

**IDSFFK**  
4 - 9 August 2023



Organised by Kerala State  
Chalachitra Academy on  
behalf of Dept. of Cultural  
Affairs, Govt. of Kerala



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# 15th IDSFFK off to a Splendacious Kickoff

Cinema is not an artform or emotion alone, but also the will to survive and fight through repressions and adversities, be it societal, emotional or political. Over decades, films have held hands' together as much as it did souls, to strive during revolutions and movements, as much as it has as a means of entertainment. The 15th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala has arrived in the capital city, yet again for an eye-opening and entertaining experience for its cinema loving audience.

Minister for Culture, Fisheries and Youth

Affairs, Saji Cheria, will inaugurate the festival at 6 pm in a function to be held at Kairali Theatre, Thiruvananthapuram. Antony Raju, Minister for Transport will preside over the function. Mini Antony IAS, Secretary, Department of Cultural Affairs will deliver the welcome speech and KSCA Chairman Ranjith will give the introductory address. Renowned filmmaker and JC Daniel Award Winner TV Chandran will be the Chief Guest of the event. T.V Chandran will release the Festival Catalogue by handing over the first copy to the Fiction Jury Chairman

Kanu Behl. KSFDK Chairman Shaji N Karun will release the Festival Bulletin to actress and KSCA General Council Member Cuckoo Parameswaran. Kerala Cultural Activists Welfare Fund Board Chairman Madhupal, KSCA Vice-Chairman Premkumar and Secretary C Ajoy will be present at the function.

The festival will feature 286 films and videos from over 44 countries. The inaugural event will be followed by the screening of the opening film *Seven Winters in Tehran*, directed by the German filmmaker Steffi Niederröhl.



Minister for Higher Education Dr. R Bindu inaugurating the delegate pass distribution function





Over the last 15 years, the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy has been organising the International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK), establishing itself as India's foremost festival dedicated to documentaries and short films. The IDSFFK serves as a powerful tool for political and cultural resistance, as it showcases films that capture various forms of people's resistance and struggles. It has gained immense respect among filmmakers as India's most independent and unbiased platform for documentaries and short films, offering a democratic space for all dissenting voices to be heard and acknowledged.

In this post-truth world, where misinformation can easily cloud public understanding, documentaries that provide accurate visuals and present objective information play a crucial role in promoting objectivity and logical

thinking and presenting the truth. Therefore documentaries become vital tools for shedding light on the burning problems of the country and the world at large. IDSFFK provides a platform for short films that demonstrate the art of conveying profound ideas within a limited timeframe. For aspiring filmmakers, participating in this festival can serve as a stepping stone in making meaningful and impactful cinema.

Congratulations to all the filmmakers whose short films and documentaries have been selected for screening at the 15th edition of IDSFFK. I extend warm greetings to all the delegates attending the fete. I hope that they will have a captivating visual experience.

**Pinarayi Vijayan**  
Chief Minister of Kerala

# IDSFFK



## Messages



Documentary and short film making is an extremely challenging and perspective altering artform. They are sometimes an eyeopener as much as they are life altering. The IDSFFK stands solely as a festival that exclusively supports these talented documentarians and independent filmmakers, entertaining audience over the years in the process. The 15th edition of IDSFFK is here, all set to support growing talents and filmmakers, giving them the much deserved chance to showcase their art in front of an appreciative and enthusiastic audience. We wish all our artists the very best and our audience a very entertaining and informative festival ahead.

**Mini Antony IAS**  
Secretary,  
Dept. of Cultural Affairs



Welcome to the 15th edition of the IDSFFK, where the spirit of creativity and storytelling converge on a global stage. This year's festival has surpassed all expectations with an overwhelming response, receiving more than 1000 entries from talented filmmakers across the world. It's a testament to the growing popularity and significance of the festival in the realm of short films and documentaries. We welcome you all to immerse yourselves in this cinematic journey, where each film is a window into the myriad realities, cultures, and emotions that shape our world.

**Ranjith**  
Festival Director, IDSFFK  
Chairman, KSCA



IDSFFK goes beyond being merely a festival of short films and documentaries; it serves as a dynamic platform for filmmakers and delegates to come together and engage in meaningful discussions about the pressing issues. The interactive programmes at the festival generate interactions between the delegates and filmmakers, creating valuable opportunities for networking and exchanging ideas. At a time when democratic spaces in our country are shrinking, it becomes even more crucial to uphold platforms like IDSFFK. I encourage all delegates to embrace this unique opportunity to connect with filmmakers, exchange ideas, and make this edition of the fete an unforgettable experience.

**Prem Kumar**  
Vice Chairman, KSCA



IDSFFK stands tall as one of the most esteemed undertakings of the Academy, and as it proudly enters its 15th edition, its growth has been nothing short of extraordinary. Over the years, this Festival has blossomed into a steadfast pedestal, nurturing and propelling both seasoned filmmakers and aspiring talents alike. It serves as an esteemed platform fostering communication, engendering meaningful conversations, and fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas. Together, let us weave an unparalleled tapestry of cinematic brilliance, embracing diversity, and transcending boundaries, all in the pursuit of immortalizing the power of storytelling through the visual medium.

**C Ajoy**  
Executive Director, IDSFFK  
Secretary, KSCA



The International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK) has reached its 15th year milestone. Documentaries were featured as part of the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) prior to 2007. However, with the advancements in digital technology, there has been a remarkable enhancement in the production of documentaries and short films. On completing a decade of the formation of Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, the State Government decided to host an international festival dedicated exclusively to documentaries and short films. Thus, the first IDSFFK took place from 23rd to 27th May 2008.

After a decade of its inception, in 2018, the IDSFFK witnessed some notable developments. The prize money for films in the competition category was increased, signifying the festival's commitment to recognize and support

filmmakers' outstanding work in the documentary and short film genres. The government is fully committed to elevating the festival to new heights. We will make every effort to ensure that the IDSFFK continues to grow and flourish, providing an even more impactful experience for filmmakers and delegates.

Congratulations to all the filmmakers whose exceptional films have been selected for the festival! May this event be a truly memorable experience for all the delegates.

**Saji Cherian**  
Minister for Culture,  
Fisheries and Youth Affairs



## ക്യാമറയുടെ കണ്ണുകൾക്ക് അതിസൂക്ഷ്മമായ രാഷ്ട്രീയമാനങ്ങളുണ്ട്: ഡോ. ആർ. ബിന്ദു

ക്യാമറയുടെ കണ്ണുകൾ മനുഷ്യന്റെ കണ്ണുകളേക്കാൾ അതിസൂക്ഷ്മമായ സംവേദനക്ഷമതയുള്ളവയാണെന്നും മനുഷ്യപക്ഷത്തു നിൽക്കുന്ന വിശാലമായ രാഷ്ട്രീയനിലപാടുകൾ പ്രതിഫലിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള സാധ്യതകളാണ് അവയുള്ളതെന്നും ഉന്നതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി ഡോ. ആർ.ബിന്ദു പറഞ്ഞു. രാജ്യാന്തര ഡോക്യുമെന്ററി ഫ്രസ്താപിത്രമേളയുടെ ഡെലിഗേറ്റ് പാസ് വിതരണം ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു സംസാരിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു മന്ത്രി.

രാജ്യാന്തര ചലച്ചിത്രമേളകൾ രാജ്യങ്ങളുടെയും സംസ്കാരങ്ങളുടെയും അതിർത്തികൾ അപ്രസക്തമാക്കുന്നവയാണ്. വിവിധ ജനതകളുടെ തീവ്രമായ അനുഭവങ്ങളെ പങ്കുവയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും മനുഷ്യ അസ്തിത്വത്തിന്റെ ഭിന്നമുഖങ്ങളെ പരിചയപ്പെടുന്നതിനും ഡോക്യുമെന്ററി ഫ്രസ്താപിത്രമേള ഇടമൊരുക്കുന്നു. ഹിംസാത്മകമായ വിദ്വേഷം പടർത്താൻ ചിലർ ശ്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കാലത്ത് മനസ്സുകളും പ്രപഞ്ചവിക്ഷണവും വിശാലമാക്കുന്ന ഇത്തരം ഒന്നിപ്പിന്റെ

വേദികൾ അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമാണെന്നും മന്ത്രി കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു. ചലച്ചിത്രത്താരം അനമോൾ ആദ്യ പാസും ഡെലിഗേറ്റ് കിറ്റും മന്ത്രി ഡോ. ആർ.ബിന്ദുവിൽ നിന്ന് ഏറ്റുവാങ്ങി. അക്കാദമി വൈസ് ചെയർമാൻ പ്രൊഫ.മാർ അധ്യക്ഷനായ ചടങ്ങിൽ സെക്രട്ടറി സി. അജോയ്, ജനറൽ കൗൺസിൽ അംഗങ്ങളായ കക്ക പരമേശ്വരൻ, ഷൈബു മുണ്ടയ്ക്കൽ, ജോബി എ.എസ്, ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി ഡയറക്ടർ (ഫെസ്റ്റിവൽ) എച്ച്. ഷാജി എന്നിവർ പങ്കെടുത്തു.



The difference between written images and visual images does not only lay in the difference between the media used, but also in the perceptive power of those media. Though it will be meaningless to debate about which medium is better, to understand and navigate one's potential accordingly, and then to unravel the possibilities of both according to the situation it demands is a great task. It is in this context that Deepa Dhanraj holds her significance. She is both a writer, researcher, and documentary filmmaker. She shows us what activism means through the plentiful work that she has done for women, children, and the downtrodden. Her documentaries thus make a "people's history of the nation," as Devika Girish noted in an article, with working-class women from rural and urban India talking about their exploitations and resistances. And rather than documenting the "people's histories" through a fixed POV of the camera, she shifts it through and through, navigates it to show how women themselves are the agencies of their stories and not the camera that objectifies them as storytellers. In that sense, with her mastery of filmmaking, she gleefully turns a documentary into a sign of protest, and it is in this premise that her significance lies. And in an era where histories are getting erased from textbooks, Deepa Dhanraj and her works are more important to political India than it seems to be. So, it is with great pride and pleasure that the 15th IDSFFK proudly presents this year's lifetime achievement award to Deepa Dhanraj, for the immense work that she has done for the Indian working-class women's resistance history.

**Abhirami S R**

## Camera Lens Speaking the "People's History of the Nation"



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