



Confluence Media Announces Feature Film on One of the Greatest Maritime Mysteries of Kerala

Kochi, August 18, 2025: Confluence Media on Monday announced its ambitious new feature film, MV Kairali—The Enduring Mystery, to be directed by acclaimed filmmaker Jude Anthany Joseph (Director of “2018”, India's official entry to the Oscars in 2024).

For Confluence Media, fresh off the success of Black Warrant, the prison thriller series that became one of the most-watched Indian series on Netflix, MV Kairali would be yet another milestone in its efforts to tell rigorously researched real-life stories to the audience.

The screenplay for the film has been written by Jude, American writer James Wright, and Josy Joseph, writer-journalist and founder of Confluence Media. The film draws significantly on the meticulously researched and emotionally intense book on MV Kairali's Captain, Mariadas Joseph, written by his son, Lt. Col. Thomas Joseph (Retd.).

Both the English and Malayalam editions of the book titled ‘The Master Mariner,’ published by Azhimukham Books, will be released in Kochi on August 25.

Jude said the film will be a tribute to those aboard MV Kairali and a cinematic effort to find closure to the never-ending mystery.

Jude Anthany: “If it had not disappeared, MV Kairali and its possible achievements would have been a crowning glory in the long maritime history of Kerala and a matter of immense pride for each of us. However, in a matter of a few days, everything changed; fifty-one lives disappeared, and numerous families were thrust into permanent turmoil. Many people have spent their entire lives in the hope that their loved ones will one day return. No government and no system can compensate for their losses. By adapting the story of MV Kairali into a film, I hope that my humble efforts will provide some relief to those families, offering reassurance that not everyone has forgotten their people. The movie will also be our tribute to those aboard MV Kairali. I hope that the movie will provide at least a cinematic closure to the never-ending search.”

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MV Kairali, a modern bulk carrier made in Norway and owned by Kerala Shipping Corporation, set sail from Goa on June 30, 1979, with iron ore and 51 people, including a woman and her young child, aboard. The ship disappeared forever after a last message on July 3, as it headed to Djibouti, from where it was to leave for the final destination, Rostock, in East Germany.

The turmoil that the disappearance of the ship set off was most felt in Kerala, from where 23 of those on board the bulk carrier came. Those left on the shore refused to accept the bureaucratic apathy and callousness, even as they battled financial hardships and trauma. Their relentless quest for answers set off a high-stakes investigation that uncovered layers of political, corporate, and international intrigue spanning continents.

The Master Mariner's author, Lt Col Thomas Joseph (Retd.), stated that he wrote the book in an effort to find closure for the general public as well as for himself and the Kairali families.

Lt. Col. Thomas Joseph (Retd.): "A 15-year-old child's experience with the missing ship Kairali was not only traumatic, but it also resulted in the irreversible loss of his father and mentor. For days, weeks, and years, the families remained mired in suffering and a dire financial situation due to the constant reports and media speculation that suggested the ship might have been hijacked. The Master Mariner is merely an effort to bring this terrible incident to a close after 45 years, not only for me and the general public, but also for those 49 families, many of whom still hold out hope that their loved ones will return."

The film, which combines suspense and human drama, promises to be an engrossing cinematic experience, based on rigorous research that spanned nine years. The story examines the human cost of institutional failures and cover-ups while delving into themes of bravery, resiliency, and truth-seeking.

Confluence Media founder and co-writer of the film, Josy Joseph, said his team has been researching for years to adapt the Kairali story into a movie.

Josy Joseph: "After years of research, our team has an authentic story to share about the MV Kairali, thanks significantly to Thomas Sir's well-documented book. There is no one better qualified than Jude to direct this film. Bringing the real story of MV Kairali, which is not limited to the

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ship, but extends to the tragedy of the families, to the big screen is both a responsibility and an opportunity to spark renewed conversations about accountability and justice."

Josy said they are in conversation with international talents to assist Jude in the venture, ensuring it is produced to global standards and becomes a worthy successor to his 2018 movie. Filming will take place across Kerala, Mumbai, and international maritime locations.

About Confluence Media

Confluence Media is a content studio dedicated to creating high-quality, research-driven stories across all platforms. It collaborates with prestigious studios and production houses, both within India and abroad, to create feature films, documentaries, and premium digital content that inspire and engage global audiences while fostering important social conversations.

For more information contact:

Gautam Datt: +918527819292

Anisa Draboo: +919582555009

Achie Humtsoe: +918130049943