

PRESS-RELEASE*Thiruvananthapuram, 2 May 2026***ANNOUNCEMENT OF SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD 2026**

To commemorate Satyajit Ray Birth Centenary (2 May 1921-2021), FIPRESCI-India installed an award titled: 'SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS 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 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 Smt. Aruna Vasudev (2021), Shri I. Shanmughadas (2022), Shri Ashok Rane (2023), Smt. Maithili Rao (2024), and Shri Pradip Biswas (2025). FIPRESCI-India is honoured to declare the veteran author and film critic **Shri M K Raghavendra** as the recipient of this coveted award for the year 2026 named after the great master.

Shri M K Raghavendra (born in Bengaluru on 24 December 1954) is an Indian film and literary scholar, theorist, critic and writer who had, till 2025, authored twelve volumes on cinema including two anthologies that he edited, and five books on literature, and politics. He has contributed to numerous newspapers and periodicals in India and outside like *Caravan*, *EPW*, *Outlook*, *Deccan Herald*, *The Hindu*, *Frontline*, *The Indian Express*, *Hindustan Times*, *The Wire*, *Firstpost*, *The Book Review* and *The Indian Review of Books*. His essays on film have been anthologised in books published by OUP, Sage, Bloomsbury, BFI and Routledge among others. He has lectured in educational institutions like the University of Hyderabad, Viswa-Bharati, JNU, IITs and IIMs. He got a master's degree in science in 1975 and worked in the financial sector for over 25 years before becoming a professional film critic. He was one of the founder-editors of *Deep Focus*, a film quarterly in 1988 and received the Swarna Kamal in 1997 for his work as a film critic. He also received a two-year Homi Bhabha Fellowship beginning in 2000. Same year he was invited by Goethe Institut, Munich to study post-war German Cinema, and his essay 'German Cinema at the Crossroads' was put on the internal web page of Goethe Institut. He was also one of the two India-based film critics invited to participate in *Sight and Sound*, London, 2002 poll for greatest films of all time. He has been on several international film juries worldwide. His most important books on cinema are - *Seduced by the Familiar: Narration and Meaning in Indian Popular Cinema* (Oxford University Press, 2008), *50 Indian Film Classics* (HarperCollins, 2009), *Bipolar Identity: Region, Nation, and the Kannada Language Film* (Oxford University Press, 2011), *Director's Cut: 50 Major Film-Makers of the Modern Era* (HarperCollins, 2013), *The Politics of Hindi Cinema in The New Millennium: Bollywood and the Anglophone Indian Nation* (Oxford University Press, 2014), *Bollywood* (Oxford India Short Introductions, 2016), *Beyond Bollywood: The Cinemas of South India* (HarperCollins, 2017), *Locating World Cinema: Interpretations of Film as Culture* (Bloomsbury, 2020), *Philosophical Issues in Indian Cinema: Approximate Terms and Concepts* (Routledge, 2021), *Thinking Cinema: A Handbook for Cinephiles* (FIPRESCI-India & FFSI-Keralam, 2022), *Without Empathy Irony and the Satirical Impulse in Eight Major Filmmakers* (Intellect, 2025) and *The Subject of the Nation and His 'others' in Hindi Cinema: Gender, Religious, Caste, and Ethnic Identity As Difference* (Routledge, 2025).

We are proud to confer the SATYAJIT RAY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO WRITING ON CINEMA 2026 to **Shri M K Raghavendra**. The citation and a cheque of 10,000/- INR will be handed over to him in a program to be organized physically as soon as possible.



Premendra Mazumder
General Secretary



V. K. Joseph
President

