

## Report on

### Special Screening of the Film "*The Goat Life*" at IACC

India Arab Cultural Centre (IACC), Jamia Millia Islamia in collaboration with the Muziris Keralam Festival organized a special film screening of '*The Goat Life*' on Friday, 17 April 2026 at the IACC Conference Room. IACC Director, Dr. Md. Aftab Ahmad graced the event as a chief guest while Dr. Abdullah NC and Dr. Sayyid Sameer from IACC, JMI participated in the event as post-screening discussant.

Dr. Ahmad inaugurated the event by thanking honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mazhar Asif and Registrar, Prof. (Dr.) Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi for supporting and patronizing such academic and cultural activities which enhance the debate and discussions among students and faculties. He also expressed his gratitude to the members of Muziris Keralam Festival for collaborating with IACC to screen a film that is based on a true story of a migrant worker living in the Gulf and is very much related to India Arab relations. He further highlighted that the event aimed to promote cultural exchange and deepen understanding of migrant experiences in the Arab world through cinematic expression. *The Goat Life*, originally titled *Aadujeevitham*, is a critically acclaimed Malayalam film directed by Blessy and based on the novel written by Benyamin. The film narrates the poignant story of an Indian migrant worker in the Gulf, bringing into light the themes of survival, alienation, and resilience.

Dr. Abdullah NC as discussant expressed his views by appreciating the cinematic adaptation by Blessy of Benyamin's acclaimed novel, noting that the film successfully translates a deeply internal and psychological narrative into a powerful visual experience. He also highlighted how the film transcends regional cinema to become a global story of migration, displacement, and human endurance. While Dr. Sameer emphasized that *The Goat Life* is not merely a film but a critical text for interdisciplinary engagement, relevant to fields such as migration studies, cultural studies, and

international relations. He also encouraged students and scholars to view the film as a starting point for deeper inquiry into the lived realities of transnational labor and the ethical responsibilities of storytelling.

The screening witnessed the participation of faculty members, research scholars, and students of IACC, CWAS along with members and guests associated with the Muziris Keralam Festival. The audience engaged deeply with the film's narrative, which vividly portrays the harsh realities faced by migrant laborers in foreign lands, particularly in the Arab region. Following the screening, an informal discussion was held where participants reflected on the socio-economic and cultural dimensions depicted in the film. The discussion emphasized the significance of such cinematic initiatives in fostering dialogue on migration, identity, and human rights within the broader framework of India-Arab cultural relations. The event concluded successfully, reaffirming the commitment of the India Arab Cultural Centre to promote intercultural understanding through meaningful academic and cultural activities.

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