

Fest of films by hearing impaired

BENGALURU, DHNS: You have seen movies made by hearing-impaired people, but have you watched one made by a deaf person in sign language?

Founder of the India International Deaf Film Festival, K Murali, asked the audience this question at the inaugural of the festival's fourth edition at Jain University.

The three-day festival, which began on Wednesday, will screen 35 international and an equal number of Indian movies made by deaf people in genres like documentary, drama, action and romance. Silent movies by hearing-impaired filmmakers have also been included. People from the UK, Hong Kong, Italy, Sri Lanka and India will take part.

A boy is not able to propose to his girlfriend because he cannot hear announcements in a railway station. Another boy feels left out at a family gathering because no one knows sign language. The



Students render the National Anthem in sign language at the India International Deaf Film Festival on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

movies depict situations like these from daily lives of deaf people, showing lack of inclusivity.

K Murali, founder of Coimbatore-based Deaf Leaders Foundation, explained in sign language, "We hear about people making movies and earning profits. We also have the skill to do that."

C Senthil Rajan, director of the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, who was

present, appreciated the foundation. "The government will partner with you to organise more such events," he said. Thirty deaf students from Adarsh College, Chamarajpet, made three films titled 'Transformation', 'Tribute' and 'Pride and Prejudice'.

The movies are being screened in the following categories - Deaf India (one minute), Deaf India (five minutes), India and International. **DH News Service**