

FOR THE SILENT ■ About 400 Indian and 50 foreign delegates arrive

# Deaf film fest gets resounding response

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With an aim of fostering film making for the deaf, as a source for momentous preservation of deaf culture, the curtain raised up for the two-day International Deaf Film Festival- 2014, on Saturday, at the Tagore Centenary hall with a grand opening ceremony in the presence of noted dignitaries, from the country and abroad. The deaf students of Tiripur Special School gave a splendid contemporary dance performance to mark the opening of the ceremony.

The film festival being organized for the first time in the State has drawn the attention of as many as 400 Indian and 50 International deaf delegates. The two-day festival created a platform to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise the support for dignity,



The judging panel, Sakeela Leuenberger, Sangeeta Gala and Alias T Mathew, of the ongoing second Indian International Deaf Film Festival 2014, interacting during the fest on Saturday.

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rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Sixty silent films were scheduled for the festival, in which 45 were under the Indian category and the rest 15 were under International category. Five Malayalam

movies, directed by deaf film makers, were also screened for the festival on the first day. Around 30 films under the category of International cinema, country focus and retrospectives were screened on the first day of the fest.

Aided by an interpreter the festival chairman, M Murali, who is also the director of Deaf Leaders Foundation said, "It is as part of the serious attempts to dispel some of the stereotyped images the general public has of deaf persons,

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the foundation has been striving to create opportunities for these people.

"Working for the deaf community for decades and being deaf, I have understood that films have become a very strong platform for deaf people to communicate their feeling and ideas", Murali elaborated.

The special juries to judge the competition films were Sakeela Leuenberger, Charity World Switzerland coordinator, Bollywood Assistant director Sangeeta Gala and Cine Actor Alias T Mathew. City Mayor AK Premajam inaugurated and Congress leader PV Gangadharan presided over the event.