

THE TIMES OF INDIA

(INCLUDES OF PUNE TRIBUNE)

24th December 2011

Asian film fest growing into movement: Nihalani

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: The Asian Film Festival is growing and spreading into a movement, said acclaimed filmmaker Govind Nihalani while inaugurating the seventh edition of the festival at Inox on Friday evening. "From Mumbai to Pune and then Kolhapur, I have noticed that the festival is spreading like a movement among the people. This is a good sign," Nihalani said.

"All over the world, film festivals are reaching the next level, that of becoming interactive and proactive for filmmakers as well as participants, especially by way of interactive sessions, business platforms and workshops. Therefore, it's good to consider such things, besides film screenings, at the Asian Film Festival as well," Nihalani added.

The event had in attendance chairman of the Asian Film Foundation, Mumbai, Kiran V Shantaram, photographer Santosh Salian, and producer



FTII head D J Narain (left) Govind Nihalani (centre) and Kiran Shantaram during the inauguration of the 7th Asian Film Festival on Friday

Kailash Surendranath, among others.

Organised by the Asian Film Foundation, Mumbai and Aashay Film Club, Pune, in association with the National Film Archive of India (NFAI) and the

Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), the festival will offer a bouquet of around 80 films from 25 Asian countries. Screenings will be held at Inox, NFAI, FTII and the MES auditorium in Mayur

Colony.

"This day is very important for us as the tradition of cinema that has been propagated by this festival, which could not happen for the last two years due to technical problems, has been revived this year. This festival is distinct in the kind of films it offers to cinema lovers and Mr Shantaram has been instrumental in helping us bring this event back on track," said festival co-director Virendra Chitraw.

Highlighting the significance of the event, Shantaram said, "This is the only festival in the country dedicated to films from all over Asia. The festival completes ten years in Mumbai, seven years in Pune and three years in Kolhapur, where the festival is being organised simultaneously. In the near future, we hope to organise it on a bigger scale by probable additions like Nagpur and Aurangabad."

The festival opened with the screening of acclaimed Afghan filmmaker Siddiq Barmak's *Opium War*.