

FIPRESCI-INDIA NEWSLETTER-46

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FIPRESCI-INDIA GRAND-PRIX 2023 HANDED OVER IN SIGNS FESTIVAL



FIPRESCI-India Grand-Prix-2023, consists of an exclusively designed plaque and a cash amount of Rs.10,000/- sponsored by Custard Apple handed over by the eminent filmmaker Rakesh Sharma to Madan Babu K, Prasanth Madhavan, Nandan Unni, and Sanosh Murali – the actors of Anand Ekarshi's winning film AATTAM (Malayalam, 2023, 138 min) during the closing ceremony of the 17th SiGNS FILM FESTIVAL on 5 Oct 2024 at the Malayalam University, Tirur, in presence of the legendary thespian and film actress Nilambur Ayisha, VC of the Malayalam University Dr. L Sushama, eminent filmmaker T V Chandran, ace cinematographer Sunny Joseph, FIPRESCI members G P Ramachandran, Sreedevi P Aravind, Madhu Janardanan, FFSI Keralam leaders K G Mohankumar, Reji M Damodaran, Unnikrishnan Vettath, Praveen Kaycee, Artistic Director of SiGNS Festival Premendra Mazumder, and others (photo above). 17th SiGNS Festival inaugurated on 1 Oct by Dr. R Bindu, Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education and Social Justice Kerala showcased 133 short fiction and documentary films in different categories in competition and out of competition sections. *Land of My Dreams* by Nausheen Khan won the Best Documentary Award and *Son of the Soil* by Akanshya Bhagabati (in pic) won the Best Short Fiction Award with a cash for Rs. 50,000/- each. *In Search of Ajantrik* by Meghnath Bhattcharya won the Cinema Experimenta Award and *Kaidi No 626710 Haazir Hai* by Lalit Vachani won the Cinema of Resistance Award for Rs. 25,000/- each. *Kamaru* by Jiljo Jeejo won the Best Malayalam Documentary Award and *Antharvasam* by Sisira S Nath won the Best Malayalam Short Fiction Award with Rs.10,000/- each. Short Fiction *Thursday Special* by Varun Tandon and Documentary *Veritta Sreeraman* by Manilal won the Jury Special Mention. The festival was organized by the Kerala Region of the Federation of Film Societies of India from 1 to 5 Oct 2024 in association with the Malayalam University, Tirur, Kerala.



ASHOK RANE RECEIVED NATIONAL AWARD FROM THE PRESIDENT



FIPRESCI Member Ashok Rane received the National Award from Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Honourable President of India on 8 Oct 2024 in New Delhi (in pic) for his documentary *Aankhi Ek Mohenjo Daro* (Yet Another Mohenjo Daro) which won Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus) as the Best Biographical/Historical Reconstruction/Compilation Film with a cash amount of Rs.200,000/- each for the director and producer. The film directed by Ashok Rane is produced jointly by Rajesh Pednekar's de Goan Studio and Rane himself. In this documentary

Rane traced the history of the Mumbai textile industry from the beginning till the massive textile strike of 1982 depicting the cultural life of the textile mill workers of Girgangaon. Observations of the eminent journalist Kumar Ketkar (close associate of the former Communist Party Chairperson S A Dange, a popular leader of the textile workers), feminist leader and legal expert Sharda Sathe, writer Sandip Pendse (son of the veteran Marxist intellectual Lalji Pendse), and other important people enriched the film. Narrations by the important people in the field of culture like Achyut Palav, Shivaji Satam, Ashok Hande, Shrinivas Narvekar, Vijay Kadam, and others who were grown up in the textile mill areas made the film highly interesting. The film is dedicated to Jayant Pawar, an eminent playwright who also grew up in the textile mill area and portrayed that life effectively in his works.

SECOND SUDHIR NANDGAONKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE AT MAMI

Famous lyricist and singer Swanand Kirkire delivered the 2nd Sudhir Nandgaonkar Memorial Lecture at the Jio MAMI Mumbai International Film Festival on 20 Oct 2024 morning at 10.30AM at the Audi-5 of PVR Juhu in Mumbai. The topic was 'Lyrics of the Past and Present: An Historic Overview' – on a brief history of the lyrics of Hindi cinema. The lecture was moderated by Ashok Rane (in pic). Deepti Da Cunha, Artistic Director of the festival introduced the lecture paying tribute to Sudhir Nandgaonkar, former President of FIPRESCI-India and Founder Director of MAMI – Mumbai International Film Festival organized by Mumbai Academy of Moving Image in 1997.





BHAICHAND PATEL'S NOVEL RELEASED

Veteran FIPRESCI Member Bhaichand Patel's new novel, *Across the River*, was released at Kasauli Literature Festival on 20 Oct 2024 by Sir William Mark Tully. It was one day before Patel's 88th birthday. Translator and writer Gillian Wright had a conversation with Patel during the release of the book. (In pic: Bhaichand Patel, Mark Tully, and Gillian Wright). Bhaichand Patel has already authored several books on many interesting subjects including cinema like *Chasing the Good Life* (2006), *Happy Hours: The Penguin Book of Cocktails* (2009), *Mothers, Lovers and Other Strangers* (2013), *Bollywood's Top 20: Superstars of Indian Cinema* (2016), *Haath Kee Lakeeren* (2016), and *I Am a Stranger Here Myself: An Unreliable Memoir* (2019).




5TH CHIDANANDA DASGUPTA MEMORIAL LECTURE BY MAITHILI RAO

Maithili Rao, winner of FIPRESCI-India's Satyajit Ray Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to Writing on Cinema 2024, will deliver the 5th Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Lecture Online on 20 Nov 2024. Maithili Rao, a former lecturer of English literature contributed on cinema to many prestigious publications like *Sunday Observer*, *Eves Weekly*, *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. Her recent book *The Millennial Woman in Bollywood: A New Brand?* published by Oxford University Press in 2023. *Smita Patil A Brief Incandescence* published by Harper Collins 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. She will deliver the 5th Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Lecture on the topic 'Portrayal of Women in Indian Cinema'. The lecture will be available on FIPRESCI-India's YouTube Channel @ <https://www.youtube.com/@fipresci-india5983/>

5th Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Lecture
By
Ms. MAITHILI RAO



20 NOV 2024 WEDNESDAY
ONLINE
DETAILS COMING UP SOON



Topic:
PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN
IN INDIAN CINEMA


FIPRESCI-INDIA FILM FESTIVAL IN DELHI

After successful presentation of FIPRESCI-India Film Festival CINEMAS OF INDIA - 1st edition at NFAI Pune on 9-11 Feb 2024 in collaboration with the Pune International Centre and NFAI/NFDC, and 2nd edition on 21-22 Aug 2024 at NANDAN Kolkata in collaboration with the Federation of Film Societies of India Eastern Region, the 3rd edition coming up in collaboration with the India International Centre (IIC) Delhi. The festival will be held on 5, 6, 11, 12, 14 and 18 Nov 2024 daily at 6.30PM at the IIC Auditorium, 40 Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi showcasing *Chicken Curry* (Kannada) by Champa Shetty, *The Nellie Story* (Assamese) by Parthajit Barua, *The Portraits* (Malayalam) by Bijukumar Damodaran, *Biriyani* (Malayalam) by Sajin Baabu, *Nine Hills One Valley* (Manipuri) by Haobam Paban Kumar, and *Aparajito* (Bengali) by Anik Dutta respectively.

CINEMAS OF INDIA
A Festival of Films

Presented By
India International Centre
and
FIPRESCI-India



VENUE: INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, NEW DELHI
NOVEMBER 2024
SCREENING TIME: DAILY AT 6.30 PM

5 NOV TUESDAY: CHICKEN CURRY (KANNADA) BY: CHAMPA SHETTY
6 NOV WEDNESDAY: THE NELLIE STORY (ASSAMESE) BY: PARTHAJIT BARUA
11 NOV MONDAY: THE PORTRAITS (MALAYALAM) BY: BIJUKUMAR DAMODARAN
12 NOV TUESDAY: BIRIYANI (MALAYALAM) BY: SAJIN BAABU
14 NOV THURSDAY: NINE HILLS ONE VALLEY (MANIPURI) BY: HAOBAM PABAN KUMAR
18 NOV MONDAY: APARAJITO (BENGALI) BY: ANIK DUTTA

DMZ INTL DOCU FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 16th DMZ International Documentary Film Festival, South Korea, 26 Sept to 2 Oct 2024, awarded to *1980 Sabuk* by Park Bong-nam (South Korea, 2024, 124 min). FIPRESCI jury composed of Maja Korbecka (Poland), Melis Behlil (Turkey), and Jung Jae-Hyung (Korea) in their motivation said, 'The award goes to the film that is balanced, sensitive and courageous in its direction. Through detailed archival research and a disciplined, clear approach, this film brings to light a long-neglected incident from Korean history that resonates with today's world. It made us rethink the histories of our own countries.'





BUSAN INTL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 29th Busan International Film Festival, South Korea, 2 to 11 Oct 2024, awarded to the film *Tale of the Land* by Loeloe Hendra Komara (Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan, Qatar, 2024, 99 min). FIPRESCI jury composed of Teréz Vincze (Hungary), Hsin Wang (Taiwan), and Souewon RHEE (South Korea) in their motivation said, 'The winning

film employs mesmerizing visual language to address the pressing issues of the broken harmony between humans and nature. By incorporating references to traditional culture, it transforms its story into a globally relatable message about the future'.

VIENNALE FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 62nd Viennale Film Festival, Austria, 17 to 29 Oct 2024 awarded to the film *Universal Language* by Matthew Rankin (Canada, 2024, 89 min). FIPRESCI jury composed of Engin Ertan (Turkey), Alexander Melyan (Armenia), and Walter Gasperi (Austria) in their motivation said, 'We decided to award a film that deals with relevant topics such as migration and displacement in an original way. In this cleverly staged comedy that unites different worlds – both in the geographical and cinematic sense – we lose our sense of time, space and language. We are mostly left with references to other films and filmmakers. This unique work is not only a declaration of love to the Iranian cinema of the 1980s and 1990s, but also to the dry humour usually associated with Nordic countries.'



VALLADOLID INTL FILM FESTIVAL

FIPRESCI Prize in 69th Valladolid International Film Festival, Spain, 18 to 26 Oct 2024, awarded to the film *Christmas Eve in Miller's Point* by Tyler Thomas Taormina (USA, 2024, 106 min). FIPRESCI jury was composed of Vladimir Angelov (North Macedonia), Roberto Baldassarre (Italy), and Joan Pons (Spain). It is a captivating, nostalgic reverie of an Italian American family returning to their Long Island hometown for



Christmas Eve. The film premiered at 2024 Cannes Film Festival.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Ullozhukku (Undercurrent, Malayalam, 2024, 123 min) written and directed by **Christo Tomy** starring Urvashi and Parvathy Thiruvothu in lead roles with Arjun Radhakrishnan, Alencier Ley Lopez, Prashanth Murali, and Jaya Kurup in supporting roles. The film released on 21 June 2024 is now streaming on the OTT platform Amazon Prime Video. A must watch!

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