

## **PATRIOT (2026): SURVEILLANCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND RESISTANCE IN CONTEMPORARY MALAYALAM CINEMA**

**Dr. Uma Rajmohan**

*Ed-Tech Director, NedX Academy*

### **ABSTRACT**

*Mahesh Narayanan's Patriot (2026), starring Mammootty and Mohanlal, is a socio-political thriller that interrogates the intersection of surveillance, technological misuse, political corruption, and resistance. Unlike conventional Malayalam blockbusters that rely on "superstar gimmicks," Patriot foregrounds systemic critique, situating its narrative within global dystopian discourse. This paper explores the film's thematic architecture—mass surveillance, technology as oppression, political corruption, whistleblowing, identity control, and the de-glamorization of stardom—while drawing parallels to canonical dystopian literature such as Orwell's 1984, Huxley's Brave New World, and Kafka's The Trial. Through comparative analysis, the study argues that Patriot exemplifies a hybrid dystopian framework, merging Orwellian fear with Huxleyan sedation, and thereby offering a cinematic reflection of contemporary anxieties about governance, technology, and autonomy. The film's refusal to indulge in spectacle underscores its commitment to systemic critique, positioning it as one of Malayalam cinema's boldest socio-political works in recent years.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Patriot (2026); Malayalam Cinema; Surveillance; Technology; Resistance; Authoritarianism; Orwell; Huxley; Dystopia; Identity Control; Whistleblowing; Political Corruption; Hybrid Dystopia.*

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