

Coms. Sivaram - Sharmistha Memorial
Annual All India Lecture Program



WAR
AND
FASCISM



Chief Guest:
Anand Patwardhan

Date : 20.07.2025, 3.00 PM
Venue : Gandhi Bhavan, Bangalore



Central Committee
CPI (ML) Red Star



Comrades Shivram and Sharmistha were two of the youngest Polit Bureau members of CPI (ML) Red Star who departed us respectively on 28 May and 13 June 2021 during the COVID pandemic that ravaged the whole world for almost 2 years. Since then, Party has been commemorating them through specific programs every year.

However, the Central Committee of CPI (ML) Red Star held during 17-21 May has resolved to have an Annual All India centralised Memorial Lecture/Program for commemorating both of our beloved Comrades. Accordingly, this year's Memorial Program is scheduled to be held at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru on 20 July 2025 under the auspices of Sharmistha-Shivram Memorial Committee. Central theme of the Program is the intensifying threat of RSS fascism in India. Renowned film artist Anand Patwardhan will be the Chief Guest of the Program. Screening and discussion on his film related to the fascist situation of our country will be the focus of the Program.

All progressive-democratic forces are cordially invited to the Memorial Program.



Presided by:

Com. **R Manasayya**

Polit Bureau Member, CPI (ML) Red Star

Inaugural Speech:

Com. **P J James**

General Secretary, CPI (ML) Red Star.

Film Screening :

Vasudhaiva Kudumbakam

(World is Family) followed by

Q & A Session led by Anand Patwardhan

Concluding Remarks :

Com. **Sankar**

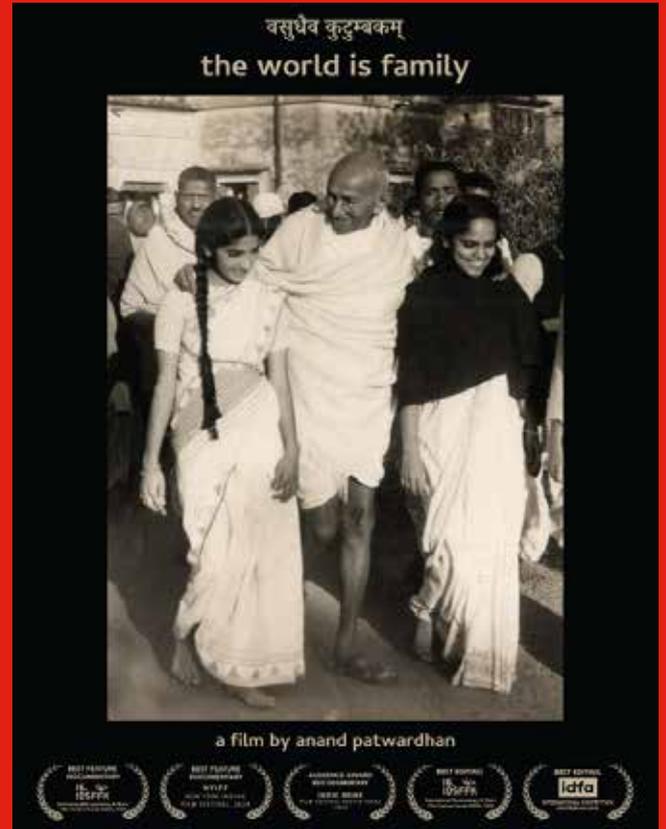
Polit Bureau Member, CPI (ML) Red Star

The World is Family

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam) | 2023 | Color | 96 min

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, a Sanskrit phrase meaning “the world is family” is a universalist idea that competes with dominant, exclusivist Hindu notions of caste. Anand grew up in a milieu that questioned the latter. The family’s elders had fought for India’s Independence but rarely spoken about it. ‘Liberty, Equality, Fraternity’, words enshrined in India’s Constitution, were subconsciously internalized.

As his parents aged, Anand began to film with whatever equipment was at hand. Soon birthdays and family gatherings gave way to oral history. Revisiting home movie footage a decade after his parents had passed, was a revelation. Today self-confessed supremacists whose ideology once inspired the murder of Mahatma Gandhi, are in power. As they rewrite India’s history, memories of the past have become more precious than mere personal nostalgia.



Anand Patwardhan

Anand Patwardhan has been making documentary films for over five decades pursuing issues at the crux of social and political life in India. Many of his films were at one time or another banned by state television channels and became the subject of censorship rulings that Anand successfully challenged in court. Active in movements for communal harmony and against unsustainable development, militarism and nuclear nationalism, Anand describes himself as “a non-serious human being forced by circumstances to make serious films”.