

# FIPRESCI-INDIA

International Federation of Film Critics – India Chapter

Registration No-TVM/TC/7/2021

*Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique*

Website: <https://fipresci-india.org/>



## **General Secretary's Report on the Activities of FIPRESCI-India Between the AGM-2021 and AGM-2022**

**Dear Members,**

On behalf the Executive Committee, I welcome you all to this Annual General Meeting (AGM) of FIPRESCI-India being held today i.e. on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022 physically at the Hotel Manoshanti, Panaji, Goa during the 53<sup>rd</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Last time we hold our AGM physically on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019 at the same place during the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of IFFI. Due to pandemic, physical AGMs were not possible in 2020 and 2021 but we succeeded to continue our activities and hold the AGMs virtually on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 during the 51<sup>st</sup> IFFI and 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021 during the 52<sup>nd</sup> IFFI.

We thank you all for your continuous support to keep the organization vibrant during this dull period. I am submitting a brief report of our activities between the last and present AGMs for your kind consideration.

During my tenure as the GS, I tried my best to serve the organization as efficiently as possible. Always consulted the President and EC Members before taking any step – how trivial it may be, maintained transparency and democratic praxis as far as practicable, but still, there might be some inadvertent mistakes from my part, for which, I must apologize.

Hope you will take part on the deliberations and give your prudent opinion to guide the organization to the right direction.

### **1. Tribute**

During the period we have lost many important persons in the field of cinema, art and culture like Monica Vitti (2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022), Lata Mangeshkar (6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022), Jean-Luc Godard (13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022) and others. Let us observe one minute's silence to pay tribute to their departed souls. Their activities will show us path to contribute our bests to the posterity.

### **2. Membership**

Presently we have 03 Honorary Members and 33 General Members. Out of a total 36, we have 10 members from Maharashtra; 05 each from Bengal, Assam, and Karnataka; 04 from Delhi; 02 each from Tamil Nadu and Kerala; and 01 each from Goa, Rajasthan, and Manipur giving the organization a pan-Indian character. But we failed to maintain the gender balance as out of a total 36 members, we only have 11 female members. While accepting new members, we have to take care on this issue with due importance.

### **3. National Open Seminar**

We organized a National Open Seminar on the Merger of Films Division of India (1948), Children's Film Society of India (1954), National Film Archive of India (1964), and Directorate of Film Festivals (1973) with the National Film Development Corporation of India Limited virtually on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2022. The seminar was attended by more than 80 pre-registered participants. Rahul Rawail, Amrit Gangar, C S Venkiteswaran, Anil Zankar, Priya Krishnaswamy, Saibal Mitra, Meenakshi Shedde, N Manu Chakravarthy, Sunny Joseph, Shilpi Gulati, Prateek Vats, Sudipto Acharyya, Siraj Syed, and Rafeeq Ellias deliberated on various aspects of the issue. VK Joseph presided over the seminar. The seminar is available on our YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJkNPCuGbqE&t=6197s>

### **4. Seminar in IFFK**

We organized a seminar on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022 on the Merger of Film Units with NFDC during the 26<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of Kerala (18-25 Mar 2022) in collaboration with the Open Forum of FFSI Keralam where Sunny Joseph, C S Venkiteswaran, Jossy Joseph, V K Joseph and Premendra Mazumder participated in the panel discussion.

### **5. Critics Week in Bangalore**

We presented the 'Critics Week' (non-competitive) in the 13<sup>th</sup> Bengaluru International Film Festival (3-10 Mar 2022) showcasing seven highly acclaimed feature films like 1. *Identifying Features* (2020, Mexico, 95M) by Fernanda Valadez, 2. *Brother's Keeper* (2021, Turkey, 85M) by Ferit Karahan, 3. *I Never Cry* (2020, Poland, 93M) by Piotr Domalewski, 4. *Father* (2020, Serbia, 120M) by Srđan Golubovic, 5. *Feathers* (2021, Egypt, 112M) by Omar El Zohairy, 6. *Yuni* (2021, Indonesia, 95M) Kamila Andini and 7. *Ring Wandering* (2021, Japan, 104M) Masakazu Koneko. All the films were curated by us.

### **6. Critics Choice in Kerala**

We presented a special section titled 'Critics Choice' (non-competitive) in the 26<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of Kerala (18-25 Mar 2022) showcasing six FIPRESCI (International) Award winning films from Asia, Africa and Latin America like 1. *Invisible Life of Euridice Gusmao* (Brazil-Germany, 2019, 139M) by Karim Ainouz, 2. *The Exam* (Iraqi Kurdistan-Qatar, 2021, 89M) by Shawkat Amin Korki, 3. *The Edge of Daybreak* (Thailand, 2021, 114M) by Taiki Sakpisit, 4. *Sanctorum* (Mexico-Dominican Republic-Qatar, 2019, 83M) by Joshua Gil, 5. *Fractured* (Turkey, 2020, 82M) by Fikret Reyhan, and 6. *Death of A Virgin and The Sin of Not Living* (Lebanon, 2021, 87M) by George Peter Barbari. All the films for the section were curated by us.

### **7. Critics Week in Thrissur**

We presented the 'Critics Week' (competitive) in the 17<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Thrissur (25 Mar – 7 April 2022) showcasing seven debutant feature films like 1. *Fire* (Kazakhstan, 2021, 82M) by Aizhan Kassymbek 2. *Nine Hills One Valley* (India, 2021, 75M) by Haobam Paban Kumar, 3. *No Ground Beneath the Feet* (Bangladesh, 2021, 90M) by Mohammad Rabby Mridha, 4. *The Road to Eden* (Kyrgyzstan, 2020, 121M) by Dastan Zhapar Uulu and Bakyt Mukul, 5. *Africa* (Russia, 2021, 53M) by Daria Binevskaya, 6. *Migrants* (Iran, 2021, 85M) by Masoud Ahmadi, and 7. *Ayu* (Sri Lanka, 2020, 116M) by Chathra Weeraman. We installed a National Critics Jury for giving the best award.

### **8. FIPRESCI-India Award in Thrissur**

FIPRESCI-India National Critics Jury composed of GP Ramachandran, Rekha Deshpande and Minakshi Dutta awarded the Kazakh film *Fire* by Aizhan Kassymbek as the winner in the 17<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Thrissur (25 Mar – 7 April 2022). Jury worked online.

### **9. FIPRESCI-India Award in Kolkata**

FIPRESCI-India National Critics Jury composed of Latika Padgaonkar, N Vidyashankar and Meghachandra Kongbam conferred the Best Debut Film Award to *No Ground Beneath the Feet* (Bangladesh, 2021, 91M) by Mohammad Rabby Mridha in the 1<sup>st</sup> World Film Festival Kolkata (20-25 Sept 2022). The Jury worked online. The announcement is available on our YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5--iW8yYM&t=4s>

### **10. FIPRESCI Award in Bengaluru**

FIPRESCI (International) Award in the 13<sup>th</sup> Bengaluru International Film Festival (3-10 March 2022) was given to the film *Not Today* (India, 2021, 92M) by Aditya Kriplani. The Jury composed of Safaa Haggag (Egypt), Paola Dei (Italy), and Lalit Rao (India).

### **11. FIPRESCI Awards at Kerala**

FIPRESCI (International) Award in the 26<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of Kerala (18-25 Mar 2022) was given to two films. In the International Competition the Award was given to the film *You Resemble Me* (US, France, Egypt, 2021, 91M) by Dina Amer, and in the Malayalam Cinema Competition it was given to the film *The Arbit Documentation of an Amphibian Hunt* (India, 2021, 115M) by Krishand RK. The Jury was composed of Viera Langerová (Slovakia), Jihane Bougrine (Morocco), and Ashok Rane (India).

### **12. FIPRESCI-India Grand-Prix 2021**

Our members nominated the following TOP-10 Indian films for 2021 by secret voting in two phases: 1. *Barah by Barah*, Hindi, 2021, 118M, Dir. Gaurav Madan, 2. *Godavari*, Marathi, 2021, 169M, Dir. Nikhil Mahajan, 3. *Joyful Mystery*, Malayalam, 2021, 85M, Dir. Don Palathara, 4. *Manikbabur Megh*, Bengali, 2021, 96M, Dir. Abhinandan Banerjee, 5. *Nayattu*, Malayalam, 2021, 122M, Dir. Martin Prakkat, 6. *Nine Hills One Valley*, Manipuri, 2021, 75M, Dir. Haobam Paban Kumar, 7. *Pedro*, Kannada, 2021, 109M, Dir. Natesh Hegde, 8. *Semkhor*, Dimasa, 2021, 94M, Dir. Aimee Baruah, 9. *The Great Indian Kitchen*, Malayalam, 2021, 100M, Dir. Jeo Baby, and 10. *The Road to Kuthriyar*, Tamil-English, 2021, 114M, Dir. Bharat R Mirle. Winner of the Grand-Prix-2021 was *Barah by Barah* by Gaurav Madan.

### **13. Satyajit Ray Memorial Award**

To commemorate Satyajit Ray's Birth Centenary (2<sup>nd</sup> May 1921-2021) we installed the 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. The first recipient of this Award was Dr. Aruna Vasudev. This year the Award was given to Prof. I. Shanmughadas, a writer and film critic from Kerala.

#### **14. MoU with Assam Women's University**

We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Assam Women's University, Jorhat for conducting Seminars and Workshops on various aspects of Cinema. The MoU was signed on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The program is available on our YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTqbZSboNe0&t=137s>

#### **15. 2<sup>nd</sup> Online Film Appreciation Course**

We organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Online Film Appreciation Course from 24<sup>th</sup> Sept to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2022 where 71 participants got registered from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. 13 sessions were conducted by the eminent resource persons like N Vidyashankar, VK Joseph, Girish Kasaravalli, MK Raghavendra, Arunaraje Patil, CS Venkiteswaran, Sunny Joseph, Krishnan Unni, Sudipto Acharya, Sajitha Madathil and Vinod Sukumaran.

#### **16. All Time Ten Best Indian Films**

We conducted a secret poll for making a list of the All Time Ten Best Indian Films. 30 members voted in confidence and on the basis of maximum number of votes polled in favour of the films the following list was declared through a Press Release on 20 Oct 2022: 1. *Pather Panchali* (Song of the Little Road, Bengali, 1955) by Satyajit Ray, 2. *Meghe Dhaka Tara* (The Cloud-Capped Star, Bengali, 1960) by Ritwik Ghatak, 3. *Bhuvan Shome* (Hindi, 1969) by Mrinal Sen, 4. *Elippathayam* (The Rat Trap, Malayalam, 1981) by Adoor Gopalakrishnan, 5. *Ghatashraddha* (The Ritual, Kannada, 1977) by Girish Kasaravalli, 6. *Garm Hava* (Scorching Winds, Hindi, 1973) by M S Sathyu, 7. *Charulata* (The Lonely Wife, Bengali, 1964) by Satyajit Ray, 8. *Ankur* (The Seedling, Hindi, 1974) by Shyam Benegal, 9. *Pyaasa* (Thirsty, Hindi, 1957) by Guru Dutt, and 10. *Sholay* (Embers, Hindi, 1975) by Ramesh Sippy. The list was published by more than seventy important print and online dailies and journals and became viral in social media.

#### **17. First Book: Critics on Indian Cinema**

Our 1<sup>st</sup> book CRITICS ON INDIAN CINEMA (ISBN: 978-81-7926-256-6, HB, 295 Pages, Price: Rs.600) edited by MK Raghavendra and VK Joseph published in collaboration with FFSI-Keralam and Best Books Kolkata was released virtually on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 by the legendary filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma. The online program was attended by about 50 participants including the contributors, invitees and our members. It's now available on our YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQETFp2pmk&t=8s>

The book was re-released physically by Adoor Gopalakrishnan on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022 during the 26<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of Kerala.

The book is available online at:

<https://www.flipkart.com/critics-indian-cinema/p/itm056bebb8c6791>

<https://www.amazon.in/Critics-Indian-Cinema-M-Raghavendra/dp/8179262561>

#### **18. Second Book: Thinking Cinema**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> book THINKING CINEMA (ISBN: 978-81-7926-260-3, PB, 396 Pages, Price Rs.600) written by MK Raghavendra will be released today here by the legendary actor Sri Dhritiman Chatterji in a public program after the AGM is over. This book is also being published in collaboration with the FFSI Keralam and the Best Books Kolkata. It will also be available soon on Amazon and Flipkart as the previous one.

### **19. Cine-India**

Our annual film journal (print-version) CINE-INDIA (Volume-III) is getting released today. The journal includes the selected articles from E-CineIndia not yet published anywhere. The volume is dedicated to Jen-Luc Godard.

### **20. Desk-Top Calendar**

To commemorate the Birth Centenary of Satyajit Ray, we had printed an exclusive desk-top calendar for 2022. It became very popular. Even the largest circulated Bengali daily Anandabazar Patrika published a special feature on it. Many copies of the calendar were sold. For the next year (2023) also we are publishing a similar calendar featuring the All Time Ten Best Indian Films and the first Indian film and first Indian talkie.

### **21. Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Competition for Best Film Criticism**

We have successfully organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Competition for Best Film Criticism. We received about 30 entries. The Jury composed Prof. Riwita Dutta, Dr. Minakshi Dutta and Sri Narendra Bandabe evaluated the submissions under the chairmanship of Prof. Manu N. Chakravarthy who declared the following awards on 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022 on the birth anniversary program of our Founder President Sri Chidananda Dasgupta: Best Award (Rs.6000): Abhishek Roy, 2nd Best Award (Rs.4000): Sragdharamalini Das. Certificate of Merit: 1. Ankita Rathour, 2. Ashish Dwivedi, 3. Sanil M Neelakandan, 4. Kalpajyoti Bhuyan, 5. Johnson Rajkumar. This year we got a Sponsor for the award money of a total of Rs.10,000/-.

### **22. Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Lecture**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. I. Shanmughadas on 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022 Sunday 4PM on Zoom-Pro to celebrate the Birth Anniversary of our Founder President. Topic of the Lecture was: 'Film Criticism and Changing Times'. The Lecture is available on our YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Za9ZRJy9TF8>

### **23. Website**

We have upgraded our website with SSL Certificate for better and secured user-experience. The site is getting updated regularly. Our new URL is <https://fipresci-india.org/>

### **24. IMDB**

Our IMDB account, opened in Feb 2021, is now very popular. Anyone can access it at: <https://www.imdb.com/user/ur129345257/>

Following lists are available on our IMDB account:

All Time Ten Best Indian Films: <https://www.imdb.com/list/ls563166315/>

Top 10 Indian Films 2021: <https://www.imdb.com/list/ls560103132/>

Top 10 Indian Films 2020: <https://www.imdb.com/list/ls500074746/>

Top 20 Indian Films 2019: <https://www.imdb.com/list/ls089529399/>

Critics' Choice 26<sup>th</sup> IFFK: <https://www.imdb.com/list/ls538640236/>

Critics' Week 13<sup>th</sup> BIFFES: <https://www.imdb.com/list/ls538761979/>

## **25. YouTube**

Our YouTube Channel with more than 300 subscribers has 22 videos with a content of more than 30 hours. We do not yet monetize from this channel but we may do so if it gets much more popularity to the film academia. Advertisements coming up there now are imposed by YouTube as per their own policy. The Channel is free to access from anywhere anytime at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9XupGMxwUrX2Vhj0IL2p3g>

## **26. Face Book Page**

Our Face Book Page is also growing popular with about 900 Likes and 1000 Followers. The page updated regularly is accessible at: <https://www.facebook.com/fipresciindia>

## **27. Face Book Group**

We have a Private Group in Face Book with about 340 members. The group updated regularly is accessible at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1304192669745405>

## **28. Twitter**

We launched our Twitter handle on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022 and in the last 10 months we have 150 followers and more than 180 Tweets. It's accessible at: <https://twitter.com/FipresciIndia>

## **29. Instagram**

We started our Insta account on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022 and in the 10 months we have more than 200 followers and about 120 posts. It's accessible at: <https://www.instagram.com/fipresciindia/>

## **30. Newsletter**

We are publishing a very informative monthly Newsletter since Jan 2021 covering various activities of FIPRESCI in home & abroad. Copies of the Newsletter are being sent to all of our members regularly along with other individuals and institutions all over the world. So far, we have published 22 volumes of it without any break which has got an archival importance. All the volumes are available online at: <https://fipresci-india.org/newsletter/>

## **31. E-CineIndia**

Since Jan 2019 our quarterly online film journal 'E-CineIndia' (ISSN: 2582-2500) have been published regularly. More than a hundred authors from all over the world contributed to the 'E-CineIndia'. This is now considered as one of the most important film journals published from India. So far, we have published 15 volumes of the journal without any break. All the volumes since its inception are available online at: <https://fipresci-india.org/e-cine-india/>

## **32. FIPRESCI-India Jury**

As mentioned in para 8 & 9 above, we composed the following Jury at the National level:

- International Film Festival Thrissur (25 Mar – 7 April 2022): GP Ramachandran, Rekha Deshpande and Minakshi Dutta. The Jury worked online.
- World Film Festival Kolkata (20-25 Sept 2022): Latika Padgaonkar, N Vidyashankar and Meghachandra Kongbam. The Jury worked online.

### **33. FIPRESCI-International Jury**

After pandemic disaster festivals gradually started happening in physical mode. Following members served in the International Critics Jury this year:

- ☐ Siraj Sayeed served in Dhaka IFF from 15 to 23 January 2022 in person.
- ☐ Lalit Rao served in Bangalore IFF from 3 to 10 March 2022 in person.
- ☐ Ashok Rane served in IIF Kerala from 18 to 25 March 2022 in person.
- ☐ Uma Da Cunha was selected by the apex body for Busan IFF from 5 to 14 October 2022 for attending in person but at the last moment she cancelled it on health ground.
- ☐ Narendra Bandabe selected for International Film Festival Kerala from 9 to 16 Dec 2022.

### **34. Felicitation**

Our President Sri V K Joseph was felicitated by the President of FFSI Sri Kiran V Shataram during the Opening Ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> World Film Festival Kolkata on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022 at Nandan for his outstanding contributions to Cinema as a Medium of Art.

### **35. Media Attention**

We have drawn a wide media attention for our regular activities. Google search with specific key-word 'fipresci-india' generates more than one lakh results with hundreds of media coverage by the big houses both in print and electronic media in home & abroad.

### **36. Grand-Prix Award & Book Release**

Today, after the AGM is over, we are organizing a public program to confer the Grand-Prix for Best Indian Film of the Year – 2019, 2020 and 2021 to Abhishek Shah (*Hellaro*, Gujrati), Arun Karthik (*Nasir*, Tamil) and Gaurav Madan (*Barah-by-Barah*, Hindi) followed by release of the book 'Thinking Cinema' by MK Raghavendra. The awards comprising of an inscribed metal plaque and Rs. 10,000/- cash for each will be handed over to the awardees by the eminent actor Sm. Gargee Roychowdhury while the book will be released by the legendary actor Sri Dhritiman Chatterji. Hope you will enjoy the program.

Dear Friends, please feel free to be critical, guide us and suggest us the right way to make the organization as the Best. Submitting this Secretary's Report for your kind consideration. Those who are attending the AGM in person may speak physically and those who are not attending may send their opinion by mail. Your prudent suggestion will be highly appreciated.

Regards

Premendra Mazumder

General Secretary

FIPRESCI-India

Goa, 24 November 2022

