

Perception sweeps the Saraighat Film Festival



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The second Saraighat [Film Festival](#), organised by [North East](#) Youth Foundation (NEYF) and supported by [North East](#) Dialogue Forum (NEDF), concluded in Guwahati on Monday. Organised at Bosco Out Reach, Ulubari, total [ten](#) ([10](#)) films were screened, out of which nine (9) were in the competition fray. The tenth film was a photo real and was not considered for the competition category.

Judged by eminent film and television personality Tinat Atifa Masood and filmmaker Vijay Naidu, the short film titled Perception was adjudged [as](#) the best film. The film is being produced and made by the students of Dibrugarh University under the banner of Niyor Productions. Viewers' choice award went to the film titled We, which was made by the students of B Borooah College.

Apart from different schools, colleges and institutions of Guwahati, there were also participants from Shillong-based English and Foreign Language University. SFF's theme is mainly on issues of human [rights](#) and the themes of the films that were screened on Monday varied from child labour to school-life bullying.

Organised since last year, SFF is also a humble effort of NEYF to express its solidarity with Irom Sharmila's stand [against](#) Armed Forces (Special Powers) [Act](#), 1958, who has been on a fast since November [2](#), 2000 urging the government to repeal the act, which a number of civil body organisations have termed [as](#) 'draconian'.

The day began with a signature campaign initiated by NEYF. Titled [as](#) Repeal [AFSPA](#) for vibrant democracy, the signature campaign began from in front of Handique Girls' College and continued at several places across the [city](#).

"Sharmila herself is an woman and we felt that it would be good to begin the campaign from in front of a [girls'](#) college. During the campaign we also [found](#) out that a number of youngsters today is unaware of Sharmila, [AFSPA](#) or her demand for repealing it," [Ranjan](#) K Baruah, Convener of NEYF said while speaking at length about the Saraighat [Film Festival](#) and its signature campaign right before the [start](#) of the [festival](#).

"Through the film festival we want to chain together more and more youths and the young minds. The theme of the festival is kept simple and it is on human [rights](#) issues," Baruah further said, adding, "Through this platform today, we also want to put forward certain [demands](#) in front of the government. We demand that the [AFSPA](#) should be repealed [soon](#), the [MPs](#) of Assam and [North East](#) should raise the question of repealing [AFSPA](#) at the next session of [Parliament](#) and lastly, no civilian should be harassed, killed or persecuted under [AFSPA](#). To make our [demands](#) heard, we will also write the same in a post card and post it to the [MPs](#) of NE, requesting them to at least raise the question in the parliament."

Expressing her happiness about the quality and number of films received by the SFF at its second edition, Tinat Atifa Masood, said, "I am happy to see the number of entries this year. Although there is a lot to improve [as](#) per the quality of filmmaking is concerned, but efforts of these young people should be appreciated for they have come up with such different and vibrant ideas. I must thank the organisers of Saraighat [Film Festival](#) for hosting such a wonderful programme."

"It was good to see so many young people coming up with different ideas and touching so many delicate issues of the society. I wish them all the best and hope that the festival grows in stature in the years to come," Vijay Naidu said while delivering his speech.

Expressing their views, a number of participants also expressed their happiness and said that the festival has provided them with a platform, which they said they would use in a more holistic manner in the years to come. The festival was attended by around 60 people.

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