-India is honoured to declare the veteran author Prof. I. Shanmughadas as the second recipient of this coveted Award (for 2022) named after Satyajit Ray.

Prof. I. Shanmughadas is a writer and film critic from Kerala. He received the National Film Award for Best Film Critic in 1999. Born in Ottappalam, Prof. Shanmughadas currently lives in Thrissur. After acquiring a postgraduate degree in English literature, he began his professional life as a teacher in Mumbai. Later, he was a lecturer in English literature in various Government colleges across the state. He retired from Shri C. Achutha Menon Government College, Thrissur. Early associations with film societies inspired him to take an active part in the film society movement and activities. He was the founder president of "Screen Unit" Mumbai.

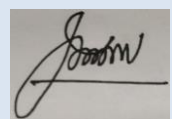
After his illustrious teaching career Prof. I. Shanmughadas is continuing his life-long engagements with films and pedagogy. His cheerful talks and subtle deliberations engage people of all ages and orientations irrespective of the region. He has been a popular voice of the film society movement in Kerala and has been enlightening the rural audiences and common people for decades now. Prof. Shanmughadas teaches us to be intelligent and sensitive viewers of cinema and the world that produces it. His talks also prompt us to read and substantiate our viewing with analytical and meditative thought. The unique interest and engagement with the visual and the keen critical acumen and

passion for critical analysis with a foregrounding of the experiential and the ontological seem to be instructive and enlightening. His precarious balancing of the aesthetic and social dimensions of the film and the literary texts forms a model and motivation for the young students.

In the latter half of the 1970s, Shanmughadas started writing articles on cinema. He received the National Award for the best film critic in 1999. "Sanchariyude Veedu", an exclusive book on the films of Satyajit Ray, won him the State award for the best book on cinema in 1996. "Daivanarthakante Krodham", his article on M.T Vasudevan Nair's Nirmalyam, won him the State Award for the best article written on films of the year 2013. He is the recipient of Kerala Sahitya Akademi's "Vilasini Puraskaram" for the best literary criticism for his book "Shareeram Nadhi Nakhathram" on The God of Small Things, "G.N Pillai Endowment Award" for the best academic article (2008), "Kozhikodan Award" for the best book on cinema (2012) and Film Critic's Association's Awards for the best book on cinema of the years 1997 and 2006 as well. Following is a list of his major published books:

1. Malakalil manju peyyunnu 1987
2. Cinemayude vazhiyil 1990
3. Sanchariyude veedu 1995
4. Aaranu buddhanallaathathu 2005
5. Godard : Colaykkum Marxinum naduvil 2005
6. P Ramadas, Vidhyarthiyude vazhi 2007
7. Cinemayum chila samvidhayakarum 2011
8. Shareeram, nadi, nakshathram 2011

The "FIPRESCI-India Satyajit Ray Memorial Award 2022" would be handed over to Prof. I. Shanmughadas in a program to be organized physically as soon as possible.



V. K. Joseph
President, FIPRESCI-India
Trivandrum, 2nd May 2022