

**Rules Regulating International Documentary and Short Film
Festival of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India**

**Kerala State Chalachitra Academy
Department of Cultural Affairs
Government of Kerala**

The dates for the **18th IDSFFK** are the following:

- Films Completed between **01st May of 2025** and **30th April 2026**
- Entry Submission period: **10th March to 10th May 2026**
- ❖ Please note that **only online screeners** will be accepted as preview material.
- ❖ You may remit the submission fee (Competition and Campus Films) online via the link sent to your email after submission of the online application.
- ❖ Kindly refrain from making Demand Drafts.

Mission: The International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala will be held in the capital city of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram during the month of June every year of the festival. The festival is organised by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy on behalf of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala as part of its endeavour to catalyse a vibrant documentary and short film movement. Increasing accessibility and affordability of mediatechnology has led to a boom in the production and scope of films. The media is now used by image-makers from all walks of life to express, experiment, learn and as an effective tool to conceptualize and bring about social change. The festival aims to map and reflect the exploding nature of the medium in its many facets of creativity and resistance.

Programme: The festival programme will contain:

A. **National Competition Section** under the following categories:

- 1) Competition Long Documentary (40 minutes and above)
- 2) Competition Short Documentary (Below 40 minutes)
- 3) Competition Short Fiction (60 minutes and below)

B. **Campus Films** competition for films produced by students from Educational Institutions above Higher Secondary level based in Kerala:

- 1) Short Fiction / Documentary (20 minutes and below)

C. **National and International Non-Competition/ Focus Sections** with the following categories:

- 1) International Fiction (60 minutes and below) and Non-Fiction
- 2) Focus Long Documentary (40 minutes and above)
- 3) Focus Short Documentary (Below 40 minutes)
- 4) Focus Short Fiction (60 minutes and below)
- 5) Music Video (10 minutes and below)
- 6) Animation Film (30 minutes and below)

D. **Malayalam Non-Competition Section** consisting of both short fiction and documentary films in Malayalam language.

- 1) Long Documentary (40 minutes and above)
- 2) Short Documentary (Below 40 minutes)
- 3) Short Fiction (60 minutes and below)

There will be also specially curated sections focusing on issues, themes, countries and the works of filmmakers. The programme will also include Interaction/Workshop Sessions with film and media professionals from all over India.

E. Lifetime Achievement Award

We are conferring Lifetime Achievement award to a film personality who has contributed to the art of documentary through their lifetime work. A cash prize of INR 2,00,000 and a memento will be awarded.

Rules and Regulations for Competition section:

- 1) Only the films entered in the competition category will be considered for competition.

- 2) Only films produced or coproduced in India are eligible for the National level competition. All films participating in the festival have to submit a CBFC certification or a signed affidavit on Rs 200 Stamp Paper stating date of completion of film between the period commencing from 1st of May of the previous year to 30th of April of the current year (both days inclusive) of the festival. The Festival absolves itself of any liability, in case of dispute regarding the completion date of the entry.
- 3) Campus Films have to be made by students who are/were registered students at the time of the production of the film, in an educational institute above Higher Secondary level located within Kerala. The films have to be 20 minutes or below in duration. The films have to be produced between 1st of May of the previous year to 30th of April of the current year of the festival. Only 5 films will be allowed from one institution. The director of the film has to be above 18 years at the time of production. Entries should be submitted with the consent of the institution.
- 4) Kerala premiere of the film at the IDSFFK will be given priority for the competition section.
- 5) Once a film confirms selection it cannot be withdrawn from the programme.

Rules and Regulations for Non-competition section:

- 1) The Festival is open to short fiction and documentary films made in any part of the world.
- 2) Films completed between 1st of May of the previous year to 30th of April of the current year of the festival alone are eligible to participate in the Festival in the non-competition section.
- 3) Once a film confirms selection it cannot be withdrawn from the programme.

Rules and Regulations for Malayalam Non-competition section:

- 1) Films produced in Malayalam language between 1st of May of the previous year to 30th of April of the current year of the festival alone are eligible to participate in this section.
- 2) The selection committee can consider a film for any non-competition sections including Malayalam section irrespective of their application

status whether in competition or non-competition sections.

- 3) Once a film confirms selection it cannot be withdrawn from the programme.

General Rules for Film Submission

- 1) A director or production company may enter more than one film, provided a separate entry form and fee accompanies each film. The entry form must clearly mark the section entered for.
- 2) All submitted films must carry English subtitles.
- 3) Films screened once before the Selection Committee **CANNOT** be re-entered.
- 4) Films screened once before the Selection Committee **CANNOT** be re-entered in a modified version.
- 5) No works-in-progress shall be considered.
- 6) Only selected films will be intimated by email. No letters of non-acceptance will be sent. All lists will be available on the website by 07 June of each year of the festival.
- 7) Directors of films in competition will be invited to attend the festival with 2nd AC Train fare and hospitality during the festival.
- 8) In case of any difference of opinion the person who has entered the film may make an appeal to the Festival Director who will be the final appellate authority.
- 9) The Festival assumes the submitter has accepted the terms of the festival mentioned here and is authorised to submit the film and the Festival indemnifies itself against any legal or other action in this matter.

- 10) The Director of the festival has the power to waive any of the above-mentioned rules.

Rules governing selection committee:

- 1) The Executive Board of the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy will appoint the Selection committee consisting of eminent persons including filmmakers and others from different fields. It is open to the Executive Board of Kerala State Chalachitra Academy to include in the Selection Committees such of the members of the General Council of the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy who are associated with the film industry besides film critics and film activists.
- 2) Selection committee members should submit a signed affidavit in the prescribed format stating non-involvement of themselves or any close relative in the entries.
- 3) The selection committee has the right to screen films in Sections other than the one chosen by the applicant.
- 4) The Selection Committee has the discretion to skip the viewing of any portion/portions of the film submitted for selection when the majority of the members of the selection committee approves in writing such skipping.
- 5) The festival will not provide feedback on the submitted films or specific reasons for the rejection of any film.
- 6) The Director of the festival has the power to include any film at his discretion.

Submission Deadline

The deadline for receiving the completed entry form, paying fees and submitting the preview material is 10th June of each year or such other deadline specifically prescribed by the Executive Board of the Academy.

Submission Formats

- 1) **Only online screeners** will be accepted as preview material.
- 2) On intimation of selection, projection masters must be available at the festival office by 14 June of each year of the festival.

- 3) Films must be available for festival screening on one of the following formats: DCP/High Quality Drive/High resolution downloadable link.

Entry Fee

There will be a submission fee for films entered in the competition section.

- a. For Competition Long Documentary section - Rs 1000 per entry.
- b. For Competition Short Documentary section - Rs 1000 per entry.
- c. For Competition Short Fiction section - Rs 1000 per entry.
- d. For Competition Campus Film section - Rs 500 per entry.

Publicity

If selected for the festival the entrant must undertake to provide publicity materials, stills, clippings etc for the use of the festival.

Jury and Awards

Eminent Juries will be appointed by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy. No person with any involvement in the competition films will be present on the Jury. They will decide the following awards:

A. Long Documentary

Two cash prizes of INR 2,00,000 and INR 1,00,000 for Non-Fiction Films of length 40 minutes and above with certificates.

B. Short Documentary

Two cash prizes of INR 1,00,000 and INR 50,000 for Non-Fiction Films of length below 40 minutes with certificates.

C. Short Fiction

Two cash prizes of INR 2,00,000 and INR 1,00,000 for Fiction Films of length 60 minutes and below with certificates.

For the above sections, the cash awards will be shared equally by the Director and the Producer as mentioned in the entry form.

D. Campus Film

Best Campus Film with a cash prize of INR 50,000 and a certificate to the creative team.

It is open to the General Council to revise the amount of the Cash Award/Prize Money every year.

The Secretary

Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, Centre for International Film Research & Archives(CIFRA), KINFRA Film and Video Park, Kazhakuttom,
Thiruvananthapuram 695585, Kerala

Ph: 91 471 2756622/2754422

Mob: 91 8137990822

programme@iffk.in www.idsffk.in

Dated this the ... day of ... of 2021