

# KOS MINAR INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY

FILM FESTIVAL | 20-22 MARCH 2026

Jindal School of Journalism and Communication  
O.P. Jindal Global University



**KOS MINAR**  
INTERNATIONAL  
DOCUMENTARY  
FILM FESTIVAL

*in collaboration with*



## About Kos Minar 2026

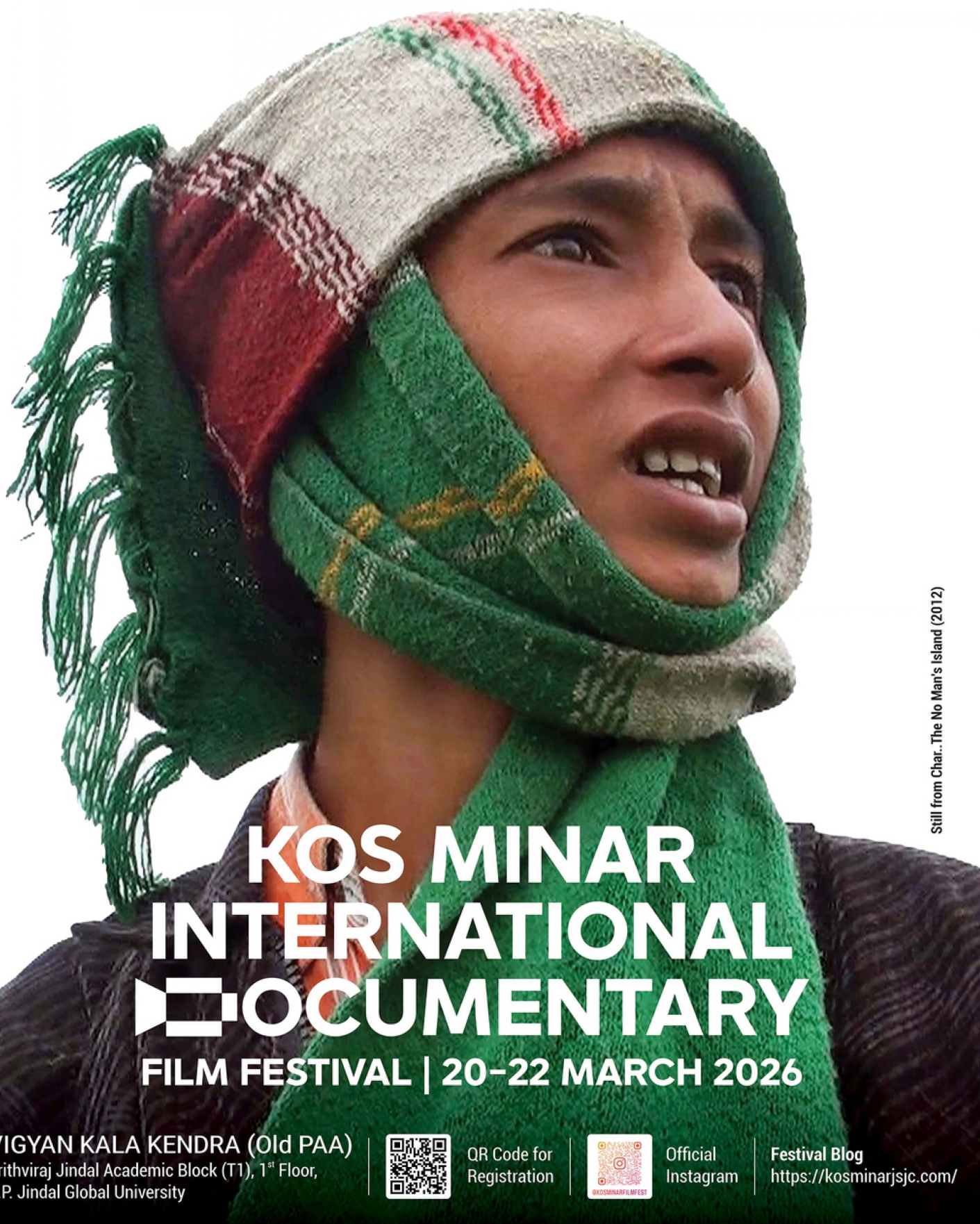
Jindal School of Journalism and Communication invites you to the second edition of the Kos Minar International Documentary Film Festival, to be held between March 20-22. This year's festival has been curated around the theme 'Borders'.

The festival will feature 14 documentaries from across South Asia, exploring borders in many forms, representing a variety of languages and cultures. This year's films explore the theme through a wide variety of lenses: land and rivers, the human and the animal, mythology and history, love and labour, music and sports, war and migration.

We are especially stricken by the sheer range of languages that these films feature—Bengali, Burmese, Dari, Dzongkha, English, Hindi, Kashmiri, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Pashto, Punjabi, Sylheti, Tamil, and Urdu—both representing the uniqueness of their cultures and transcending linguistic borders fluidly. We are also looking forward to screening the shortlisted films for our new competitive section of student films, and announcing the winners.

Thanks to our three festival collaborators— People's Film Collective, Film South Asia, and Docedge—for the wide range of documentaries from across different South Asian countries. Film screenings will be interspersed with conversations with the filmmakers.

Join us for three days of powerful storytelling and conversations that cross borders.



Still from Char.. The No Man's Island (2012)

# KOS MINAR INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL | 20-22 MARCH 2026

VIGYAN KALA KENDRA (Old PAA)  
Prithviraj Jindal Academic Block (T1), 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
O.P. Jindal Global University



QR Code for  
Registration



Official  
Instagram

Festival Blog  
<https://kosminarjsjc.com/>

# DAY 1 | FRIDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

SESSION I | 10:00 AM

Opening Address: Prof. Dabiru Sridhar Patnaik, Registrar, O.P. Jindal Global University  
Prof. Kishalay Bhattacharjee, Dean, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM : SHORT FILMS FROM PEOPLE'S FILM COLLECTIVE, KOLKATA



**AMMA KI KATHA**, 2023  
(My Grandmother's Tale)  
Director: **Nehal Vyas**  
21 mins



**NOOR ISLAM**, 2019  
Director: **Devshree Nath**  
20 mins



**SIEGE IN THE AIR**, 2022  
Director: **Muntaha Amin**  
30 mins



**COMRADE POOPY**, 2024  
Director: **Maung Sun**  
20 mins

SESSION II | 12:30 PM - 01:30 PM  
SCREENING (FILM SOUTH ASIA)



**MUKTIR GAAN**, 1995  
(Song of Freedom)  
Director: **Tareque and Catherine Masud**  
80 mins

SESSION III | 03:00 PM - 05:00 PM  
SCREENING (DOCEDGE) AND Q & A WITH FILMMAKER



**CHAR ... THE NO MAN'S ISLAND**, 2012  
Director: **Sourav Sarangi**  
88 mins

SESSION IV | 05:45 PM - 07:15 PM  
SCREENING (FILM SOUTH ASIA)



**THE JOURNEY WITHIN**, 2014  
Director: **Mian Adnan Ahmed**  
78 mins

SESSION V | 07:30 PM - 08:30 PM  
SCREENING OF STUDENT FILMS

DAY 2 | SATURDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH

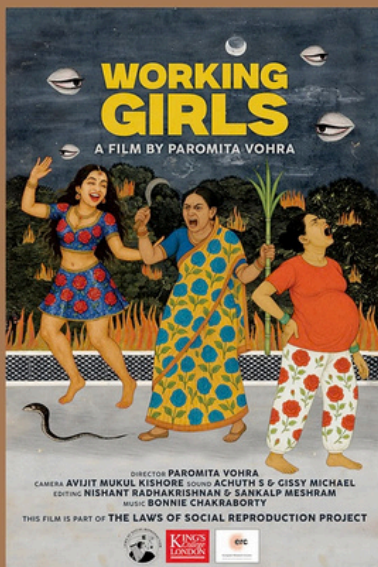
SESSION I | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
**PAROMITA VOHRA**  
Filmmaker



## BIO

Paromita Vohra is a filmmaker, writer and committed antakshari player whose extraordinary body of truth-telling, kinetic and intensely sensuous films, online videos, art installations and television programming, explore feminism, gender, desire, urban life and popular culture. She is the director of several documentaries including *Unlimited Girls*, *Q2P*, *Where's Sandra?*, and most recently *Working Girls*. She has written the film *Khamosh Pani/Silent Waters*, the comic *Priya's Mirror*, the play *Ishqiya Dharavi Ishtyle* and a weekly newspaper column *Paronormal Activity*, which she wrote for 15 years.



SESSION II | 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM

## SCREENING

**WORKING GIRLS, 2025**  
Director: Paromita Vohra  
133 mins

## Q&A WITH THE FILMMAKER

*Working Girls* is a vivid, genre-defying documentary that traverses India to uncover the invisible yet essential work performed by women – from care work and domestic work to surrogacy and sex work. Filmed in Kolkata, Mumbai, Shillong, Latur, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad and Madurai, the film meets domestic workers, farmers, mothers, ASHA workers, dancers, and organisers whose labour sustains society but is rarely acknowledged.

With biting humour, powerful music, and a deep dive into the histories of law and gender, *Working Girls* challenges dominant ideas about labour, value, and visibility.

Directed by Paromita Vohra and created in collaboration with the Laws of Social Reproduction project, building on their research, the film invites us to rethink what it means to work – and who gets to be seen as a worker.

DAY 2 | SATURDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH

SESSION III | 02:30 PM - 04:00 PM

SCREENING (DOCEDGE)



**BATTLEFIELD, 2025**

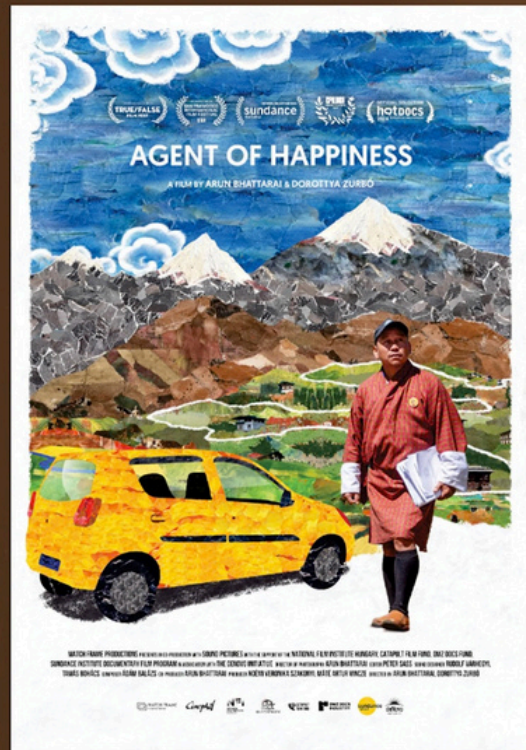
Director: **Borun Thokchom**

80 mins

Q&A WITH THE FILMMAKER

SESSION IV | 04:30 PM - 06:30 PM

SCREENING



**AGENT OF HAPPINESS, 2024**

Director: **Arun Bhattarai Dorottya Zurbó**

94 mins

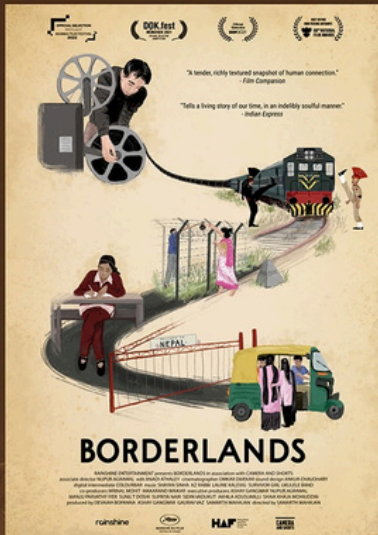
Q&A WITH THE FILMMAKER

SESSION V

07:00 PM - 08:00 PM : SCREENING OF STUDENT FILMS

DAY 3 | SUNDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH

SESSION I | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
SCREENING (DOCEDGE)



**BORDERLANDS**, 2021  
Director: **Samarth Mahajan**  
67 mins

Q&A WITH THE FILMMAKER

SESSION II | 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM  
SCREENING (FILM SOUTH ASIA)



**WHEN POMEGRANATE TURNS GREY**, 2024  
Director: **Khurram Murad, Thoufeeq K**  
37 mins

Q&A WITH THE FILMMAKER

SESSION III | 02:00 PM - 03:00 PM : SCREENING OF STUDENT FILMS

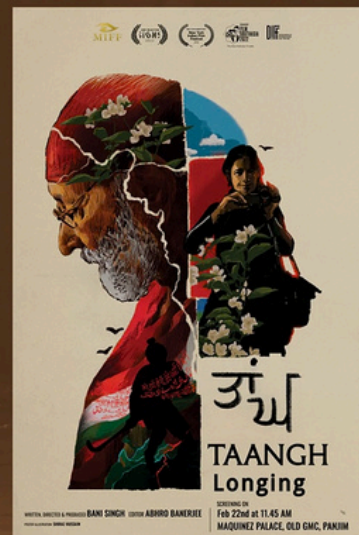
SESSION IV | 03:00 PM - 04:30 PM  
SCREENING (FILM SOUTH ASIA)



**6-A AKASH GANGA**, 2022  
Director: **Nirmal Chander**  
80 mins

Q&A WITH THE FILMMAKER

SESSION VI | 05:30 PM - 07:00 PM  
CLOSING FILM (FILM SOUTH ASIA)



**TAANGH (Longing)**, 2022  
Director: **Bani Singh**  
75 mins

Q&A WITH THE FILMMAKER

SESSION V | 05:00 PM  
PRIZE DISTRIBUTION OF  
STUDENT FILMS

# Meet the Director



**Sourav Sarangi has been a prolific editor, writer, director and producer across fiction and non-fiction film genres. He has worked as the chief programming officer in private television channels such as Akash Bangla as well as served as jury in several international film festivals.**

**His debut documentary *Tusu Katha* (1996) received accolades at international film festivals. His film award winning and critically acclaimed film *Bilal* (2008) has travelled to over fifty international film festivals. In 2012, *CHAR... the No-Man's Island* won the Golden Kapok Award (Best Direction) at GZ DOC, China, Best Documentary Award, ChopShots, Indonesia. It received a Special Mention at Dubai International Film Festival and Special Festival Mention - Jury at Bhopal International Film Festival in 2013.**

***Char... The No-Man's Island* crafts a deeply intimate portrait of Rubel, a young teenaged boy whose struggle for survival and desire for education collide with the harsh economic and political realities of growing up on a disputed stretch of land, where the rhythms of daily life are constantly shaped by uncertainty. The film is set in Char, a fragile and barren island that acts as the international border between India and Bangladesh and is patrolled by security forces from both nations.**

**Char...The No-Man's Land (2012)**

**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 3:00 pm**

**Followed by a discussion with the director**

# Meet the Director



**Borun Thokchom is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and television journalist known for bringing complex, powerful stories to life.**

**His debut film *The Silent Poet* won the National Award in 2011 and received recognition at several international film festivals. His documentary *I RISE*, produced by Films Division, has also earned multiple national and international awards, while his latest film *Battlefield* recently had its world premiere at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).**

***Battlefield* is a documentary from Manipur that excavates one of the most overlooked episodes of the Second World War in Asia: the Battle of Imphal. Shot over nearly a decade, director Borun Thokchom's work revisits the landscapes, memories, and personal histories tied to a conflict that shaped the region but rarely finds space in mainstream historical narratives. By grounding the narrative in lived experience and intergenerational memory, *Battlefield* becomes both a tribute and a quiet act of recovery and restoration of forgotten histories. Rooted in a regional context, it nevertheless questions the way global history is written, asking why certain battles are commemorated, while others fade into obscurity.**

**Battlefield (2025)**

**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2:30 pm**

**Followed by a discussion with the director**

# Meet the Director



Arun Bhattarai is an independent filmmaker from Bhutan and one of the country's few independent voices in documentary cinema. His co-directed feature-length documentary, with Dorottya Zurbó, *Agent of Happiness* premiered at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival, where it was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize.

The film went on to win awards at festivals including the San Francisco International Film Festival, Docs Against Gravity, the Margaret Mead Film Festival, and Biografilm Festival, and was also nominated for the International Documentary Association (IDA) Awards.

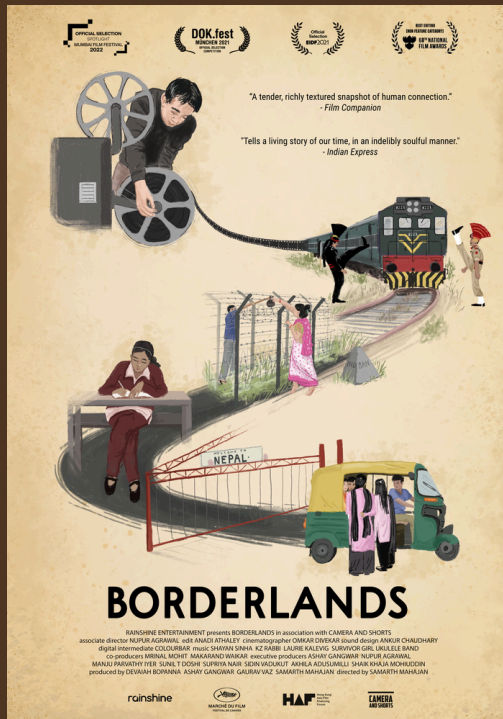
Happiness. An emotion so natural and so primal to human life that the Bhutanese government dedicated a separate commission to find a way to measure happiness and answer this precise question—how happy are the people of Bhutan? Across Bhutan's mountainous terrain, filmmakers Arun Bhattarai and Dorottya Zurbó trail a trained survey interviewer, Amber, on his quest to collect information for the country's Gross National Happiness Index.

A story of amazing compassion, *Agent of Happiness* blurs the borders beautifully between the loud excitement of life and the quiet, everyday moments that often go unnoticed, in the process drawing attention to the fragility and beauty of happiness.

**Agent of Happiness (2024)**  
**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 4:30 pm**

**Followed by a discussion with the director**

# Meet the Director



**Samarth Mahajan is a Mumbai-based filmmaker dedicated to telling human stories often overlooked by the mainstream. His work includes two National Award-winning documentaries – *Borderlands*, which explores lives shaped by India’s borders, and *The Unreserved* (2018), capturing journeys and stories from the general compartments of Indian Railways.**

**His projects have also been featured at major global film markets, including the Marché du Film, the industry platform of the Cannes Film Festival.**

***Borderlands* is a powerful documentary that quietly strips away the abstraction of “borders” and allows us to see their deeply human consequences. Set along the geopolitical edges of the Indian subcontinent—in India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar—the film brings together voices of individuals whose lives unfold in the shadow of these divisions. Rather than centering state power or geopolitical strategy, *Borderlands* turns its attention to the intimate textures of lived experience. Through quiet conversations and moments of reflection, the film weaves together stories of love, labour, loss, and resilience.**

**Borderlands (2021)  
Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 10:00 am**

**Followed by a discussion with the director**

# Meet the Director



**Nirmal Chander has worked in non-fiction cinema for over three decades as an editor, director, and producer. He has directed more than 10 documentaries and holds over 30 editing credits across documentary films.**

**A three-time National Film Award recipient, his acclaimed documentary Moti Bagh was India's official Oscar entry in 2019.**

**6-A Akash Ganga** is a meditative documentary that explores the reclusive world of the legendary Indian classical musician Annapurna Devi, a master of the Surbahar, who famously withdrew from public life for over six decades to preserve her relationship with her husband, the internationally-renowned musician, Pandit Ravi Shankar.

It stands as a powerful tribute to a "hidden" legend, proving that true musical genius can resonate deeply— even when kept behind closed doors. Appreciated for its sensitive storytelling and use of intimate interviews, the documentary won the award for Best Film at the Film South Asia festival, Kathmandu, in 2024 .

**6-A Akash Ganga (2023)  
Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 3:00 pm**

**Followed by a discussion with the director**

# Meet the Director



**Bani Singh studied at the National Institute of Design and began her career in furniture and space design before specialising in museum studies. She worked as a gallery visualiser and content interpreter at the Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Anandpur Sahib, Punjab, and later served as senior faculty at Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology.**

**Taangh (Longing) marks her debut film.**

***Taangh*, or "longing" is a poignant exploration of memory, friendship, and the enduring scars of the 1947 Partition. The documentary captures the raw emotions of a generation still negotiating with the trauma of loss and the persistent yearning for a lost "watan" (homeland). It serves as both a historical record of India's first post-independence sporting triumph and a heartbreaking meditation on the human cost of borders. Taangh won the awards for Best Documentary Feature at the 2022 New York Indian Film Festival and the Ram Bahadur Trophy for Best Film at the 2022 Film South Asia Festival in Kathmandu.**

**Taangh (2021)**

**Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 5:30 pm**

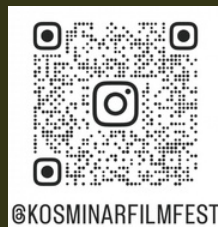
**Followed by a discussion with the director**

Register Here



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