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MSFDS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Conferred to Sr. Arambam Lokendra

Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS) is honoured to confer the Lifetime Achievement Award upon Shri Dr. Arambam Lokendra, a pioneering figure in the world of Manipuri cinema, whose enduring contributions as Screenplay writer, Actor, Filmmaker and film academician have left an indelible mark on the aesthetics and craft of filmmaking in Manipur.

Arambam Lokendra Singh was a key crew member in the realisation of Matamgi Manipur, the first Manipuri feature film, playing a pivotal role in adapting, screenplay-writing, and translating the script "Tirtha Jatra", the stage play of Aryan Theatre to the cinematic idioms when there were no ideas about the nuances of filmmaking in Manipur. It was a creative, labourious, innovative process. Acting in the film was a bonus, and the screen presence was just a part of the reflection of his intimate involvement in the film.

A pioneer of alternative theatre in Manipur, Dr. Arambam's work under the banner of Aryan Theatre and Forum for Laboratory Theatres have fearlessly confronted political violence, poverty, and ethnic identity through performance. His documentary on the seminal play "Pebet"(1985) introduced Manipuri non-feature film at the Indian Panorama section of Indian Cinema, considered the window to the best of Indian films. His research on Manipur's ritual traditions, supported by the Ford Foundation have preserved the soul of our performing arts. He was also involved in dubbing a Hindi language feature film into Manipuri language, rechristened it as "Umanggi Mee". In 2003, he produced an explosive documentary film on the Meira Paibee of Manipur, 'Soldiers in Sarong' for Ford Foundation, USA. As a retired professor and former head of Manipur University's Audio-Visual Research Centre, his legacy bridges academia and activism, making him a deserving candidate for this honor.

What makes Arambam unique is his continuous contribution to the growth and academic enrichment of Manipuri Cinema since its inception, where many, under him, have benefited intellectually, aesthetically, and academically. A visionary cultural activist, his insightful and scholarly approach has shaped the discourse around Manipuri films beyond entertainment. His tireless efforts in mentoring and training generations of young filmmakers and film enthusiasts through various workshops and lectures have borne fruit, as many of his students have today become the leading voices of Manipuri cinema at both national and international platforms. His passion, vision, and selfless contribution have laid the intellectual foundation on which the present and future of Manipuri cinema securely stand.

Born in 1939, Dr. Arambam Lokendra turns 86 this year. His life and work remain an enduring inspiration to the creative community. MSFDS salutes his artistic journey and invaluable contribution with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

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List of past recipients

SL.	NAME	EDITION
1	Shri Aribam Syam Sharma	7 th MSFA
2	Shri Lourembam Pishak Devi	9 th MSFA
3	Shri O. Biramangol Singh	10 th MSFA
4	Shri K Tomba Singh	11 th MSFA 2019
5	Km. Yengkhom Roma Devi	12 th MSFA 2020
6	Smt. Ksh. Rashi Devi	13 th MSFA 2021
7	Shri Laimayum Banka Sharma	14 th MSFA 2022
8	Shri Moirangthem Nilamani Singh	15 th MSFA 2023
9	Shri Ngangbam Swarnajit Singh	16 th MSFA 2024
