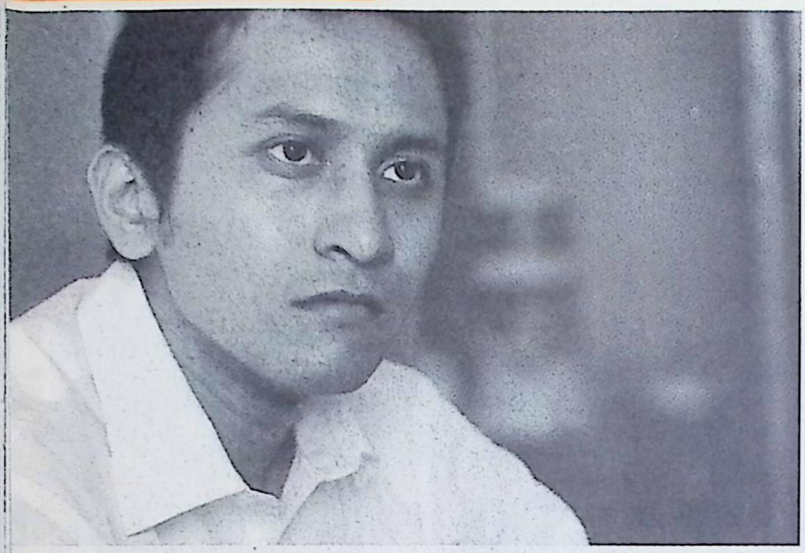


Sakib Ahmed

We need to make our mainstream industry stronger, as until that happens, the independent film industry won't be able to stand on its feet. If there's no mainstream media, there can't be an alternative media.

incomplete. Gradually, I realised that filmmaking was the profession that I wanted to pursue," says Oniket.

"I had ticked Film as one of my International Baccalaureate courses. So I went to my film class. In the coming weeks, we went to the Film and Television Institute of India to see films at the National Film Archives. Then came the day when we watched Breathless by Jean-Luc Godard. It was a revelation," says Sakib.

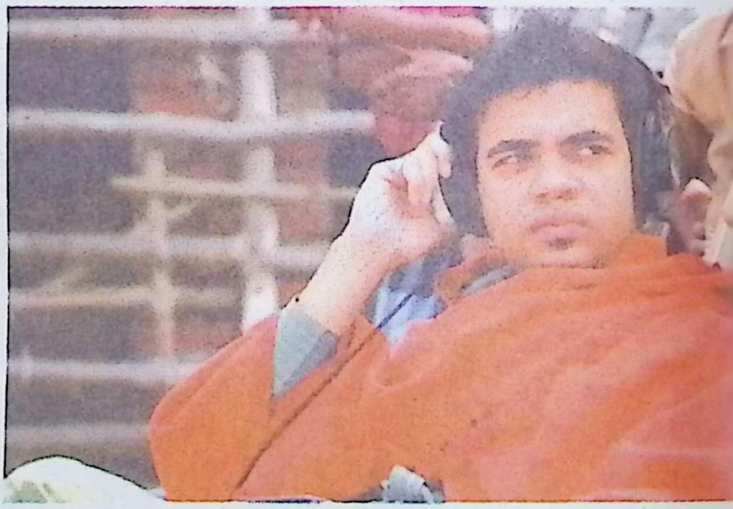
Sakib and Oniket both agree that the landscape of independent filmmaking has changed over the years. Chunk producers are coming in, says Sakib. Bengal Foundation is coming in with huge promise of 20 films a year, channel i is promoting around six young directors. This interest in developing independent films was not present three to four years back, he adds.

The media too has changed over the years, says Oniket. Earlier, people would think that it's impossible to make a film without releasing it on a 35mm screen but now a film can be made using a mobile phone, he says.

Despite the changes much needs to be done in order to develop the filmmaking scene of the country, they add. Sakib emphasis on the need for better actors.

"There are around 500 directors but 20 actors. We focused on infrastructure and now we at least have access to technology even if we can't yet avail the exact price range. Our next focus should be on committed actors who understand the craft," he says.

Even after developing our independent film market, we won't be able to reach viewers on a wide scale. It's like Iranian films, where the films are watched globally but not in Iran, says Oniket.



Oniket Alam

"We need to make our mainstream industry stronger, as until that happens, the independent film industry won't be able to stand on its feet. If there's no mainstream media, there can't be an alternative media," he concludes.

From TV to Films

Despite being a noted scriptwriter and director, Shibu Kumer Shill decided to foray into the risky territory of independent filmmaking when he realised that television was confining to a set convention and standards. Shill was always interested in filmmaking and thought that the media would be the ideal stepping stone to communicate with the mass.

"Once you start writing scripts and directing dramas for television, you limit yourself to certain