

NFDC–NFAI's Archival Preservation Brings Malayalam Classic "Kireedam" Back to the Big Screen in 4K

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Malayalam cinema classic Kireedam will return to theatres in India and overseas on July 10, 2026 in a restored 4K version with Dolby Atmos sound. The restoration has been carried out by the National Film Development Corporation–National Film Archive of India (NFDC–NFAI). The restored film is being presented by NFDC in association with Seven Arts International Ltd. and distributed by Hyzin Global Ventures.

The restoration highlights the importance of preserving India's film heritage. The original camera negative of the 1989 film had deteriorated and could not be used. However, the National Film Archive of India had preserved a 35mm release print for more than 30 years. This archival print became the basis for the 4K restoration.



Directed by Siby Malayil and written by A. K. Lohithadas, Kireedam stars Mohanlal as Sethumadhavan and Thilakan as Head Constable Achuthan Nair. The film is regarded as one of the finest works in Malayalam cinema.

The restoration included high-resolution scanning, digital image restoration and colour grading under the supervision of cinematographer S. Kumar and director Siby Malayil. The film has also been remastered with Dolby Atmos sound. The theatrical version was completed by Prasad Corporation in association with Hy Studioz, with Boney Assanar serving as Creative Visionary Head.



Managing Director, NFDC, Prakash Magdum said the film could return to audiences because a release print had been preserved for decades. He said the restoration reflects NFDC–NFAI’s commitment to preserving India’s cinematic heritage.

Director Siby Malayil thanked NFDC–NFAI for preserving the print and restoring the film under the National Film Heritage Mission. He expressed hope that both longtime admirers and new audiences would enjoy the restored version on the big screen.

The restored film had its world premiere at the 55th International Film Festival of India, where it received an enthusiastic response from audiences and filmmakers.

NFDC–NFAI continues to advance the Government of India's vision of preserving, restoring and promoting the country's rich audiovisual heritage. Through scientific preservation, digitisation and restoration, the organisation is ensuring that irreplaceable cinematic works remain accessible for future generations while reconnecting timeless classics with contemporary audiences on the big screen.

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