

Shah Rukh to support a young scientist's dream

The Shah Rukh Khan La Trobe University PhD Scholarship which was named after the superstar has been awarded to a young female researcher from Kerala. The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, which is in its eleventh year, will have a grand opening. The team organised a prelude event in Mumbai before their main event in Melbourne.

The Shah Rukh Khan La Trobe University PhD Scholarship was announced at the 2019 festival, which saw the actor as the chief guest. It has been dedicated to a female researcher Gopika Kottantharayil Bhasi from Thrissur (Kerala), who is working on farming practices through animal science, ecology and molecular studies. She was chosen from over 800 Indian

scholarship will enable her to travel to La Trobe in Melbourne, Australia, where she will pursue her dreams of helping to improve India's agriculture sector. I wish her well."

Festival director Mitu Bhowmik Lange is gearing up to make the 2020 celebrations just as grand. Continuing her passion to promote content and content creators who have pushed the envelope, she says, "It has been an overwhelming journey that has gathered strength from all quarters in the past 10 years. The content landscape has changed and it's heartening to see lines between commercial and independent cinema blurring. It's the celebration of great stories now. IFFM continues its dedicated work towards supporting diverse voices and cinema.



Shah Rukh Khan and Gopika Kottanthrayil Bhasi

women for the honour.

Khan, says, "I'm a staunch believer in education and I would like to congratulate Gopika. The way forward for everyone is to gain an education and there's never an end to learning. The key to empower women world over is only by providing them with education. I think education in India, or anywhere else in the world, is a step forward. Gopika is fortunate that she's soon going to be studying at La Trobe which is a fantastic university and I'm glad she's getting this opportunity to do a PhD on her research. I admire Gopika's dedication and determination. This

I am ecstatic about the initiatives we have taken, especially our association with La Trobe University, which takes us beyond what is covered under the purview of a standard film festival. We are looking at the growth of a community and taking the spirit of cinema to the masses. Having Shah Rukh Khan support a young researcher's dream is a step towards us collectively furthering our social responsibilities. All of us at IFFM wish Gopika the very best. We are equally excited to launch our Inclusive Filmmaking workshops that advocates true inclusive film making both behind and in front of a camera."