

ECHO OF ARUNACHAL

RGU-hosted Film Festival gets underway



ITANAGAR, Mar 23: A three-day Film Festival being hosted by the Rajiv Gandhi University called Borderland Narratives with films from contemporary Northeast India was launched today at the RGU campus by lamas of the Itanagar Gumpa, who performed invocation chants as a way of blessing. 19 filmmakers representing the eight States of the region have arrived at the festival site to share their films and to have extended interactions with the audience. In his speech, RGU Vice Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha while elaborating on the role that cinema has on society said that films have the real potential for bringing out the 'post-truth'. "On the one hand, they bring out the practices and the truth from the past and from the existing cultures, and on the other, they also bring out trends to the people and we learn a lot from that," he said. Citing the example of the cartoon character 'Popeye the Sailor', he narrated how a film can be convincing just like the cartoon convinced and encouraged children to eat spinach instead of fast food. Sometimes, when we compare the impact that filmmakers have on audiences, we realize that films reach out as a very powerful medium. So we really need to salute the work that filmmakers do in the pursuit of their art, the VC said, adding that the University to the fullest would support this initiative of the film festival. Richa Negi, Regional Director, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, NERC, Guwahati expressed pleasure and gratitude to be a part of the important event, saying "it is a landmark in itself". "At the moment IGNCA is in the process of signing MoUs with various Universities all over the country to conduct study in areas of mutual interest", she said adding that the IGNCA was looking forward for long term collaboration with RGU. Prof Simon John, Director AITS and Festival Director said the aim of the festival is to bring the filmmakers from the region together under one platform. Introducing Borderland Narratives 2019, Festival Director Moji Riba saluted the filmmakers who are attending the festival and said that art has a responsibility to shape the way society evolves. He elaborated that the main idea of having the festival has to see how stories of our cultural heritage and of our lives in the present are narrated in new forms and innovative idioms. As part of the programme, Prof Kushwaha and founding Director of AITS Prof Tamo Mibang released the newsletter of the Centre for Endangered Languages as well as the festival booklet. On the opening day, films that were screened included 'Those Songs and Lullabies I Used To Sing' by Kombong Darang (CFEL, RGU), 'Loktak Lairembee' by Haobam Paban Kumar (Manipur), 'Nana' by TiemsumukAier (Nagaland), 'Songs of the Blue Hills' by Utpal Borpujari (Assam) and 'Ralang Road' by Karma Takapa (Sikkim).

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