



Amitabh Bachchan at Kala Academy on Thursday

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Golden jubilee connects IFFI, Big B!

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There are more things that connect Amitabh Bachchan to IFFI than we could have ever imagined! Speaking at the opening of a retrospective of his films at Kala Academy, Bachchan was effusive in his praise for Goa. "The wonderful people of Goa have shown a lot of affection towards me. Coming to Goa is always like coming home. My first film was shot here, and ever since then, we have had many opportunities to work at this beautiful place and

enjoy the hospitality here," he said.

He also pointed out how his film career and IFFI had both turned 50 this year! "It's been 50 years of this journey in the film industry that started in 1969 (with *Saat Hindutani*, his first release), and this is the 50th edition of IFFI as well! Each year we find a growth in the number of delegates that come here, the choice of films that are screened, giving us an opportunity to see the creativity from all parts of the world," said Bachchan before the screening of *Paa*, which is the first of six films to be screened here, apart from *Sholay*, *Deewar*, *Black*, *Piku* and *Badla*. "I feel deeply humbled and honoured to be here for this," he said.

NILA'S SHORT FILM ON DELHI AIR POLLUTION

Janice Rodrigues

Coming to Goa is like a breath of fresh air, literally, because Delhi is like a poison chamber right now, feels filmmaker Nila Madhav Panda. His short film on air pollution and what it does to a couple's lives is part of *Interdependence*, an anthology of 11 shorts on climate change, which was screened at IFFI on Thursday. Excerpts from a chat:

The film *Interdependence*, which you are a part of, is showing at IFFI. Tell us more about it...

It's an anthology of 11 short films that talk about climate change in different countries and mine is a story based in Delhi. It talks about the pollution there. It's a courtroom drama about a divorce that is taking place because of pollution.

DELHI IS VERY CLAUSTROPHOBIC... THE CITY IS NOW A POISON CHAMBER. THE OTHER DAY THERE WAS SOME BREEZE AND THE SUN CAME OUT AND YOU COULD SEE HAPPINESS AND SMILES ON EVERY FACE; OTHERWISE PEOPLE ARE DEPRESSED AND AFRAID TO GET OUT

— Nila Madhav Panda

Krishna Divkar

Nila Madhav Panda in Panaji on Thursday



Each of us had to choose our own way to tell our story.

Share your experiences of working on the film...

It is a very personal story, because my child had gone through the dilemma of not being able to go for his run because doctors advised us not to send our children outside. The Delhi smog is so bad that you are now shut in your homes and you're buying air; each room has an air purifier and that's how we survive. **Were you looking forward to this visit, especially since Delhi is facing severe air pollution now?**

I was desperately waiting for the day to come to Goa, so I could breathe easily. Delhi is very claustrophobic and you'll find it difficult to inhale the air there and this is what my film is about! The city is now a poison chamber. Just the other day there was some breeze and the sun came out and you could actually see happiness and smiles on every face; otherwise people are depressed and are afraid to step out of their homes. No country deserves this. Thinking of Delhi itself makes one feel suffocated.

Do you visit Goa often?

Twice a year is a must — one is for IFFI and then around New Year with my children. It's become a ritual. I consider it a blessing for an Indian to have a place like Goa, especially if you have children, which can be a lot of fun in Goa. There's no other time I would consider lazing around doing nothing, but Goa makes you do that.

How was it working on the film?

DOCUMENTARY MAKER TURNS



Vibha Bakshi

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