

PRESS NOTE

“Our culture can never be consumed/destroyed by vultures”. Padma Bhushan Sri Gokulotsavji Maharaj expressed this while speaking as the Chief Guest at the inaugural session of the 25th UGC-CEC Educational Film Festival.

The three-day film festival is being held in the auditorium of Devi Ahilya Viswavidyalaya from Wednesday, March 27 to Friday, March 29.

Sri Gokulotsavji Maharaj appreciated the efforts of the Consortium for Educational Communication, University Grants Commission of India, in collaboration with Educational Multimedia Research Centre, DAVV, for organising the festival in Indore, the city of any artists and academicians.

He spoke about the transforming power of films which can awaken feelings, start conversations and shape minds. He said that film making was an art and the work of artists was to bring a ray of hope to the world, using a universal language connecting all together.

Festival Patron Prof. Jagat Bhushan Nadda, Director, CEC, New Delhi, in his presidential address, congratulated the Vice Chancellor for proactively promoting Digital Education and setting an example for universities across India by organising such events. He praised the university for its efforts to integrate ICT based tools and technologies for the betterment of its students, reflecting its attempts to live up to its name, following Devi Ahilya’s philosophy of continuously working for her people and leading them holistically.

Recognising the immense efforts being put in by academicians and educational technologists all over the country in the production of video content, Prof. Nadda announced that the festival has been revamped by introducing new categories such as “Best Innovative Lecture” and “Best MOOCs Award” under the banner of Innovative ICT Mediated Learning. “Best Amateur Video” Award has also been introduced to encourage young and upcoming filmmakers.

Prof. Renu Jain, Vice Chancellor, DAVV, thanked Prof. Nadda for giving the University the opportunity to host the festival during the Diamond Jubilee of the University.

She appreciated the efforts put in by CEC in organising such film festivals and acknowledged the profound impact of documentaries on life due to their unique ability to transcend barriers of time, space, and culture while fostering connections that bridge the gaps between us. She added that they challenged us to confront uncomfortable truths, question our assumptions, and to think of a world where empathy triumphs over indifference.

Festival Coordinator, Dr. Sunil Mehru, Joint Director, Software, CEC, New Delhi, Gave an overview of the festival. This year 19 films will be screened during the Award-cum-Screening of CEC's 25th CEC-UGC Educational Film Festival, to sensitize students and other stakeholders. These films have been previewed and selected following a stringent process by a team of eminent Jury. The winning documentaries of the CEC-UGC Educational Film Festival are awarded with a cash prize of Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand to 1 Lakh in 12 different categories, along with Screening Certificate and a Trophy. The films selected for citation will be given only screening certificates.

Festival Secretary Dr. Chandan Gupta, Director, Educational Multimedia Research Centre, DAVV, Indore, welcomed all the participants and awardees to the Festival. He also gave an brief account of the activities and work of the Centre.

Earlier, the program began with the lighting of the lamp and the DAVV Kulgeet. The inaugural session concluded with the National Anthem. The program was conducted by Dr. Yamini Karmarkar.

The films screened today were 'Parali: A by-product, Not a Residue' by Dr. R.K. Sohane, 'Baste Kitab Se Baahar Aaye Dhwani' by Seema Murlidhara and H.B. Murlidhara, 'Thiruvananthapuram Museum: Gift of Travancore - Through the History' by G.Prasad and V.S. Sudheer Ghosh, 'Ferns' by Dr. Roshan Perera and S.A. Kasun Sooriyapperuma, 'Millet: The Superfood' by G.S. Unnikrishnan Nair, 'Narseva Narayanseva' by Avnish Kumar, and 'Krishna Abhishkar of Basanta Raas' by Prof. Y Hemanta Kumar. Ten films are to be screened tomorrow.