

# Sakal Times

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## 'Opium War' kicks off Asian Film Festival

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**Pune:** The Seventh Asian Film Festival kicked off in the city on Friday in the presence of director Govind Nihalani and chairman of the Asian Film Foundation Kiran V Shantaram along with film maker Kailash Surendranath, FTII director D J Narain and others.

"The festival has begun after a gap of two years and is a matter of pride for all of us as India is the only country to host an Asian Film Festival. It is a great opportunity to present our directors to other countries as well as watch and learn about the work of other filmmakers in Asia. We will soon expand this festival to other cities," said Shantaram.

Govind Nihalani said that

the festival is a growing movement, for film enthusiasts as well as filmmakers, directors and other artists.

"We need film festivals to move forward and take the next step. Besides being a platform for film lovers to come and watch hitherto unknown films and documentaries, these festivals also need to become a vibrant platform for interaction and proactive action on part of filmmakers, producers and others to create new films and spread knowledge of films through workshops," he said.

After the inauguration of the festival, award-winning film 'Opium War', directed by Siddque Barmak from Afghanistan, was screened as the opening film. The festival is being held in the city till December 29.



Anand Chai

**INAUGURATION:** (from left) Film director Kailash Surendranath, managing director of Hyatt Regency Gaddi Hassan, FTII director D J Narain, filmmaker Govind Nihalani, chairman of the Asian Film Foundation Kiran V Shantaram, actor Ashmit Patel, Festival directors Govind Thakkar and Satish Jakatdar at the inauguration of the Seventh Asian Film Festival on Friday.