

ounders



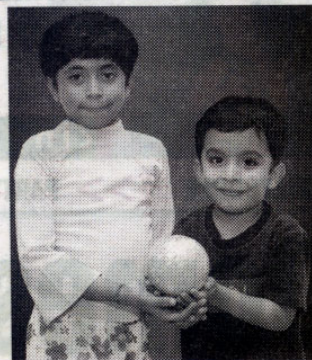
QUOTABLE QUOTE
 "Good is not good, where better is expected."
 —THOMAS FULLER

Fest echoes eco concerns

Filmmakers participating in CMS Vatavaran Film Festival gear up to spread climate awareness among kids through films

PRIYANKA BHADANI

THE ASIAN AGE



CMS Vatavaran was initiated a few years back to enhance the understanding of the natural world through films and environmental forums. The fifth CMS Vatavaran Environmental & Wildlife Film Festival kicks off today at the India Habitat Centre in the city and the organisation hopes to have a larger impact than the last editions.

Festival director Alka Tomar informs that this time it isn't only focusing on the concerns associated with nature, but is also trying to come up with

solutions. And thus, the theme of the festival progresses to "Climate Change & Sustainable Technologies" from "Climate Change", which was the festival theme last year.

She also says that kids have a major part to play in this edition of the festival. The major highlight of the festival, however, are the 22 parallel events that would be going on along with the film screenings. "We seminars and workshops to spread aware-

ness among kids, youngsters and people from different walks of life. These special events would be addressed by environmentalists. We also have special screenings for children, where 800 school kids would be participating," she says.

Interestingly, kids from the Sri Ram School have done the décor of the entrance with waste material. This initiative was taken to inculcate in kids the habit of utilising waste.

Madhu Bhatnagar, head of environment, Sri Ram School, says that the kids are excited to be a part in the conservation of energy. "I've seen an eight-year-old kid enthusiastic about making a film on cli-

mate change. With so much being written and talked about environment, kids have become really interested in the topic," says Bhatnagar.

Ishani K. Dutta, whose 20-minute documentary *The Land of Vanishing Lakes* has been nominated in the Environmental Conservation category, thinks that kids influence a lot both in making a project successful and carrying the legacy forward. Her film focuses on the vanishing lakes from the NCR region because of illegal mining. After the festival, she plans to screen her film at various schools. Filming the documentary was risky for Ishani.

"I'm happy that the final print has come out with an important message. I want to show the film to kids so that they understand the complexity of the subject. I believe that they will help the cause like the anti-crackers movement which was initiated among kids during Diwali and was successful," she exclaims.

Even Sanyog S. Mohite, a 25-year-old filmmaker, has filmed his one-minute film *Do You?* with two young kids. "The film is based on the relevance of plantation. I filmed it with kids to spread the message that if we inculcate the habit of a certain thing in kids, it remains forever," he says, adding that both the kids, Meetisha (6) and Yuval (4), have a regular habit of planting saplings.

