



# **Knowledge Series 2021**

# Knowledge Series



सत्यमेव जयते  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting



फिल्म सुविधाकरण कार्यालय  
FILM FACILITATION OFFICE



महाराष्ट्र शासन



Govt. of Uttarakhand



Day 1 - 16th January	3:00 PM	Inaugural IFFI & Film Bazaar together live from Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium	2
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Day 4 - 19th January	10:30 - 11:30 AM	Meet the Streamers - made in India for a global audience	12
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## Inaugural IFFI & Film Bazaar together live from Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium

Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Union Minister - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises



**Shri Prakash JAVADEKAR**

Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Union Minister - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

## Open Pitch | Co-production Market (CPM)

### Moderator

**Moderator** Manind Bedi, Sr. Programmer, Co-Production Market

**Open Pitch | Co-production Market (CPM) Co-Production Market** - This programme is developed for original projects from South Asian countries that are looking for co-production partners for artistic and/or financial collaboration. The Open Pitch is the highlight event of the Bazaar, which happens on the first day of the market.

### Moderator



#### Manind BEDI

Manind Bedi is an FTII cinematography graduate who found her calling in film production. She started out as a supervising producer of documentaries, advertising campaigns and activation events with the NFDC. In 2017, she joined the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival as an associate producer of events and went on to assist in curation and programming for the MAMI Year Round Programme. She also led marketing and promotional strategy for many independent films and TV series that were premiered at the programme. She has been working as a programme manager and consultant at the Film Bazaar Co-Production Market since 2018. She also doubles up as a production consultant and line producer.

Original Title	English Title	Director
Baksho Bondi	How Long Is Tomorrow?	Tanushree Das and SaumyanandaSahi
Bommainayagi	Queen Doll	Shanawaz Nizamudeen
Dengue		Prantik Basu
Eshing	Water	Haobam Paban Kumar
Ghol	The Catch	Rishi Chandna
Ha Lyngkha Bneng	The Elysian Field	Pradip Kurbah
Kuhiro Pariko Sahar	A Hidden Tale Behind The Mist	Pasang Dawa Sherpa
Last Time On Earth		Paromita Dhar
Mokada Methana Thaniyama?	What Are You Doing Here, Alone?	Shanaka Galagoda
Moving Bangladesh		Nuhash Humayun
My Home Is In The Hills		Arun Fulara
Notun Gur	A New Sweetness	Deyali Mukherjee
Rasa	Essence	Anjali Menon
Second Chance		Subhadra Mahajan
Starfruits		Gourab Kumar Mallick
The Bookkeeper's Wife		Bauddhayan Mukherji
The Shape Of Tiger		Kivini Shohe
The Storyteller		Ananth Narayan Mahadevan
We Are		Onir
What We Lost In The Fire		YudhajitBasu
Writer		Franklin Jacob

## In conversation: A Film's Cycle : From Idea to Audience

### Moderator

Paolo Bertolin, Programmer Director

### Speakers

Vetrimaaran, Film Maker

An acclaimed film director and a festival programmer exchange notes, experiences and perspectives on the challenges and intricacies of film making, film discovery and audience reactions. An enriching conversation between four-time National Award winning, Tamil Nadu-based filmmaker Vetrimaaran and Paolo Bertolin, Selection Committee, Venice International Festival closes the loop on a film's lifecycle from creation to consumption. They offer unique insights into chasing a creative vision, sourcing Indian independent films and audience appetite to compare the different paradigms and grammar of Indian and European cinema.

### Moderator



#### Paolo BERTOLIN

Paolo Bertolin is a festival programmer and film critic. He joined the Venice International Film Festival as a member of the selection committee and regional consultant in 2008. The Venice International Film Festival is the oldest and longest running film festival in the world. He has also worked for such events as International Film Festival Rotterdam, Cannes Critics' Week, International Film Festival Bratislava. In 2013, he also joined the Doha Film Institute as Programme Advisor for the Asia Pacific region.

### Speakers



#### Vetrimaaran

Vetrimaaran is an acclaimed film director, screenwriter and film producer who works in the Tamil film industry. The four-time National Film Awards winner, Vetrimaaran made his directorial debut with *Polladhavan* (2007). His second feature film *Aadukalam*, which released in 2011, won six National Film Awards. He produces films under his production company, Grass Root Film Company. His 2016 National Award-winning film *Visaranai* was India's official entry to the Academy Awards.

## Women Leaders Impacting Entertainment and Cinema

### Moderator

**Moderator Ms. Puja Talwar**, Executive Editor, Entertainment & Lifestyle (Good Times)

### Speakers

**Ms. Ekta Kapoor**, Indian Film & TV Producer, Jt MD & CEO Balaji Telefilms Ltd

**Ms. Srishti Behl Arya**, Director, International Original Films, Netflix India

**Ms. Vani Tripathi Tikoo** Actor, Producer & Member of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

**Women have always had a presence in film acting, but have consistently been underrepresented and, on average, significantly less well paid. On the other hand, for many decades key roles in filmmaking were almost entirely the domain of men – from direction to cinematography. In more recent times, women have made inroads and contributions to many of these fields. Skill and talent development can be a catalyst in breaking these barriers of patriarchy. Considering we are in the phase of celebrating women leading change across various sectors, can skill development across different departments of filmmaking give a new perspective to the careers of women in the film industry and other new mediums, such as series and OTT platforms.**

### Moderator



**Ms. Puja TALWAR**

Executive Editor Entertainment and Lifestyle and Head Of Digital at Good Times With 25 years Experience in Broadcast Journalism, I was formerly the Entertainment Editor at NDTV I have extensively written, covered and reported on Films, Arts and Culture. From International Film festivals to feature Documentaries as well as hosted the finest talents on my shows. A Content Creator, Podcaster and Author I love the magic of cinema and live to travel.

### Speakers



**Ms. Ekta KAPOOR**

Ekta Ravi Kapoor undertakes the day-to-day creative direction of TV shows and movies produced by Balaji Telefilms Ltd. She has won a number of awards including the Economic Times (Businesswoman of the Year 2002), Ernst & Young (Entrepreneur of the Year 2001) and the American Biographical Institute (Woman of the Year 2001). She placed at the first position among the '50 Most Influential Women' in the Indian marketing, advertising and media ecosystems by IMPACT magazine (2016). She also featured in Top 50 powerful women in India by Fortune India in 2014 and 2015. In 2017 she was awarded Business Today's Most Powerful Women in Indian Business Awards and Variety's (500 Most Influential people in the world). Recently she was also awarded the Content Creator at Economic Times Business icon awards of the year, Content Powerhouse at ET Edge Maharashtra Awards, Icon of Excellence at Forbes Tycoons of Tomorrow Awards and Most Powerful Business Women by Fortune 50-Most Powerful Women in Business Awards. In 2020, she was awarded the Padma Shri.



**Ms. Srishti Behl ARYA**

Srishti Behl Arya is Director for International Original Film at Netflix India is focused on building a diverse original film catalogue with titles such as *AK vs AK*, *Raat Akeli Hai*, *Guilty*, and *Bulbbul*. Srishti started her career with an advertising agency but soon turned into an independent film and TV production. Some of her early productions include *Angaarey* and *Bas Itna Sa Khwab Hai*. She founded creative production house Rose Audiovisuals Pvt Ltd. which produced Hindi films such as *Drona* and *London Paris New York*. Alongside, she also ventured into television series production and shepherded creative programming for scripted shows such as *Lipstick (Zee)*, *Remix (Star)*, *Dekha Ek Khwaab (Sony)* and unscripted shows like *Sabse Favourite Kaun (Star Gold)* and *Har Dil Jo Love Karega (Zoom)*. Srishti served two terms, first as treasurer and then Vice President of the Producers Guild of India and has been a core member of IFTPC (Indian Film and Television Producers Council).



**Ms. Vani Tripathi TIKOO**

Vani Tripathi Tikoo, an actor and a producer by profession, is one of the youngest ever members of the Central Board of Film Certification. As a socio-political activist, her campaigns and outreach programmes have focused on encouraging women's participation in politics and bringing the youth to a universal platform that addresses issues including education, empowerment and employment. She has been closely involved in theatre, films and television, having worked in projects in India as well as abroad. As an actor, she has about 50 plays, 40-odd TV serials and six films to her credit. After graduating in political science from the Delhi University, she went to the Living theatre academy of drama. Her close links with theatre further manifesting in her founding the country's first state-run drama school in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh Natya Vidyalaya, in 2011. Vani also contributes to Indian newspapers from time to time. She currently works closely for broadcasting with the Information and Broadcasting ministry, Government of India and was part of the core steering committee of the International Film Festival of India, Goa (IFFI).

## Film Bazaar Recommends

### Moderator

Deepti D’Cunha, Programmer, WIP & Viewing Room

NFDC Film Bazaar Online is pleased to share the list of films in the online Viewing Room. This year 195 films will be available to view in the Viewing Room Library of which 129 are feature films and 66 are short films. Film Bazaar Recommends (FBR) list highlights 20 feature films. The filmmakers from the FBR list will pitch their films to potential investors, producers, sales agents, distributors, festival programmers in an open pitching session online.

### Moderator



#### Deepti D’CUNHA

Deepti D’Cunha is a Mumbai based film programmer specialising in contemporary Indian cinema. She has been working on Indian and International film festivals for the past decade. In 2018 she was appointed the India Correspondent for the Director’s Fortnight, Cannes and is now their South Asia Correspondent. She is the India Consultant to Artistic Director, Marco Mueller, since 2011 for the Venice film festival, Rome film festival, and several film festivals in China including Pingyao International Film Festival (PYIFF). Since 2011, she has been sourcing and curating films for ‘Viewing Room’ section and the Work-in-Progress Lab for NFDC Film Bazaar. Since 2016 she has been on the Selection Committee of Locarno Open

Doors choosing projects and participants for the Co-production Hub and Producers Lab. Her earlier assignments include programming the Indian Selection at MAMI Mumbai International Film Festival, Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF), the International Children’s Film Festival of India (ICFFI) and Osian’s Cinefan film festival.

Original Title	English Title	Director
Aiz Maka Falea Tuka	Today me Tomorrow you	Sreejith Karanavar
Angarh	Another World	Tushar Madhav
Awakash		Chittaranjan Giri
Boroxun	Songs for Rain	Krishna Kt Borah
Ek Tha Gaon	Once Upon a Village	Srishti Lakhera
Fairy Folk		Karan Gour
Fatima		Sourab Kanti Dutta
Ghaath	Ambush	Chhatrapal Ninawe
Highways of Life		Maibam Amarjeet Singh
Maila	Excreta	Aditya Om
Manikbabur Megh	The Cloud & The Man	Abhinandan Banerjee
Nine Hills One Valley		Haobam Paban Kumar
PAKA – The River Of Blood		Nithin Lukose
Powai		Kuldip Patel
Sikaisal		Dr Bobby Sarma Baruah
Teen Paayancha Ghoda	Three Legged Horse	Noopur Bora
The Great Indian Kitchen		Jeo Baby
The Road to Kuthriyar		Bharat Mirle
Zende		Akshay Shah

## How do I get my movie seen? A playbook for marketing independent films

### Moderator

Patrick Frater, Journalist, Variety

### Speakers

Sanjay Suri, Actor, Producer

Rohena Gera, Writer, Director and Producer

Sreyashi Sen Founder & MD, Darpan Global

Ashish Bhatnagar, Founder & CEO, IDream motion Pictures

### Moderator



#### Patrick FRATER

Patrick Frater has over 20 years of experience writing about and analysing the international entertainment industry, with publications including Variety, Screen International and Film Business Asia. He was Asia editor of Variety between 2005 and 2009 and re-joined the publication in July 2013.

### Speakers



#### Sanjay SURI

Acclaimed National Award Winning producer-actor is credited with 42 fiction features and series as an actor and eight features as a producer. His filmography includes acclaimed films like *My brother Nikhil*, *Jhankaar Beats*, *I AM* (NETPAC Award-Best in Asian Cinema), *Chauranga* (Four Colours), winner CPM Film Bazaar, best film IFFLA 2015, MAMI (India Gold 2014) and winner Incredible India Award, *Firaaq*, *Pinjar*, *Daman*, *Filhaal*, *My Birthday Song* and many more. He was also seen in Amazon Series *Inside Edge* and *Leila* on Netflix. Sanjay has participated at various International Co-Production markets and festivals and was a jury member at MAMI (2012) and at DIFF (2013). His sales & distribution vertical under KAHWA Entertainment successfully released all his films theatrically and also represented *Village Rockstars* and *Bulbul Can Sing* for SAARC. His team released Palme d'Or winner and Oscar nominated *Shoplifters*, Ash is the Purest White, *Yomeddine* and Cannes Jury Prize winner *Les Misérables* in India.



#### Rohena GERA

Educated at Stanford University (B.A.), and Sarah Lawrence College (M.F.A.), Rohena has worked in film and television for over 20 years. Rohena's first fiction feature *Sir* premiered in competition at the Cannes Film Festival (Critics Week 2018) where it won the Gan Foundation award followed by 16 international awards including 8 audience awards around the world. With successful theatrical releases in over 25 countries, *Sir*'s ticket sales in France are the 5th highest of any Indian film. Gera's feature documentary *What's love got to do with it?* premiered at the Mumbai Film Festival (2013) and was licensed by Netflix, after an independent limited theatrical release in India, and a U.S. Theatrical-on-demand release through Gathr. Her non-profit work includes *Stop the Hatred*, a campaign against islamophobia in India, as well as work for Breakthrough and the UN Foundation.

A filmmaker is in charge of creating and executing a vision. But the work does not stop once the post-production and final edit are locked. A post-pandemic world, in which film festivals became virtual and cinemas shuttered for months, proved that the challenge for independent filmmakers is as much about securing funding as it is about finding distribution and exhibition avenues. Combining marketability with vision, opening up new frontiers in film marketing and forging the right partnerships are some of the steps in effectively marketing independent films.



#### Sreyashi SEN

Sreyashi is the Founder and Managing Director of Darpan Global, a Singapore company which produces, distributes and curates content across platforms. She is also the only woman theatrical distributor in South and Southeast Asia, having distributed and screened close to 90 movies across genres and languages, which include arthouse as well as blockbusters including the Academy award winner *A Fantastic Woman* and *Gully Boy*. She is presently producing two web series and three feature content across India, UK, France and Singapore. Darpan, under her leadership, has recently produced the short film *Solitude* (in Singapore during COVID times) and two social motivation programmes for the Singapore Government (for the thousands of migrant construction workers) called *Our Stories Your Stories* and *Our Songs Your Songs*. She is also directing her first documentary *The Magi of Lost Tales* based on the people who safeguard heritage of historical cities and yet remain nameless and faceless.



#### Ashish BHATNAGAR

Ashish Bhatnagar is considered as a pioneer of new Indian cinema which is now reaching out globally. He started by distributing films including *Monsoon Wedding* and *Bend it Like Beckham*, and in the process virtually created new audiences for story driven cinema. A recent production was actress Konkona Sen Sharma's directorial debut *A Death in the Gunj* which opened at the Toronto Film Festival and also screened at the Busan Film Festival and MAMI Mumbai Film Festival. In 2001, IDream was set up to develop stories targeting the global market. IDream has produced and distributed 17 films so far. Going forward, it shall continue to raise the stakes for quality storytelling to a global audience. As a sales agent, IDream has sold films to over 56 countries thereby giving a platform for filmmakers to realise their dreams of selling globally but also giving them a stake in the international business. Earlier, Ashish worked as an investment banker with SSKI Corporate Finance. In six years, he created a strong knowledge vertical which helped broadcasters, content owners, entertainment companies, outdoor media companies and television content owners, raise equity in excess of \$500 mn.

## Future of Film Distribution – Opportunities and Challenges in the post COVID world

### Moderator

**Rick Ambros**, International Entertainment Consultant and Producer

### Speakers

**Guneet Monga**, CEO, Sikhya Entertainment

**Orly Ravid**, Founder & Co-executive Director, The Film Collaborative

**Kamal Jain** CEO & MD, Superfine Films

**Jordan Dykstra**, MD, Film Bridge International

One might ask if the issues with film distribution have changed in the post-Covid world, or if they have just become more urgent. One could view the present day situation as an opportunity or a challenge with technology, new platforms and systems for delivering entertainment rapidly gaining traction. Producers and distributors are required to relook at budget allocation while also upending the traditional release calendar and tapping into fresh SVOD and VOD platforms. Streaming services and cinemas are carving equal space in the exhibition sector. In this environment, film distributors could either become risk averse or adapt.

### Moderator



**Rick AMBROS**

Rick Ambros is an executive producer, consultant and past studio executive with an emphasis on international and local language film, television and digital production, co-production, business development and financing across Asia, Europe and North America. He has been focusing his attention on the rapidly growing media and entertainment industries in Asia, particularly India and China. Rick served as COO of Justin Lin's Perfect Storm Entertainment, a JV with China's Seven Stars Entertainment. As a Consultant in India he has worked with Fox, Sony, Star TV, Applause Entertainment and Ivanhoe Pictures. Rick served as Advisor to German media funds and private investors providing production financing for Universal, Warner Bros. and Paramount (The Hangover, Sherlock Holmes, Mission Impossible III). He started his career as an executive and producer at ProSiebenSat.1 in Germany and as an international marketing and distribution executive at Disney. He is on the Executive Board of the Asian World Film Festival.



**Kamal JAIN**

Under the dynamic aegis of Kamal Jain, Superfine Films Pvt Ltd along with its sister concern Superfine Films International LLP have been at the helm of acquiring top-notch entertainment content for India and the Sub-Continent for over three decades. Superfine group of companies are well recognized by almost all major International film/TV sales/representative companies internationally and domestically. Present primary objective and focus is to acquire all rights for content which is widely acceptable commercial driven films and programmes that can be exploited across all platforms in India and the Sub-Continent.

### Speakers



**Guneet MONGA**

Voted as one of the top 12 women achievers in the Global Entertainment Industry by The Hollywood Reporter, Guneet Monga is a BAFTA nominee, Indian film producer and the founder of Sikhya Entertainment, a homegrown premium content studio with a global footprint. The production house has been at the helm of pushing content-driven cinema with films like *The Lunchbox*, *Masaan*, *What Will People Say*, *Monsoon Shootout*, *Haraamkhor* and Oscar-winning short documentary *Period. End Of Sentence*, to name a few. In a short period of time, the production house has carved a presence both locally and globally with nine films at the Cannes Film Festival, 14 films at Toronto International Film Festival, and over 30 awards at other prestigious film festivals. The company has recently diversified into different content formats with short films, podcasts and web series. Recent titles include feature film *Soorai Pottru*, series *Kaun? Who did it?* and podcasts *The Dosa King* and *Mafialand*.



**Jordan DYKSTRA**

Jordan Dykstra, Managing Director, joined Film Bridge International, a worldwide sales agency, production and finance entity, in 2014. Jordan oversees all of Film Bridge's in-house productions, acquisitions and overall sales strategy for its slate of feature films and television, as well as its genre label, *After Dark*. Jordan attends film markets and festivals globally, including the Cannes Film Festival, the Berlinale, Toronto Film Festival and the American Film Market in Los Angeles to represent and license Film Bridge's catalogue of feature films and television.



**Orly RAVID**

Born in Israel, the Los Angeles-based Orly Ravid is the Founder and Co-Executive Director of The Film Collaborative (TFC), an entertainment attorney at MSK (Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP), and the Director of the Biederman Entertainment & Media Law Institute at Southwestern Law School. Orly has over 20 years of experience in independent film as an acquisitions and business affairs executive, and her experience encompasses all aspects of distribution, domestic and international sales/licensing, development, production, grassroots marketing, and festival programming. Orly was a distribution executive at Senator Entertainment and Wolfe Releasing and served as a Programming Associate for documentaries at Sundance Film Festival and a programming consultant at Palm Springs International and the Middle East Film Festival. Orly presently sits on the Board of Advisors of We Do It Together. A regular panelist, educator, and blogger about digital distributing, splitting rights, and distribution in general at film festivals worldwide, Orly co-authored the book series *Selling Your Film Without Selling Your Soul* and recently contributed to *How Not to Sign a Film Contract*.

## Filmmakers Pitch

### Moderator

Abhra Das, Programming Coordinator, NFDC

**Filmmakers' Pitch' is a platform where filmmakers can pay and pitch their films to all registered delegates of NFDC Film Bazaar Online. This is open only to registered delegates who have their feature-length films in the Viewing Room Library and Industry Screenings. The video pitch will be presented at the Filmmakers' Pitch event at Film Bazaar Online platform. This event will be attended by registered delegates of Film Bazaar which includes buyers, distributors, content aggregators, sales agents, film festival programmers, producers, financiers among others attending the market.**

### Moderator



#### Abhra DAS

Abhra Das works at the National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC). He has been the Programming Coordinator for the Viewing Room and Work-in-Progress Lab at NFDC Film Bazaar since 2015 and the NFDC Screenwriters' Lab since January 2019. He has worked as a coordinator on film festivals like Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF) and Pingyao International Film Festival (PYIFF). He is one of the preview team members for KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival since 2018. In the past, he was part of the organization team for MAMI Mumbai Film Festival in 2014. He is a freelance writer and a cinema enthusiast.

#### Original Title

Anubhuti

Behind The Face

Chatur Prem

Choroibeti: A Journey

Devarakanasu

Ghost of Maaikhuli

Here Comes Papa

#Homecoming

Madappally United

Mehrunisa

Niabatya

Orilathanalil

Prem Pirit

Revival

Rockumentary Evolution of Indian Rock

Searching for Happiness...

#### English Title

Anubhuti - A World of Her Own

Behind the Face

Quite Clever Love Quadrant

A Journey

Dream of God

Ghost of Maaikhuli

Here Comes Papa

#Homecoming

Madappally United

Mehrunisa

Seventy Thousand Years Ago There Was A Firestorm

In the shade of a Leaf

Pain

Revival

Rockumentary Evolution of Indian Rock

Searching for Happiness...

#### Director

Anirban Dutta

Balaji Ram

Rohit Shukre

Amritsangshu Chakravarty

Suresh Lakkor

Pankaj Soram

Sanju Surendran

Soumyajit Majumdar

Ajay Govind

Sandeep Kumar

Surya Shankar Das

Asok R. Nath

Pradip Sen

Bharath Kishore

Abhimanyu Kukreja

Suman Ghosh

## Co-productions: A new paradigm for Indian animation

### Moderator

**Vikramjit Roy**, Head, Film Facilitation Office

### Speakers

**Barbara Stephen**, CEO - Content, Studio 100 International

**Sriram Chandrasekaran** Founder & CEO, Studio 56

**Biren Ghose**, Country Head, Technicolor India

**Ashish Kulkarni**, Founder, Punaryug Artvision & Chairman, FICCI AVGC Forum

### Moderator



#### Vikramjit ROY

Vikramjit Roy is Head of the Film Facilitation Office (FFO), India's version of the Film Commission, set up in NFDC by the Ministry of I&B, to act as the single window mechanism that eases filming in India and promotes the country as a preferred destination for filmmakers across the world. As General Manager at NFDC, he has led the development and production of more than 20 films across 11 Indian languages introducing 13 debut directors. As Head of Marketing, a position he held simultaneously, Vikramjit played a key role in establishing NFDC's multi-platform distribution and monetisation label, Cinemas of India, building the global reputation for Film Bazaar and launching NFDC's OTT platform. An accomplished professional with 28 years of experience across advertising, media & entertainment and the public sector, Vikramjit has previously worked with McCann Erickson and Sony Pictures Entertainment.

### Speakers



#### Barbara STEPHEN

Flying Bark Productions is an independent producer with a long history of creating iconic animated children's entertainment. Operating as a full-service animation production facility, Flying Bark employs some of Australia's brightest talents to produce feature films, television and web series and corporate content that delights and captivates family audiences worldwide. Part of the Studio 100 Group, Flying Bark most recently released the highly anticipated Indie-Australian film, 100% Wolf adapted from Jane Lyon's book of the same name, and the spin-off series in co-production with Australian broadcaster; ABC and Germany's family entertainment channel SUPER RTL. Also just released from Flying Bark, in co-production with Australian partner Studio B, is the third installment of the successful Maya Movie series *Maya 3 - The Golden Orb*. Flying Bark is part of the Belgian owned Studio 100 media group, which is one of the largest independent family entertainment companies in Europe.



#### Sriram CHANDRASEKARAN

Sriram Chandrasekaran is an entrepreneur with a successful track record of building companies that straddle consulting, formats and animation. An engineer from BITS Pilani with an MBA from IIM Lucknow, Sriram served the Tata Administrative Services and Microsoft before founding Broadvision, inspired by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, to create 'Wealth with Values'. Broadvision is a leading global player in consulting and format entertainment, apart from being a global investor in entertainment IP with a portfolio of USD. 19.5 Million. Studio56 is a Broadvision owned, premium quality animation production company, with 34 international productions, including 100% Wolf, Mia & Me TV series and *The Hero of Centopia* feature film. Sriram is the Executive Producer of *Mia Movie The Hero of Centopia*, 100% Wolf and *Mia & Me* TV Series. Broadvision & Studio56's creations have been featured in over 10,000 theaters worldwide, apart from Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney, ABC, ZDF, France Televisions, Rai TV, Super RTL, BBC and Nickelodeon.

From outsourcing to locally produced content, the Indian animation sector has grown exponentially in the last few years. As per the FICCI-EY report 2020, 65 percent of revenues to the Indian animation industry came from the international market. Securing funding and finding the right partners, retaining creative freedom, understanding incentives and treaties, and the increased viability of co-productions have opened up opportunities, benefits and incentives for the rapidly expanding Indian animation industry.



#### Biren GHOSE

Biren Ghose has been the country head for Technicolor India for over 11 years. He has taken the India studio to a strength of 6000 employees. This includes marquee brands MPC, Mr.X, The Mill & Mikros. Biren is a thought leader and industry evangelist for the past 20 years. Technicolor has won over eight Emmy Awards for TV animation; four Academy Awards for VFX Films, the Cannes Lion Golds, VES, BAFTA, The British Arrows, etc. Biren is Vice Chairman for the CII National Media & Entertainment Committee and Chairman for CII's National AVGC Committee. Biren is multi-faceted and has a passion for art, music, photography, wines and spirits.



#### Ashish KULKARNI

Ashish S K embarked on his journey in the field of arts and media in 1995, and since has immersed himself in the pursuit of conceiving sustainable careers in film, animation, visual effects, gaming, visual arts, and graphic design in India. Ashish S K jumpstarted the sprouting of the animation industry in India by facilitating outsourcing projects in the country with animation giants such as Disney, Warner Bros., Sony and Dreamworks. By introducing India as a new outsourcing platform for animation, Ashish S K had created the opportunity for Indian animation services to grow to international standards. During this stage, Ashish S K produced ad films for All Out, Flying Machine, Max Candy & Max Ice cream for HLL, Nestle, Veneta Cucine and Kelloggs. As the sapling of the Indian animation industry grew, Ashish S K envisioned a future in which, India competed as a global player in the arena of original IP creation. What followed was the development of iconic character brands and shows such as *Little Krishna*, *Krishna Aur Kans*, *Big Bees* and *Shaktimaan*, by Ashish S K and his creative team while he served as CEO of Reliance Animation. Currently, Ashish S K is working on properties such as *War Heroes of India*, *Mary Kom Jr.*, *Amazing Kids*, *Monkey Creek* and *Map Jacket*.

## Filming in India – Leveraging the Film Facilitation Office’s Online Ecosystem

### Moderator

**Nyay Bhushan**, Entertainment Industry consultant

### Speakers

**Smt. Dhanpreet Kaur**, Director (Films), Ministry of I&B and M.D., NFDC

**Vikramjit Roy**, Head FFO

**Madhu Bhojwani**, Partner, Emmay Entertainment & Motion Pictures LLP

**Alan Mc Alex**, Founder/ Producer, Suitable Pictures & Production Scope

### Moderator



**Nyay BHUSHAN**

Connectment Films is driven by a passion for innovative storytelling to reflect a new ethos for Indian cinema with global resonance. Nurturing collaborations with like-minded creative talent and partners, Connectment Films is founded by Nyay Bhushan who has several short films to his credit, including *Backdrop*, *The Saint* and *Mango Shake*, which participated in Filmaka.com, a global digital platform pioneered by Hollywood producer Deepak Nayar. Adding to his diversified portfolio, Nyay is an award-winning fine art photographer bagging over 30 honors at the IPA – International Photography Awards, PX3 – Prix de la Photographie Paris Awards and the Photography Masters Cup. As an industry analyst, Nyay

has been tracking the entertainment business since the early nineties after co-founding Connect, India’s first magazine on global entertainment. He has also contributed regularly as the India correspondent for The Hollywood Reporter and Billboard, covering all aspects of the Indian entertainment industry with a global perspective.

### Speakers



**Smt. Dhanpreet KAUR**

Smt. Dhanpreet Kaur (MD, NFDC) is a bureaucrat in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, India (Ministry I&B) from 2019. As Director of Films, her mission is to ensure the National Film Development Corporation of India strives for continued excellence and fulfills its vision to create a domestic and global appreciation and celebration of independent Indian cinema.



**Vikramjit ROY**

Vikramjit Roy is Head of the Film Facilitation Office (FFO), India’s version of the Film Commission, set up in NFDC by the Ministry of I&B, to act as the single window mechanism that eases filming in India and promotes the country as a preferred destination for filmmakers across the world. As General Manager at NFDC, he has led the development and production of more than 20 films across 11 Indian languages introducing 13 debut directors. As Head of Marketing, a position he held simultaneously, Vikramjit played a key role in establishing NFDC’s multi-platform distribution and monetisation label, Cinemas of India,

building the global reputation for Film Bazaar and launching NFDC’s OTT platform. An accomplished professional with 28 years of experience across advertising, media & entertainment and the public sector, Vikramjit has previously worked with McCann Erickson and Sony Pictures Entertainment.

The session will focus on the relevance of FFO’s online single window facilitation and clearance ecosystem [www.ffa.gov.in](http://www.ffa.gov.in) which has gained even greater significance in the time of the pandemic. The session will also showcase the web portal and how to navigate through the permission process. The various initiatives by the Ministry of I&B and NFDC to ease filming in India and promote it as a preferred destination for filmmakers in India and abroad, will also be discussed



**Madhu Bhojwani**

A graduate of Commerce & Economics from Sydenham College, Mumbai, MADHU BHOJWANI has partnered setting up various entrepreneurial ventures. From forming a student counseling service in 1989, that was recognized as an outlier in its time, to taking on the challenge of building EmmayHR which became one of India’s premier recruitment & HR services businesses between 1996 to 2009, to the current steerage as a Co-founder and Partner of India’s sixth-largest film production house Emmay Entertainment since 2011, Bhojwani has built a formidable reputation as a strong leader with operations, financial and legal responsibilities. In 2005 she successfully led negotiations for the sale of Emmay HR to Randstad Holdings nv, making it the Dutch global leader’s first Asian acquisition. Currently, she is a member of the Core Council of the Producers Guild of India and a member of the Guild’s POSH committee. She is an early-stage angel investor in companies such as Ping Digital (India Food Network), OutCue Media (BoomLive) and Decision Fuel (exited in 2014 through a strategic sale to YouGov).



**Alan MCALEX**

With diverse experience in film production, Alan McAlex with Ajay G Rai formed Jar Pictures in 2011. Together they have produced award-winning films, *Killa*, that opened at the 64th Berlinale in 2015, winning the Crystal Bear; *Liar’s Dice*, that opened at Sundance and was India’s official submission to the 87th Academy Awards in 2015; and *Moothon* that opened at TIFF in 2019, are a few titles from their oeuvre.. Their latest feature film *Fire in The Mountains* will have its world premier at Sundance 2021. As a part of Alan’s several individual projects as an Executive Producer, he has worked on *Dangal*, which was the highest grossing Indian film, as well as the Amazon series *Made in Heaven*. In 2019, Alan initiated Production Scope, a company focusing only on production services that started off with *A Suitable Boy*, a BBC mini-series adapted from author Vikram Seth’s eponymous book, directed by Mira Nair, for which Alan was the co-producer. He recently founded Suitable Pictures, a company committed to nurturing new talent that has fresh ideas and vision to make something unique for the world.

## Meet the Streamers - made in India for a global audience

### Moderator

**Deepti Chawla**, Head Distribution & Syndication, NFDC

### Speakers

**Shri Vikram Sahay**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

**Aparna Acharekar**, Programming Head, Zee5

**Karan Bedi** MX Player

**Saugata Mukherjee**, Head, Original Content, Sony Liv

With increased supply of indigenously produced high quality content and an increased demand for short and long format software across languages and genres, series and streaming content is seeing unprecedented numbers locally and globally. Indian web shows and films, which are local in content, tone and subject, are finding audiences around the world and also getting recognition on the world stage.

### Moderator



#### Deepti CHAWLA

With over two decades of leadership roles in the Media and entertainment industry, Deepti Chawla is presently engaged in bridging the gap between content creators and exhibition platforms as part of completing her 360-degree studio model journey. She heads Distribution, Syndication and Marketing at NFDC India. Owing to her creative instinct and sharp marketing acumen, she is tasked to explore avenues to license NFDC's highly acclaimed film catalogue internationally. She began her career with UTV-Disney where she worked on the filmmaking aspect of cinema to become a Director and later marketed commercial successes such as *Hanuman* (animation), *Malamaal Weekly* and Corporate produced by Sahara-One motion Pictures. Founder member of Studio18 (now Viacom 18-Motion Pictures), she green-lit national/international award winning films like *1971*, *Little Zizou* and *Road Movie* among other 200 crores blockbusters.



#### Karan BEDI

As the CEO of MX Player, Karan Bedi has built MX into the largest premium entertainment platform in India. He brings over a decade of experience across the media and tech industries. A Stanford alum, prior to MX, Karan was COO of ErosNow and started his career as an entrepreneur in EdTech (ContentFlow Technologies).

### Speakers



#### Shri Vikram SAHAY

Shri Vikram Sahay belongs to the 1992 batch of the Indian Revenue Service and has worked in various capacities before joining the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in May, 2018 as Joint Secretary. Prior to this, he has worked in the Income Tax Department at various levels in Delhi, Maharashtra and Assam and has handled policy matters while working in the Central Board of Direct Taxes during 2003-2007. Shri Sahay also has a vast experience in the education sector and worked extensively on policy matters such as Right to Education Act and Teacher Education while working as Director in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India between 2007-2013. He also worked briefly in the University Grants Commission. Mr. Sahay has done his post graduation in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics and worked in FICCI in 1991-1992 before joining the Civil Services. He also has a Public Services MBA degree from the University of Birmingham, UK.



#### Mr. Saugata MUKHERJEE

Saugata Mukherjee is the Head of Originals for SonyLIV, the digital business of Sony Pictures Networks. He was previously the Head of Content Development at Disney+Hotstar and was instrumental in setting up and producing the originals slate for Disney+Hotstar. Before Hotstar he worked as Senior Vice President and Editor at the Content Studio of Star India (now Disney India) networks. Saugata also spent several years in publishing -- he was the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief at Pan Macmillan and Picador India and Managing Editor at HarperCollins India.



#### Aparna ACHAREKAR

A Content aficionado, Aparna Acharekar is the Programming Head at ZEE5. In her current role she is leading the content team for the platform and have been associated with Zee group since 2006. With an overall experience as a content professional for about 2 decades which includes areas like OTT, web, applications and print media, Ms. Aparna has been a part of the core team driving Zee's digital businesses worldwide since 2008 and the team that introduced content monetization through YouTube and Self-Operated Digital platforms in the Indian Broadcast space. After completing her post-graduation in media and communications from Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University Ms. Acharekar joined Times Group and contributed editorial expertise. Aparna holds certifications from YouTube for audience growth & development and digital rights management. She is also a certified mentor from Harvard. To explore new areas and add skills in her portfolio she has recently completed PGDM in E- Business from Welingkar Institute of Management. She is an avid mentor to students of bachelors, PG of Journalism (Print and Digital) and media management.

## Thinking Beyond Cinema - Reimagining the future of Documentaries, Short Films & Children's Films

### Moderator

**Namrata Joshi**, Film Critic, Programmer

### Speakers

**Smt Smita Vats Sharma**, Director General Films Division & CEO CFSI

**Ms. Dhanpreet Kaur**, MD NFDC

**Rajesh Kanna** Board of Director, NFDC

**Rajan Khosa**, Filmmaker

**Haobam Paban Kumar**, Documentary Filmmaker

**Pratik Rajan Kothari**, Filmmaker and Co founder White wall screenings

### Moderator



#### **Namrata JOSHI**

Namrata Joshi is a senior journalist and film critic and winner of India's National Award for Best Film Critic for 2004. She recently came out with her first book, *Reel India: Cinema off the Beaten Track*, in which she journeyed through the interiors of the country, intimately chronicling little-known accounts about the nation's incessant obsession with the movies. She has been a member of the Fipresci critics' juries at the Toronto International Film Festival, Transylvania International Film festival, Cluj, Cairo International Film Festival, Moscow International Film Festival, International Film Festival of Kerala and Aurangabad International Film Festival. She has been on the selection committee for films at the International Film Festival of India, Goa and on the juries at MAMI Mumbai Film Festival and on the International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK).

### Speakers



#### **Smt. Smita Vats SHARMA**

At present working as Director General, Films Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, since Aug 2019. Previously served as Additional Director General (PR), Ministry of Railways, Government of India, based in New Delhi (2018 -2019), Additional Director General, New Media Wing, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, New Delhi (2016 -2018), Additional Registrar, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi (2010 - 2014), Director, Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, New Delhi (2008 - 2010), Regional

Officer, Central Board of Film Certification, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, New Delhi (2003 - 2008), Civil Service Probationer, Government of India (Aug 1991).



#### **Smt. Dhanpreet KAUR**

Smt. Dhanpreet Kaur (MD, NFDC) is a bureaucrat in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, India (Ministry I&B) from 2019. As Director of Films, her mission is to ensure the National Film Development Corporation of India strives for continued excellence and fulfills its vision to create a domestic and global appreciation and celebration of independent Indian cinema.



#### **Rajesh KANNA**

Writer and columnist, financial consultant, social and political worker, Rajesh Khanna worked for textile industries for about five years, dealt as wealth management advisor for the high net worth individuals for their asset management and started a business in the field of advertisement in 2010 under the name and style of Messers Velan Agencies. As BJP's TN state Vice President Co-Operative Cell, Mr. Khanna is also a director National Film Development Corporation Limited. His main areas of professional interest include market and government policy analysis, competitive strategy formulation, strategic alliance and client

development and project management.

Entertainment that can be informative, entertaining, creative and start a conversation can go beyond the long-form fiction narrative. Non-fiction films document reality. They can be investigative, educational and hold archival value. The short film narrative has come-of-age with innovative storytelling and high quality film-making finding new avenues for distribution. Children's films help develop critical thinking, can be educational and engaging for the entire family. All these formats expand cultural understanding and reiterate the belief that cinema as art transcends age, form and structure.



#### **Rajan KHOSA**

Rajan directed *Gattu*, winner at Berlinale (2012), a Screen Award in India, and 20 international awards. His feature film *Dance Of The Wind* (1997) premiered at Venice, winning at Rotterdam, Chicago, London, and Nantes. His film *Bodh Vriksha* (1985) received a National Award and three Oberhausen Awards. He has been a recipient of Huber Bals in Rotterdam and Montecinemaverite in Locarno. Rajan is finishing a film on the tribal leader Birsa Munda. He created a superhero animation series *Selfie With Bajrangi* (2018) which was released on Amazon Prime Video. He is also developing a feature on Satyajit Ray's Fotikchand

for Disney India. An alumni of Royal College of Arts, London, FTII Pune and NID Ahmedabad, he is also a voting member of BAFTA Awards.



#### **Haobam PABAN KUMAR**

The company Oli Pictures, established in 2005, has been regularly producing television series and films with the national channels, Films Division and NFDC for the last many years. Some of the noted films are *Afspa 1958*, *The First Leap*, *Mr India Nupishabi* And *Floating Life*. Till date the company has produced and coproduced around 30 documentary and short films. Many of the films have won national and international awards. The company's debut feature film *Loktak Lairembee* (Lady of the Lake) was at the Asian New Currents 21st Busan International Film Festival 2016 and the Forum - 67th Berlin International Film Festival

2017. The film won the top prize at the Mumbai International Film Festival 2016. It was also awarded a Special mentioned at Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2017. *Nine Hills One Valley* is our second narrative feature which is in FBR 2021.



#### **Pratik Rajan KOTHARI**

Pratik is a filmmaker based in Mumbai. After assisting Mr Shyam Benegal on *Samvidhaan - The Making of Indian Constitution*, he went on to direct several short films including *Hell O Hello* and most recently *Grill*, which was highly acclaimed. Pratik recently directed an indie feature film which is in the post production stages and is currently working on his next regional feature. In 2017, Pratik co-Founded White Wall Screenings (WWS), a community to showcase indie short/feature films and facilitate an offline dialogue between filmmakers and film enthusiasts. WWS showcased more than 300 local short films before the

nationwide lockdown and continues to host several masterclasses.

## A Quest for Excellence - NCoE for the AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics Sector)

### Moderator

Dhanpreet Kaur, MD, NFDC

### Moderator



#### **Smt. Dhanpreet KAUR**

Smt. Dhanpreet Kaur (MD, NFDC) is a bureaucrat in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, India (Ministry I&B) from 2019. As Director of Films, her mission is to ensure the National Film Development Corporation of India strives for continued excellence and fulfills its vision to create a domestic and global appreciation and celebration of independent Indian cinema.

## National Centre of Excellence – The new sunrise in the field of Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics in India

### Moderator

**Mr. Sumant Rao**, Head, IDC, IIT Mumbai

### Speakers

**Mr. Rajiv Chilaka**, CEO, Green Gold Animation

**Mr. Sekhar Mukherjee**, Director, National Institute of Design

**Ms. Isabel Herguera** Prof Animation The Kunsthochschule der Media(KHM), Cologne Germany

**Mr. Jatin Varma**, Founder, Com Con India

**Mr. Vaibhav Kumaresh**, Founder, Vaibhav Studios

### Moderator



**Mr. Sumant RAO**

With 30 years experience in animation, special effects and communication design, his work spans commercials, corporate films, short films, film titles, feature films (both live action and animated), book design & illustration, demonstrations, training, workshops and teaching animation and special effects and exhibition design using virtual and augmented reality experiences. An Aerospace Engineer, a Communications Designer and Founder Director of Animagic, he is currently a Professor in IDC, IIT Bombay. He has recently created a Virtual Experiential Museum on Ajanta at the Nation Museum, Delhi.

This involves various technologies like VR, AR, photogrammetry, animation films, interactive displays to create virtual and immersive experiences to deliver an informative and unforgettable experience of Ajanta. Recently, during the pandemic, he was instrumental in the creation of the Virtual Convocation Ceremony of IIT Bombay which was the first of its kind in the world creating individual avatars of all the students compensating for their inability to physically receive their degrees.

### Speakers



**Mr. Rajiv CHILAKA**

Rajiv created *Chhota Bheem*, Green Gold's iconic character which become the sparkling mas-cot of Indian animation industry, treading an illustrious journey in to the millions of hearts of kids worldwide. Green Gold business now spans television, movies, digital and L&M reaching a viewership of 60 million kids. It also owns and licenses India's biggest children's IP with over 100 brands across multiple categories. Rajiv is often touted as India's Walt Disney for his distinguished effort in the Indian animation industry. He is now the leader of 800 strong Green Gold family that produced a catalogue of over 10 shows, 650 episodes, 80

TV movies and 4 Feature films in last decade. Rajiv owes a lot to his alma mater, University of Missouri Kansas City, and Academy of Art, San Francisco USA.



**Mr. Sekhar MUKHERJEE**

An alumni of NID, Prof. Sekhar Mukherjee- was a senior faculty of communication design with NID Ahmedabad from 2002 to 2018. After graduating in commerce, he decided to follow his passion as his profession, and started his career as a newspaper cartoonist, illustrator & info-graphics artist at Economic Times, Kolkata, before he joined NID to study Animation Film Design in 1992. In 2000, he trained the first 2D animation studio in Dhaka, Bangladesh, one of his cherished projects. In 2002, he joined his alma mater as a design educator. For the next 12 years, he headed the Animation Department. Under his mentorship, his students won many national & international recognitions. He is also the NID Film Club Chairman and the Artistic Founder Director of iconic Chittrakatha-A biennial International Student Animation Festival since 2007. Along with his student mentorship he also regularly contributes & practices cartoons, comics, illustrations, mural, graphic experiments etc. He is often invited as a delegate, jury member and expert to other design schools & various animation & comics festivals across the globe. In 2009 he received the Best Animation Teacher Award from CNBC-TV18 for outstanding contribution to the cause of animation education in India. He celebrates design as a problem solving and opportunity creation tool in his 25 plus years of professional journey. In 2018 end he took charge as Director of NID Andhra Pradesh, a baby design school of the same breed.

India is in its Golden phase of huge demographic dividend. It is pertinent to note that the Government and the private Institutions in India are together capitalizing this opportunity to nurture talent in filmmaking. National Centre of Excellence will bring a new dawn in the Animation, Vfx, Gaming & Comics industry. India being a hub of post-production activities. NCoE would be a one stop shop to enable and facilitate local talent to gain global exposure and turn India into a production hub for world cinema as against the present trend of Indians seeking global collaboration.



**Ms. Isabel HERGUERA**

Isabel Herguera studied Fine Arts at the Kunstakademie Duesseldorf, Germany and animation at the California Institute of the Arts, Calarts. She worked for several animation productions in Los Angeles before returning to Spain in 2003 to direct Animac, International Animation Festival of Cataluña in Lleida and to coordinate the Laboratory of Moving Image (LIM) in Arteleku, Center for Contemporary Art in San Sebastian, Spain. She directed and produced award winning short films like *La Gallina Ciega* (2005), *Berbaoc* (2007) *Ámár* (2010), *Bajo la Almohada* (2012), *Sailor's Grave* ( 2012) *Amore D'Inverno* (2015) *Kutxa Beltza* ( 2016). From 2005 to 2014 she has been regularly teaching workshops at the National Institute of Design (NID) in Ahmedabad, India and from 2012 to 2016 wa as guest professor at the China Central Academy of Fine Arts ( CAFA) in Beijing, China. Currently she is a Profesor of animation the Kunsthochschule der Media ( KHM) in Cologne, Germany.



**Mr. Jatin VARMA**

The young and exuberant entrepreneur, Jatin Varma, Founder, Comic Con India has that perfect combination of humor and intellect, which led him to his success. The 36 year old is an economics graduate, has lived and worked in the US and studied in University of Washington, Seattle. He has keen interest in Books, Music & Films. Confident Jatin, left US as he had foreseen opportunities in India. He wanted to run his own independent business in his own atypical, fun way and at the same time make it profitable. So, there popped Twenty Onwards Media in 2007, an Alternative Media House, with interests ranging from Publishing to Film to Live Events. In February 2009, Varma, being a natural Movie critic decided to add another feather in his hat and introduced 'The Golden Kela Awards', also a product of Twenty Onwards Media. An award show which is an imitation of the Raspberry awards of the west. In the year 2011, Jatin Varma brought the Concept of International Comics Convention to India and started India's very own Annual Indian Comics Convention in February 2011 in New Delhi. This was further expanded by creating the traveling version called Comic Con express from there on. And over the last 4 years, it has now grown to multiple events across the country under the entity Comic Con India. The mission is to create unique pop culture events and engage with fans all across the country. Comic Con India is a unique event celebrating the illustrated medium, which brings together the whole comics industry and related fields such as Merchandise, Toys, Games, Films and Animation, along with fans of this culture from all age groups. The properties include Delhi Comic Con. Mumbai Film and Comic Con, Bangalore Comic Con and Hyderabad Comic Con. As well as associated properties such as Indian Championship of Cosplay, Pop Culture Forum & The Free Comic Book Weekend.



**Mr. Vaibhav KUMARESH**

Vaibhav Kumaresh is an animation film maker and is currently Founder, Director at Vaibhav Studios, Mumbai. Founded in 2003, the studio has created some of India's favourite animated content in the field of TV commercials and channel promos: the Amaron Battery ad campaign, Chulbuli for Clinic Plus, Buladi's AIDS awareness campaign for the West Bengal government, the Vodafone Zumis, Simpoo the angry sardaar math teacher on Channel [V] and Lamput the globally acclaimed, Emmy nominated micro short series for Cartoon Network to name a few. The studio is currently working on its maiden feature film titled *Return of the Jungle*. A Fine Arts graduate, Vaibhav studied animation film making at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. He is an active committee member and the Honorary Secretary of The Animation Society of India (TASI). Vaibhav also teaches animation and is a visiting faculty at various animation and design schools across India.

## Writer's dilemma: Is the conventional three-act structure redundant in the age of digital content?

### Moderator

**Shubhra Gupta**, Film Critic

### Speakers

**Ms. Angeli Macfarlane**, Script Editor

**Mr. Kilian Kerwin**, Head Production, South Asia & Latin America, SK Global Entertainment

**Jyoti Kapoor** Screen Writer

**Bikas Ranjan Mishra**, Screenwriter and Film Director

Digital content is coming of age. Showrunners, writers and creators are adapting to new narrative formats. Conventions of story-telling and screenwriting practices are being reinvented for long-form shows. Based on the premise that a web series cannot be approached in the same way as a film script, a new handbook for episodic content is now in play which centres around the idea that the power rests in the remote control. In the age of 'binge-watching,' emphasis has shifted to hooking the viewer's attention and keeping them engaged for upto 10 episodes, each with its own beginning, middle and end.

### Moderator



#### Shubhra GUPTA

Shubhra Gupta is a senior columnist and film critic at The Indian Express. She has written a widely-read weekly review column for over 20 years. She is a frequent traveller to film festivals around the world including Berlin, Cannes, Toronto and Bangkok, and has served on national and international juries. She curates and conducts the hugely popular platform, The Indian Express Film Club, in Delhi and Mumbai. One of the most rewarding aspects of her work is the creation and running of modules on 'Understanding Cinema' for students at media and technology institutes. She served as a member of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) between 2012-2015. Shubhra received the prestigious Ramnath Goenka

award for the best writing on film in 2012. Her first book, 50 Films That Changed Bollywood 1995-2015, was published by HarperCollins.



#### Jyoti KAPOOR

Jyoti Kapoor is a Mumbai based screenwriter and former journalist. After working with publications like The Indian Express and Mid-Day, she crossed over to filmmaking. An alumna of Film and Television Institute of India, Jyoti has written for films like *Kaccha Limboo*, *Daawat-E-Ishq* and the TV series *Left Right Left*. Her recent works include *Good Newwz* and *Badhaai Ho*. Jyoti has also been actively involved in writers' rights initiatives and is the Vice President of Screenwriters' Association (SWA).

### Speakers



#### Ms. Angeli MACFARLANE

Angeli is the director of Script Cube Limited, a UK consultancy in screen story development, talent training and also functions as a production house. Angeli has been the development producer and story editor on over 40 feature films and works internationally with writers, directors and producers in both film and TV. Recent feature films include '*Looted*', '*Body of Water*' and '*Three Seasons*'. On her current slate Angeli has a feature written by Rebecca Lenkiewicz, an adaptation of 2020 Costa winner Monique Roffey's Trinidad-set novel and two of her own projects, both TV series. She is also developing '*Sisters*' from producer

Lee Magiday and Noel Qualter and several features with Screen Ireland, the British Film Institute and Screen Australia. Previously Angeli worked on such titles as '*The Favourite*', '*The Guard*' and '*Death Of A President*'. Angeli co-wrote *Lola* (dir. Andrew Legge) (currently in post). Angeli also tutors in screenwriting at the eminent National Film and TV School in the UK. She is a member of BAFTA and sits regularly on film juries.



#### Bikas Ranjan MISHRA

Award-winning writer-director Bikas Mishra's debut feature *Chauranga* won Grand Jury Prize at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles and was declared Best Indian Feature at Mumbai Film Festival (MAMI). His short film *Naach Ganesh* (Dance of Ganesh) travelled to prestigious festivals including Clermont Ferrand (France), Rotterdam (The Netherlands) and Busan (South Korea). He adapted and directed Badal Sarkar's classic play *Pagla Ghoda* for Hotstar and also wrote and directed a web feature *Guy in the Sky* as a HotStar Original. He holds, a masters degree from the Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC)

Jamia, New Delhi. Prior to his filmmaking career, Bikas worked as a special features show producer for CNBC-TV18. In 2012, he was invited on the Visionary Jury of Critics Week of the Cannes Film Festival. Currently a Global Media Makers (GMM) fellow of Film Independent, Los Angeles, Bikas is developing his next feature project which is supported by the Hubert Bals Fund of the International Film Festival Rotterdam.



#### Mr. Kilian KERWIN

Kilian Kerwin is Head of Production (South Asia & Latin America) for SK Global Entertainment, where he oversees local language projects in various territories as well as particular international English language motion picture and television ventures, including development of the global phenomenon *Crazy Rich Asians*. Kilian is Executive Producer of three Hindi language projects *Ghoul*, *Betaal*, and the Emmy award-winning *Delhi Crime*. He is also co-producer of *The Sky Is Pink*, which premiered at TIFF 2019. Having started in production (as assistant to acclaimed director Tony Scott), Kilian moved into the development arena, first as an executive and then as a screenwriter. Over a 10-year span he wrote feature film projects for Universal Pictures, Miramax, Paramount Pictures, Fox 2000, Dreamworks Animation, and Twentieth Century Fox. Kilian also wrote and directed a feature film, *Learning Curves*, which premiered on Showtime Networks.

## Shaping the Production Landscape in the New Normal (FFO)

### Moderator

**Uday Singh**, MD, Motion Pictures Association India Office

### Speakers

**Ram Tiwari**, Deputy Director, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board

**K S Chauhan**, Deputy Director, Department of Information, Government of Uttarakhand

**Nishant Radhakrishnan** Head, Creative Development, Films & Series, Junglee Pictures

**Jinesh Shah**, Head - Originals, Roy Kapur Films

**Leena Narzary**, Head - Outreach, Film Facilitation Office

### Moderator



#### Uday SINGH

Uday Singh is the Managing Director of the Motion Picture Association's India office, responsible for promoting and protecting the commercial and creative interests of Hollywood studios in India as well as those of the local screen communities. Uday has been on several industry- government working groups such as FICCI, CII, including the MIB Committee for the five year plan for the film sector. He has also been a jury member of the National Awards for the most film friendly state. Before taking up this role, Uday was CEO of PVR Pictures and prior to that, he headed the India operations for Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Group, responsible for managing and growing Sony's portfolio of local Indian language films. Under his leadership, Sony Pictures India was the #1 Studio for nine years. Uday began his career at Philips India where he held several positions spanning different product categories. Uday is an alumnus of Harvard Business School and also has a Post Graduate Diploma in Systems Management and Digital Business from Emeritus in collaboration with Columbia University & MIT.

### Speakers



#### Ram TIWARI

Mr. Ram Kumar Tiwari is Deputy Director and the nodal officer of Film Tourism in Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board. He dedicatedly helps directors/producers/line producers with the filming permissions, arranges meetings etc and encourages the investors for development of film project infrastructure in the state. During his tenure many film projects were shot in the state such as *Sui Dhaaga*, *Panga*, *Stree*, *A Suitable Boy*, *The White Tiger* and *Panchayat* to name a few. Government of Madhya Pradesh recently introduced MP Film Tourism Policy - 2020 in which Mr. Tiwari played a vital role to frame the film policy under the guidance of experts of this field. He has vast experience in film tourism products of the state and a long and strong association with film producers, directors and line producers. Mr. Tiwari's aim is to make Madhya Pradesh as the first choice of filmmakers and to make the state a central hub for films. He encourage filmmakers and associated industries to invest in Madhya Pradesh by preparing infrastructure for film production, he hopes that through films, tourism to the state will get national and international recognition.



#### K S CHAUHAN

Mr KS Chauhan Deputy Director, Uttarakhand Information Department has been working as the Nodal Officer of Uttarakhand Film Development Council since 2016. He has been instrumental in establishing Uttarakhand as new filming destination. His efforts in easing the filming process in Uttarakhand enabled the state to bag a Special Mention Certificate in 2017 and Most Film Friendly State Award in 2019 under the aegis of National Film Awards, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The various initiatives undertaken by the Government of Uttarakhand in positioning the State as Film Friendly has resulted in increase of number of films going to shoot in Uttarakhand from 20-25 productions per year till 2016 to an average of 100 productions every year. Even during the onslaught of the pandemic, there was an influx of approximately 140 projects in the State from May to December 2020 through which the state not only received huge economic benefits but also generated employment opportunities for the local people. An actor, social worker, environmentalist and debater, Mr Chauhan is the recipient of Uttarakhand Government's highest award Chief Minister Excellence and Good Governance Awards, 2020.

**Insights from Producers & State Governments, who have taken out guidelines on filming during the COVID-19 pandemic, on the realities of filming in the new normal. In this session, we discover how the producers & States are adapting to the changed working environment and what are the key opportunities and challenges faced by the productions. The session will also throw light on the initiatives taken by the State Governments towards ensuring a smooth filming process.**



#### Nishant RADHAKRISHNAN

Nishant Radhakrishnan is the Head of Development at Junglee Pictures, part of the Times of India Group. Junglee Pictures has produced the much-loved *Badhaai Ho*, *Raazi*, *Talvar* and *Bareilly Ki Barfi*, and is currently producing *Badhaai Do* and *Dr. G*. In a career spanning over 20 years, Nishant has worked in the production, post-production and now the studio side of film-making. For much of it, he has been an editor of feature films and documentaries. His work includes *Dhobi Ghat*, *Talaash*, *Traffic*, *Ghajini*, *Loins of Punjab* presents, the television series, *Yudh*, and several feature documentaries, produced both internationally and in India.



#### Jinesh SHAH

Business Head for Originals developed for Digital platforms at Roy Kapur Films Producing premium content for OTT majors in India & ambitious projects to take Indian Content to Global platforms Over 20 years in Content Conceptualisation, Production and Communication Previous experience in setting up genre specific platforms in Music, Movies, General Entertainment, News and Live Theatre for networks like Star, NDTV & Zee



#### Leena NARZARY

After producing many award winning shows and documentaries for more than a decade in New Delhi Television (NDTV), one of India's leading News Broadcast Company as Producer, Leena joined the National Film Development Corporation (a Public-Sector Unit under the Ministry of I&B, Gov. of India) as a Senior Supervising Producer in the Department of Production. Her key role was to provide complete end-to-end integrated solutions from production/creation of advertisements to their dissemination to the Central Government, Departments, PSUs, Autonomous Bodies and State Governments. Leena joined the Film Facilitation Office, NFDC, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 2017, India's version of the Film Commission as Head - Outreach. She works closely with all the State Governments and Central Government Agencies / Departments in an endeavor to 'ease filming' in India and promote the Ministry Film in India Initiative. Set up in NFDC by the Ministry of I&B the FFO's web portal [www.ffa.gov.in](http://www.ffa.gov.in) is the single window facilitation/clearance mechanism that eases filming in India and positions India as a film-friendly destination. It is a comprehensive platform that enriches the cinematic imagination of the country.

## Celebrating the Cinemas of India - the Regional Edge

### Moderator

**Udita Jhunjhunwala**, Film Critic and Journalist

### Speakers

**Rajasekar Pandian**, Producer, 2D Productions, Tamil Nadu

**Paresh Vora**, Actor, Producer and CEO, Brainbox studio, Gujarat

**Arijit Dutta** MD, Priya Entertainments Pvt Ltd, West Bengal

**Dinesh Bhonsle**, Writer, Director and Producer, Goa

### Moderator



#### Udita JHUNJHUNWALA

Udita Jhunjhunwala is a Mumbai-based film critic, author and festival programmer with over 20 years of journalistic experience. Former entertainment editor of Mid Day and Hindustan Times newspapers, she is now a contributor to leading publications including Screen International, Hindustan Times, Mint, Scroll, Firstpost, AFP, The Hindu and Vogue. A member of the Film Critics Guild, she is a contributing author to two anthology books Women in Indian Film and Bollywood's Top 20 Stars. She has also curated film festivals including the 2017 Kala Ghoda Arts Festival and the 10th Jagran Film Festival and served on festival juries.

### Speakers



#### Rajasekar PANDIAN

Rajasekar Karpooarasundarapandian, producer from Tamil film industry, is the CEO and Director of 2D Entertainment. He is also a national level achiever in shooting. He has won several medals in State and National level shooting competitions. Being a 4th generation lawyer, after a long stint of 20 years of practice as an advocate in High Court of Madras and the Supreme Court of India, Pandian moved on to film production. He has produced nine films so far and six films are under production. He has also made cameo appearances in *36 Vayathinile*, *Uriyadi 2*, *Kadaikutty Singam* and *Soorarai Pottru*. Known for his positivity, encouraging nature and perseverance, he has a keen eye on choosing the scripts that work best for the critics as well as the audiences.



#### Paresh VORA

Paresh Vora is a dedicated young theatre actor, writer and now with his highly critically acclaimed film *Reva*, he has also started his journey as a film producer. Along with his jewellery business he now owns a production company by the name of Brain Box Studios. Active since early 2000 in theatre, his first success as an actor came in 2011 where he won the Best Actor trophy for the play *Korat*. His superhit play *Manchha* completed 50 shows all over India. His film '*Reva*' based on Dhruv Bhatt's novel *Tatvamasi*, won a National Award for Best Feature Film in Gujarati (2019). Currently he is acting in a solo show named *Mara Asatya na Prayogo* which has been staged at the NCPA Centrestage Festival 2017, Prithvi Theatre Festival 2018 and Kalaghoda Arts Festival 2019 in Mumbai and is marching towards 50 shows.

As per the annual FICCI-EY 2020 report, consumption of regional content (languages other than Hindi) is growing. The report states that the 1,460 regional language films released in 2019, generated close to INR50.4 billion in domestic theatricals. With innovative, intimate and textured local stories, films from the regional filmmaking centres pan-India are getting selected to premiere film festivals and being feted around the world. With the reach of an online release, cinemas of India are reaching a wider audience than ever before.



#### Arijit DUTTA

Arijit Dutta is a Kolkata based distributor, exhibitor and producer. Under Priya Entertainments Pvt Ltd (PEPL), he owns the iconic Priya Cinema and Bioscope brands. Arijit has also made cameo appearances in Bengali and Hindi films.



#### Dinesh BHONSLE

A graduate in science, Dinesh Bhonsle later established himself as an exponent in theatre and audio-visual art with an academic background in theatre from Kala Academy Goa. He has directed, acted, designed sets, and provided music for various plays in Konkani, Marathi, Hindi and English. He has also written and directed TV Serials, *Shikar* and *Yeh Jeevan Hai* in Hindi. His efforts in the audio-visual media earned him the prestigious National Award in 2015 for his feature film *Enemy?* (Konkani, 2015) and in 2019 for the feature film *Amori*. (*Amori*) was his fourth film as writer and director after *Marmabandh* (Marathi, 2008) and *Calapor* (Hindi, 2015).

## Maharashtra- The Gateway to Indian Entertainment Sector

### Moderator

Uday Singh, MD, Motion Pictures Association (India Office)

### Speakers

Smt. Manisha Verma, IAS, MD, Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Ltd.

**Maharashtra- the entertainment colossus of India; the first state to have a single window for filming permissions; Mumbai-the first Indian city to make it to United Nations Creative Cities list under film category.**

**There are just a few firsts that the state of Maharashtra has been able to achieve in the field of Film and Media Entertainment (F&ME). All set to embrace the world of global cinema with its one of its kind comprehensive F&ME policy, Maharashtra opens its doors to all interested investors, filmmakers and entrepreneurs, going beyond the scope of simply providing fiscal incentives and location promotions. The sector's immense potential in terms of revenue generation and providing employment opportunities is sure to give returns to the State's economy.**

**Managing Director of Maharashtra Film, Stage & Culture Development Corporation Limited makes an interesting and soliciting presentation to line up investors in the state of Maharashtra and give an impetus to the infrastructure of Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagri also known as Film City Mumbai.**

### Moderator



Uday SINGH

Uday Singh is the Managing Director of the Motion Picture Association's India office, responsible for promoting and protecting the commercial and creative interests of Hollywood studios in India as well as those of the local screen communities. Uday has been on several industry- government working groups such as FICCI, CII, including the MIB Committee for the five year plan for the film sector. He has also been a jury member of the National Awards for the most film friendly state. Before taking up this role, Uday was CEO of PVR Pictures and prior to that, he headed the India operations for Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Group, responsible for managing and growing Sony's portfolio of local Indian language films. Under his leadership, Sony Pictures India was the #1 Studio for nine years. Uday began his career at Philips India where he held several positions spanning different product categories. Uday is an alumnus of Harvard Business School and also has a Post Graduate Diploma in Systems Management and Digital Business from Emeritus in collaboration with Columbia University & MIT.

### Speakers



Smt. Manisha VERMA

Manisha Verma belongs to Indian Administrative Service and is currently serving as Managing Director, Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Limited (MFSCDCL). Prior to that, she worked as the Principal Secretary Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra. She was a Mason Fellow and was awarded MPA degree from Harvard Kennedy School in 2015. She has graduated in History & Law from Delhi University. She has a master's degree in Governance and Development from the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex (UK). Ms. Verma is currently in the process of finalizing the country's first comprehensive Film & Media Entertainment Policy for Maharashtra. She is an ardent believer that when policies are made keeping in perspective views, suggestions and feedback of all stakeholders; they can become a successful vehicle of a long-term change. Ms. Verma is also working on the critical project of redevelopment of Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagri also known as Filmcity.

## Talent Development Footprints

### Moderator

**Sunit Tandon**, Director (India Habitat Centre) & Former DG IIMC

### Speakers

**Siddharth Roy Kapur**, Founder & MD, Roy Kapur Films

**Mr. Eric Falt**, Director & UNESCO Representative, New Delhi

**Ms. Dhanpreet Kaur** MD, NFDC

**Christopher Mack**, Director, Creative Talent Investment & Development

### Moderator



**Sunit TANDON**

Sunit Tandon is Director of the India Habitat Centre and President of the Delhi Music Society. Former positions include Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication; Chief Executive of the Lok Sabha Television Channel; Festival Director, International Film Festival of India; General Manager, National Film Development Corporation, amongst others. A prominent face on Indian television as a news anchor on Doordarshan and LSTV for thirty years from the late 80s onwards, he is also a radio broadcaster and has written music and book reviews. He continues to be a theatre actor, director and enthusiast, having directed over 25 productions and acted in about 200. Recently, he has done a few

film roles as well.

### Speakers



**Siddharth ROY KAPUR**

Siddharth Roy Kapur is an eminent film producer, the Founder and MD of Roy Kapur Films (RKF), the President of the Producers Guild of India and Co-Chair of the CII National Media & Entertainment Committee 2020–21. He is the former Managing Director of The Walt Disney Company India and CEO of UTV Motion Pictures. Siddharth's filmography includes genre-defining and critically acclaimed films as well as some of the highest-grossing Indian films of all time. RKF is a film and digital media production house. Its first film production, *The Sky Is Pink*, was the only Asian film to be selected for the Gala Premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in 2019, followed by the BFI London Film Festival and the Busan Film Festival. More recently, RKF's *Yeh Ballet*, a Netflix Original Film, released to great acclaim. RKF's upcoming productions include *Pippa* and an international series adaptation of William Dalrymple's acclaimed bestseller, *The Anarchy: The Relentless Rise of the East India Company*. Kapur has regularly featured on Variety's Top 500 list of influential people in entertainment globally and the Hollywood Reporter's Next Generation Asia Inaugural Class of Young Leaders, among numerous other accolades for his leadership and achievements.



**Mr. Eric FALT**

On 24 May 2018, Eric Falt assumed the position of Director and UNESCO Representative for the UNESCO New Delhi Office covering Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives and Sri Lanka. Prior to this assignment and since September 2010, he was based at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris as the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information, with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General of the UN. As such, he oversaw the work of the Organization in the political field, in particular relations with Member States, and coordinated activities geared towards civil society. He also guided UNESCO's communications and public information efforts. From 2007 to 2010, he served as Director of the Outreach Division at the United Nations Department of Public Information in New York. From 2002 to 2007, Mr. Falt was simultaneously Director of Communications for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), based at its headquarters in Nairobi, and Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) for Kenya and Uganda. Throughout the 1990's and until 2002, he served in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in Cambodia, Haiti and Iraq, and as Director of the UN Information Centre in Pakistan. Before joining the United Nations, Eric Falt was posted for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Chicago and in New York.

**The United Nations has set out their Sustainable Development Goals, NFDC has embraced them as an opportunity to reflect on nation's Talents. Talent needs to be nurtured with efforts in the direction of Skill Development and Talent Development funds can encourage a regional pool of senior creative talent, whilst also ensuring opportunity within the industry for those who may at present feel precluded from a thriving career within the sector. Can India explore this?**



**Ms. Dhanpreet KAUR**

Smt. Dhanpreet Kaur (MD, NFDC) is a bureaucrat in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, India (Ministry I&B) from 2019. As Director of Films, her mission is to ensure the National Film Development Corporation of India strives for continued excellence and fulfills its vision to create a domestic and global appreciation and celebration of independent Indian cinema.



**Christopher MACK**

Christopher Mack is Director, Creative Talent Investment & Development for Netflix International Originals. He was previously Senior Vice President of Scripted Content for Stage 13, overseeing all of the brand's original scripted series and development slates across multiple genres, including Emmy nominated Netflix series' *Special* and *It's Bruno*. Before Stage 13, Chris headed the Warner Bros. Workshop, the writing and directing programme for professionals looking to start and/or further their careers in television. Over a period of 10 years in this role, Chris curated a roster of close to 100 writers and 50 directors representing the breakthrough emerging voices working on high-profile television shows today. Prior to joining Warner Bros., Chris spent seven years writing on various one-hour dramas including *ER*, *The Practice* and *The New Twilight Zone*. After graduating from Loyola Law School, Chris got his start in television at NBC Studios as an associate and he quickly rose to becoming an executive.

## The Hills Are Alive with the Magic of Cinema

### Moderator

**Utpal Borpujari**, Film Critic and Filmmaker

### Speakers

**Moji Riba**, Filmmaker and Cultural Activist, Arunachal Pradesh

**Tribeny Rai**, Filmmaker, Sikkim

**Siddharth Chauhan** Writer, Director and Producer, Himachal Pradesh

**Stanzin Dorjai**, Gya, Filmmaker, Ladakh

This session aims to spotlight and bring forth creativity in the northeast and mountain regions of North India. Local stories that capture a unique flavour of the hill states, narratives that have travelled beyond the sub-continent and a growing fraternity are enhancing India's vibrant cinema culture. Over the last few years, Guwahati, Dharamsala, Leh, Gangtok, to name a few, have also hosted their own film festivals, which showcase the rich culture and indigenous talents while also giving a fillip to budding film-making communities.

### Moderator



**Utpal BORPUJARI**

Utpal Borpujari is a film critic and journalist-turned-filmmaker whose debut feature *Ishu* won the National Award in 2018 and travelled to a number of international film festivals. He is also known for several acclaimed documentaries, such as *Memories of a Forgotten War*, *Songs of the Blue Hills* (both selected to Indian Panorama of IFFI Goa) and *Mayong: Myth/Reality*. Earlier, as a film critic and journalist, he wrote extensively on global and Indian cinema, and won the National Award for Best Film Critic in 2003. He has also curated cinema from North East India in IFFI and other festivals. Recently, he completed a short fiction film titled *Xogun* (Vulture), and is currently developing the script of his next feature film.



**Siddharth CHAUHAN**

Siddharth is a Writer-Director-Producer based in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. Bold, quirky, exploring estranged human relationships, often diving into magic realism, his films find their inspiration in folk tales, local customs and his childhood memories of growing up in a rural himachali village. Siddharth has been discovering and working with the local talent in Himachal since past 10 years. After making many shorts, he is currently working on the post production of his first feature film titled *Amar Colony* (NFDC Co-Production Market 2018). Siddharth has also acted, line produced and served as a casting director for some well known feature films (*The Music Teacher*, *Kuch Bheegi Alfaaz*). Apart from filmmaking, Siddharth has a keen interest in architecture and interior design.

### Speakers



**Moji RIBA**

Moji Riba is a filmmaker and cultural activist from India's northeast and recipient of the Rolex Awards for Enterprise (Associate Laureate, 2008). Rolex recognized Moji for 'helping to preserve and document the rich cultural heritage of India's Arunachal Pradesh'.



**Stanzin DORJAI**

Stanzin Dorjai Gya hails from a remote village in northeast India, situated at more than 15,000 feet in the high Himalayas. Like other children of Gya Village, Stanzin had a semi-nomadic childhood, spending half the month tending his family's herd of yaks and cashmere goats, while attending school during the other half. In 1995, unable to pass the necessary standardized tests to complete high school, Stanzin began attending an alternative school, SECMOL (Students Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh). Dedicated to teaching students in a non-traditional setting (the students have built the campus themselves using environmentally-friendly materials) SECMOL ignited Stanzin's passion for film. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Jammu University in 2005. Later, he met Christiane Mordelet, a French filmmaker, and since worked in close collaboration with her. Together they produce internationally-acclaimed and award-winning films. The founder of the Himalayan Film House in Leh, Stanzin has directed and produced notable feature films and documentaries on regional, national and international issues.



**Tribeny RAI**

Tribeny Rai is a filmmaker based in Sikkim. She is an alumna of Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (India) and Docskool Clinic, Kathmandu. She has participated in the 8th VGIK International Summer School, held in Petrozavodsk (Russia), Producers Lab at International Rotterdam Film festival and Talent Campus Program at the 37th Fajr International Film Festival (Iran). Her production house Dalley Khorsani Productions has produced short films and documentaries.

## Celebrating IFFI 2020

### Moderator

**Vikramjit Roy, Head,** Film Facilitation Office (FFO)

### Speakers

**Shri Chaitanya Prasad,** Director IFFI and Addl. Director General, Directorate of Film Festivals

**Smt Anju Nigam,** Joint Secretary (Films & Broadcasting), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India

**Mr. Ravi Kottarakara,** General Secretary, Film Federation of India

The 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has risen up to the challenges posed by the pandemic to curate the best of Indian and world cinema. Being held from January 16-January 24, 2020, in Goa, IFFI is one of Asia's oldest and India's biggest film festivals that attracts film professionals, film enthusiasts and students from across the country. Presenting a rich catalogue of finely selected, critically acclaimed films from around the world, IFFI is a cinematic journey into diverse film cultures. Masterclasses, panel discussions featuring prominent film personalities and celebrities, both national and international, round off this annual celebration of filmed entertainment organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Goa, through the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), and the Indian film industry.

### Moderator



**Mr. Vikramjit ROY**

Vikramjit Roy is Head of the Film Facilitation Office (FFO), India's version of the Film Commission, set up in NFDC by the Ministry of I&B, to act as the single window mechanism that eases filming in India and promotes the country as a preferred destination for filmmakers across the world. As General Manager at NFDC, he has led the development and production of more than 20 films across 11 Indian languages introducing 13 debut directors. As Head of Marketing, a position he held simultaneously, Vikramjit played a key role in establishing NFDC's multi-platform distribution and monetisation label, Cinemas of India, building the global reputation for Film Bazaar and launching NFDC's OTT platform. An accomplished professional with 28 years of experience across advertising, media & entertainment and the public sector, Vikramjit has previously worked with McCann Erickson and Sony Pictures Entertainment.



**Mr. Ravi KOTTARAKARA**

Ganesh Pictures and Kottarakara Films, headed by Ravi Kottarakara, are oldest and reputed production houses. Inspired by his father's film 'Pasamalar', Ravi joined his production company at a very early age during 1978. Acted in several films, his never ending frenzy and passion for the film industry persuaded him to learn editing, cinematography, direction. He started to assist his father in all his film production activities. Fully involved in film production from 1982, 71 straight films were produced in the above banners in Malayalam, Kannada, and Tamil languages. Ravi has written & directed films in Kannada. Produced films that entered the National & International film festivals and won awards.

### Speakers



**Shri Chaitanya PRASAD**

Chaitanya Prasad joined Civil Service in 1991, he belongs to the Indian Information Service. Currently serving as an Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, he is Additional Director General (News), Prasar Bharti (DDNews), and also Additional Director General, Directorate of Film Festival. He has designed communication strategies on new flagship programs of the government and important policy initiatives since he joined the civil service. He has also served in several capacities looking after the publicity of key ministries in the government. In his earlier stint with Health Ministry, he had collaborated extensively with UN and international agencies such as UNICEF, WHO, USAID, UNFPA on policy issues related to Health and Development. He has been recognized as a key strategist for the communication needs of institutions, governments and policy practitioners. His areas of interest include Branding, Strategic Communication and Social media outreach.



**Smt. Anju NIGAM**

Smt. Anju Nigam joined government service after clearing Civil Services Exam (1987) and was allotted Indian Postal Services. She also served as Director in the Ministry of Food & Public Distribution Consumer Affairs. In 2008 she joined the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Hauz Khas as Chief Vigilance Officer. Since 2016 she has been working as Joint Secretary (Broadcasting) and Joint Secretary (Films) in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting looking after broadcasting and the film industry. After a stint in the field, she served in the Lucknow headquarters as Vigilance Officer. She was also in the Training College of Postal Service at Ghaziabad from where she moved to the Directorate, Dak Bhavan.