

First global women's film festival in city

By OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chennai, Feb. 18: Chennai, for the first time, will play host to a women's film festival to celebrate the spirit of International Women's Day, falling on March 8.

The festival to be organised by InKo Centre in association with the Women's International Film Festival, Seoul, National Film Development Corporation and Directorate of Film Festivals of India promises a rich haul of Korean and Indian feature films by women directors. Award-winning character artist Nandita Das would inaugurate the festival at Sathyam Cinemas on March 1.

InKo Centre director Rathi Jafer said the festival would also focus, in a section, on world cinema with films from Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Iran, Canada, USA, Austria, Norway and Burkina Faso being screened. Opening with Chitra Palekar's *Maati Maay*, a total of 82 films would be screened over a

week at Six Degrees, Seasons and Studio 5 in Sathyam Cinemas and the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce.

The films would play upon themes like the personal and emotional relationships of women, their struggles, their hardships and the inequalities imposed on them during normal times and during crises. Films, highlighting the success stories of women, would also be screened. Filmmakers, festival curators and specialists in film studies would introduce the movies and interact with audiences.

On March 8, in coincidence with International Women's Day, a one-day seminar, titled *Looking through the Lens: A Woman's Point of View*, would be held at Ethiraj college.

Delegate passes, priced at Rs 200 for the general public, Rs 150 for members of film societies and Rs 100 for students, will be available at the InKo Centre at Raja Annamalaipuram in the city, between 9.30 am and 5.30 pm from Wednesday.