

PRESS-RELEASE

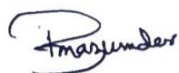
Thiruvananthapuram, 2 May 2024

PROCLAMATION ON SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD 2024

To commemorate Satyajit Ray Birth Centenary (2 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 announced every year on Satyajit Ray’s birthday conferring it to an author to acknowledge her/his outstanding contributions to writing on cinema 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 in English and Bengali. Earlier recipients of this award are Sm. Aruna Vasudev (2021), Shri I. Shanmughadas (2022), and Shri Ashok Rane (2023). FIPRESCI-India is honoured to declare the veteran author and film critic **Sm. Maithili Rao** as the recipient of this coveted award for the year 2024 named after the great master.

Sm. Maithili Rao, now living in Mysore, was born in Secunderabad in 1943. Spent decades together in Mumbai working as a lecturer of English literature, as a critic of foreign films for the *Sunday Observer* and as a columnist writing on the images of women in Hindi cinema for *Eves Weekly*. Wrote for Indian and international publications: *The Hindu*, *Frontline*, *Man’s World*, NFDC’s *Cinema in India* and London-based *South Asian Cinema*, *Film Comment*, *International Film Guide*, and BFI website. After a brief stint as a lecturer, she drifted into subtitling along with writing on cinema. From a hobby to a passion for writing on films was a natural progression. Her recent book, *The Millennial Woman in Bollywood: A New Brand?* for Oxford University Press was released in 2023. *Smita Patil A Brief Incandescence* published by Harper Collins came out in 2015. She co-edited *The Oldest Love Story, A Motherhood Anthology* and *Films Through Women’s Eyes* in 2022. Rao contributed chapters to many books on cinema like: *Stardom in Contemporary Hindi Cinema* (Springler), *Encyclopaedia of Hindi Cinema, Bollywood* (Dakini, London), *Icons* (Rupa, edited by Anil Dharker), *Frames of Mind* (edited by Aruna Vasudev), *Rasa* (edited by Chidananda Dasgupta), *The Man Who Spoke in Pictures* (Penguin), *Madhumati* (Rupa) and others. Her works speak of her belief that besides aesthetics, films must have relevance to social and political reality. She served on many national and international juries in film festivals and film awards. The Bimal Roy Memorial Committee honoured her with an award ‘for her perception and in-depth analysis of Indian cinema in general and the role of women as actors and creators in particular’. She is a former member of FIPRESCI-India.

We are proud to confer the SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO WRITING ON CINEMA 2024 to SM. MAITHILI RAO. The citation will be handed over to her in a program to be organized physically as soon as possible.



Premendra Mazumder
General Secretary



V. K. Joseph
President

