

CINEMATES

‘Cinematates’ is the Film society of ‘Political Science Department’. The aim of the society is to show movies/documentaries to the students on socio/political/cultural/environmental aspects and sensitize the students on the various glaring issues of our society and make them conscientious individuals. The movie/documentary screening is followed by an informal interactive discussion which helps the students to articulate on the social issues in the society and connect the narrative of the movies with our real lives. The objective is also to make the students empathetic and have a comprehensive view of life and help them to distinguish between the reel life and real life.

Teacher coordinators: Dr. Rouble Sharma and Ms. Alka Pal.

Movie screening of “Manthan” (1976) Directed by Shyam Benegal.

15th December 2022.

Mata Sahib Kaur Auditorium.

‘Pratibimb’ film society of Mata Sundri College for Women (DU) held the screening of the Movie **‘Manthan’ (1976), directed by Shyam Benegal**, in collaboration with **‘Cinematates’**, the film society of Political Science Department on 15th December 2022 in the Mata Sahib Kaur Auditorium from 1pm onwards. It was an Inter-departmental event and teachers and students from all across the departments were invited for the screening. The screening was managed and hosted by the Teacher coordinators: Ms. Poonam Sharma (Convenor of Pratibimb) and Dr. Priyadarshini Bhattacharya (Co – convenor of Pratibimb) and Ms. Alka Pal (Coordinator of Cinematates) and our Student coordinators: Divleen Kaur and Zainab of Political Science Department.

Manthan, also released under the translated title **The Churning**, is a 1976 Hindi film directed by Shyam Benegal and is **inspired by the real life story of Verghese Kurien who started the milk cooperative movement**, and is written jointly by him and Vijay Tendulkar. It is set **amidst the backdrop of the White Revolution of India**. Aside from the great measurable success that this project was, it also demonstrated the power of ‘collective might’ as it was entirely crowdfunded by 500,000 farmers who donated Rs. 2 each. **Manthan is the first crowdfunded Indian film**. The film won the **1977 National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi** and National Film Award for Best Screenplay for Vijay Tendulkar, and was also India’s submission for The Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film for 1976. The title song ‘Mero Gaam Katha Parey’ sung by Preeti Sagar, won the Filmfare Award for Best Female Playback Singer for that year. The song was later used as the soundtrack for the television commercial for Amul.

The story revolves around a male protagonist, Dr. Rao, who wants to start a milk cooperative society in a village of Kheda district in Gujarat where the villagers are being exploited by the Sarpanch and the middlemen of the milk distributing chain. The movie shows the struggles involved, through the interplay of different layers of caste and class and the power dynamics. By the end of the movie Dr. Rao is able to instill his vision in the villagers who then independently start their own Milk cooperative society.

The plot of the movie depicting the rural background and the different layers of village life was incredibly engaging for the audience. The story portrayed a realistic and a raw picture of the society, with which the students were able to relate themselves. The screening ended with a

vote of thanks and an engaging discussion on the various aspects which the movie raised in the young minds and how they were deeply moved by the resilience and struggles of the different characters who even after their falls never let go of their vision and finally won by the end of the movie. Valuable feedback was given from our student community, that more such visionary movies must be screened in future for sensitizing the young minds.