

# Green film fest theme is climate change

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**NEW DELHI:** The fifth edition of the Centre for Media Studies' (CMS) Vatavaran Environment and Wildlife film festival kicked off in the Capital on Tuesday with a vast gamut of national and international cinema on nature and conservation.

Out of the array of 106 films, 70 are from Delhi-based directors with themes ranging from man-animal conflict to the BRT corridor.

With an eye on the crucial climate change talks between nations a little over a month away at Copenhagen, Denmark, the festival's theme this year is Climate Change and Sustainable Technologies.

The five-day festival at India Habitat Centre will see the who's who from the field of environmental and wildlife conservation in India and around the world converge at the screenings and workshops.

"The idea was to mobilize awareness on environmental issue through films. Over the years, the festival has become an influential platform for the cause," said N. Bhaskara Rao, chairman, CMS.

This year the festival is abuzz about films both in the Competition and General categories.

Shot from hot air balloons in two films—*Amongst Tigers and Elephants* and *Rolling Dunes of Thar* (*Wild Adventures*—



■ The Vatavaran film festival at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, also has seminars and workshops on climate change.

SUNIL SAXENA / HT PHOTO

*Ballooning with Bedi Brothers*—on the Corbett National Park and on Thar Desert by Naresh Bedi take an aerial view of natural conservation.

Inder Kathuria's *In Their Elements* documents the lives of two villages in the Himalayas that harness power from the elements, and whose model, if replicated, can help thousands of villages in the hills.

Delhi's BRT corridor features in the film *Just Wheels*, by Mumbai-based director duo Faizan Jawed and Ashok Mundkur.

It visits 12 cities across three continents to examine how intelligent, sustainable public transport solutions can be successful

ly integrated with simple, non-carbon modes of mobility like cycling and walking.

In fact, the BRT corridor will also feature in a daylong workshop of environmentalists and experts who will also visit the corridor in south Delhi and analyse its pros and cons.

Apart from films, the festival also has seminars and workshops on various aspects of Climate Change and sustainable technologies.

On Tuesday, Dr Farooq Abdullah, union minister for New and Renewable Energy inaugurated the festival with a special award to Delhi-based documentary maker Krishnendu Bose.

## TODAY'S GREEN FILMS

### WHEN TO WATCH

Film schedule for Wednesday, October 28, 2009

### WHERE TO WATCH

Stein Auditorium; India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road

### WHAT TO WATCH



■ From *Chilka Banks*

1:15 pm:

### Scavenging Dreams



Duration: 28 mins 19 secs/Hindi/Jasmine K. Roy and Avinash Roy

*Scavenging Dreams* shows the plight of rag-pickers in Delhi.

2:40 pm:

### In Their Elements



17 m 26 s /English/Inder Kathuria

The film tells the story of two villages in the cold deserts of Lahaul-Spiti that have turned

around the elements, harnessing power from a solar-wind hybrid system.

3:00 pm:

### Reviving Faith

56m 39s/English and Hindi/Rishu Nigam

The mighty Himalayas are fast losing their pristine beauty. The film focuses on the factors responsible for it and the struggle of Himalayan people to save it.

5:20 pm:

### Lighter Burden, Brighter Future

31m 41s/English/Sanjay Barnela  
The film focuses on the potential of small-scale sustainable renewable energy programs.

6:15 pm:

### Amongst Tigers and Elephants

(Wild Adventures - Ballooning with Bedi Brothers) 25m 5s/Hindi/Naresh Bedi  
Bedi Brothers' wild adventure takes them to India's first National Park, the picturesque Corbett in the shivalik foothills.