

Press Release

26th International Festival of Kerala - IFFK

Awards

FFSI KR Mohanan Award for Best Debut Director from India

To be shared equally by **I'm Not the River Jhelum (Be Ches Ne Veth)** directed by **Prabhash Chandra** and **Forbidden (Nishiddho)** directed by **Tara Ramanujan**

I'm Not The River Jhelum (Be Ches Ne Veth): Through the polyphonic confluence of Tagore, Faiz and Inder Salim; Lal Ded and Nand Rishi, the film invokes the human spirit of resilience and resistance against tyranny. In the process it becomes a *chhand*, a metre syncretism as the young woman's gaze pierces history's veil.

Forbidden (Nishiddho): A contemporary tale of the existential anxieties of exiles and yearning for human bond. A search for belonging as also the search for selfhood. The film, through its multiple layers, creates a metaphor of memory – the goddess' eyes.

NETPAC Awards

NETPAC Award for the Best Asian Film:

“For depicting the harsh life of the marginalised, the troubled relationship between father and son and their difficult journey through the stark landscape, the award goes to **Pebbles (Koozhangal) by Vinothraj P S.**”

NETPAC Award for the Best Malayalam Film:

“For showing the synergy between nature and humans, societal issues and bringing together documentary and fiction, the award goes to **The Arbit Documentation of an Amphibian Hunt (Aavasavyuham) by Krishand.**”

FIPRESCI Awards

FIPRESCI Award for Best International Film-

You Resemble Me by Dina Amer

FIPRESCI Award for Best Malayalam Film

The Arbit Documentation of an Amphibian Hunt (Aavasavyuham) by Krishand

International Competition Awards

Special Mention for Performance

Nina Dziembrowski for Camila Comes Out Tonight directed by Inés Barrionuevo (Argentina), for effortlessly capturing the inner persona of adolescents to bring out the resistance to an outdated belief system. Her etching of the character that believes in the mantra of 'right to decide' and its politics presenting varied emotions, and dilemmas fetches her this award.

Special Mention

Let it be morning directed by Eran Kolirin (Israel, France), for its satirical look at the political schisms between two nations that causes miseries in the life of the individuals. The film brings out the Kafkaesque drama in the life of ordinary people in an ordinary situation.

Jury Prize

Pebbles (Koozhangal) directed by Vinothraj P S (India), The external landscape becomes the object co relative of the human relations. The film's narrative brings out effectively the correlation between the harshness of the reality and the inhumanness of the relations.

Rajata Chakoram for Best Debut Director to:

Clara Sola directed by Nathalie Álvarez Mesén, Costa Rica for her treatment of the dichotomy between genuine spirituality and the selfish religious structures. Mesen succeeds in extracting restraint yet experiential performances from her cast.

Rajata Chakoram for Best Director to:

Camila Comes Out Tonight directed by Inés Barrionuevo (Argentina) for successfully articulating gender politics and body politics. The thematic and artistic amalgamation of the content and the form shows the director's command over her art.

Suvarna Chakoram for Best Film to:

Clara Sola directed by Nathalie Álvarez Mesén produced by Nima Yousefi, Costa Rica for questioning the traditional norms set by the patriarchal social order. The enchantment of an irrational universe which in its disturbing strangeness tells us both the beauty and the pain of the world.

Audience Poll Award – **Pebbles (Koozhangal) directed by Vinothraj P S produced by Nayanthara K, Vignesh Shivan**