ENGAGEMENTS

in Thiruvananthapuram

FUNCTIONS

[illegible]

CINEMA

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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Colourful start to film festival

Express News Service

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 10: The ninth International Film Festival of Kerala, IFFK 2004, got off to a colourful start here on Friday evening.

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy inaugurated the festival by lighting the traditional lamp at the Nishagandhi Open Air Auditorium. Noted film-maker Shyam Benegal, IFFK jury chairperson and Mexican film-maker Paul Leduc and veteran film-maker P.N.Menon were among the dignitaries who were present on the dias on the occasion. Cultural Affairs Minister A.P.Anilkumar presided over the function.

The inaugural ceremony followed a 45-minute cultural show.

In his inaugural speech, the Chief Minister said that the Government would continue to support the film industry in the State. Expressing his hope that the IFFK would act as a catalyst for the growth of good film culture in the State, Chandy said that the Government had decided to introduce insurance scheme for cine workers. He also promised an intense drive against video-piracy.

Anilkumar said that the State would continue the efforts for making Thiruvananthapuram the permanent venue of the International Film Festival of India. The State had made this demand earlier and the Government would keep lobbying for it. The State capital was the ideal location for the event considering the presence of the good cinema audience in the city, he said.

Expressing his heartfelt joy in participating in the IFFK this time, Shyam Benegal said that it was the once-strong film society movement in the State that groomed a film appreciation culture.

In a brief introduction to the festival, which will complete a decade next year, State Chalachitra Akademi chairman T.K.Rajeev Kumar said that the festival would have a new look from next year. He said that two new awards were being introduced this year, the NETPAC award for the best Asian film and the Neelaw award for technical excellence.

Cultural Affairs Secretary E.K.Bharat Bhushan welcomed the gathering. Kerala State Film Development Corporation chairman P.V.Gangadharan, K.Mohan Kumar MLA, Kerala Film Chamber of Commerce secretary Siyad Koker and Academy secretary M.K.Venkatesan were among those who were present.

The inaugural function was followed by screening of the film *Jesus*.

Theyyam performance in progress as part of the cultural show 'God's Own Rhythms' that marked the inauguration of IFFK in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday: Express

IFFK 2004

Bengali film-maker Shyam Benegal greeting Adoor Gopalakrishnan and his wife Sunanda at the venue of IFFK-2004 inauguration in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. BJP State general secretary P.P.Mukundan looks on: Express P.K.Gopinathan

Boycott by Left parties

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 10: The Left parties on Friday boycotted the inaugural ceremony of the IFFK 2004. As part of this, Mayor J.Chandra also did not turn up for the event.

The only non-Congress political leader who was present at the inaugural ceremony was BJP State general secretary P.P.Mukundan. Chandra told *Express* that she decided to keep off the function in protest against the UDF Government's attitude to certain issues.

The office-bearers of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) were also conspicuous by their absence from the inaugural ceremony. The Malayalam Cine Technicians' Association (MACTA) stole the show. The inaugural function itself was conceived and staged by it. However, the AMMA office-bearers clarified that their absence was purely owing to time constraints. ENS

Record number of passes issued

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 10: The theatres screening the hugely-in-demand films at the IFFK are bound to witness an unprecedented rush as the total number of delegates has almost crossed managerable limits.

Sources at the Federation of Film Societies, which issues the delegate passes, said that the number had already crossed 6000, an all-time high for IFFK. However, the Federation would continue to issue passes until the total theatre capacity was exhausted. The festival films are screened at seven theatres. ENS

Short takes

New system for telephone exchange

Thiruvananthapuram: Ambalamukku telephone exchange will switch over to a modern switching system from 5 p.m. on December 11. The BSNL said that there would be no changes in the existing telephone numbers, trunk booking facilities and other special services. More details can be obtained over telephone number 2434100. ENS

Women's College alumni meet

The first get-together of the alumni association of the Department of Psychology of the Government College for Women will be held at the Seminar Hall of the department at 11 a.m. on December 18. All the old students of the department, ever since its inception in 1976, were expected to take part. More details can be obtained over telephone number: 0471-2430742 or 2726104. ENS

Plea for special recruitment

The Kerala Region Latin Catholic Council has urged Chief Minister Oommen Chandy to conduct a special recruitment for filling the vacancies due to the Latin Catholics and Dalit Christians. The council said in a statement that a delegation of the council had met the Chief Minister and submitted a memorandum for the purpose. ENS

Seminar on data communication

The Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers will organise a one-day seminar on 'Data communication in wired and wireless networks' at IETE Golden Jubilee Hall, Pottakkuzhy at 9 a.m. on December 11. ENS

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സ്വന്തമായി അക്കൗണ്ടന്റ് ജോലി
കണ്ടെത്തി നൽകുന്ന സ്ഥാപനം ഏതുമുണ്ട്

സന്തോഷം അറിയിക്ക്

മാന്യരേ,

എന്റെ അമ്പതാം പിറന്നാൾ എൻ. ഗോപിനാഥന്റെ (62) പെരുന്നാളായതു കൊണ്ടും ഈ 11-12-2004 ആയതിനാലും ഇതിനിടയിൽ 11-12 ന് തിരുവനന്തപുരം വിദ്യാഭവനിലെ അതിരുകൾ വെട്ടിക്കൂട്ടുന്നു.

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