

Three NE documentaries on environment competing in national fest

Our Bureau

SHILONG, Oct. 2 : Two documentary films from North East have been chosen to be screened and contest for the prestigious CMS Vatavaran Environment and Wildlife film Festival 2009, to be held at New Delhi.

Like previous years, this year too CMS Vatavaran 2009 received overwhelming response from filmmakers and nature lovers. The biennial competitive festival received 366 entries including 276 entries (in 16 categories) from 20 different states of India.

Also, 90 international entries (in nine categories) were received from 23 countries. Out of 366 films received, 106 (including 73 national and 33 international films) have been nominated for the prestigious CMS VATAVARAN awards and screenings by the 31-member jury headed by M. Veda Kumar, president, Forum for Better Hyderabad. The film festival will be organised from October 27 to 31 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, under the theme Climate Change and Sustainable Technologies.

Hailing the objective of CMS Vatavaran, Dr. N Bhaskara Rao, chairman, Centre for Media Studies (CMS), said, "Environment has become a nodal issue for everyone and it cut across all other issues. Through CMS Vatavaran several burning issues in our contemporary world pertaining to environment, wildlife, natural resources and health are highlighted and widely



disseminated."

Twenty states are participating in this year's festival.

In the state wise nominations Delhi has topped the chart. Out of 76 entries received from Delhi, 28 have been nominated for the final screening.

These films focus on diverse issues and have been nominated in 12 different categories. Interestingly, a large number of female filmmakers from the capital have participated in the festival.

In addition to Delhi 14 films have been nominated from Maharashtra and six from Uttar Pradesh.

International films

CMS Vatavaran 2009 received entries from countries all across the world, as compared to 20 when the festival received participation from 10 countries. Out of total 90 international films 33 have been nominated for the final screening during the festival. Maximum number of films have been nominated from the United States (5) followed by Canada and Australia (3 each). The films are competing in different categories.

Award money, trophy and citation

There are attractive cash prizes to be won in the festival. The award will comprise of cash entitlement between Rs 50,000 and Rs 1,50,000, trophies and citations. The total prize money is Rs 20, 00,000. Ten international awardees will get a trophy and citation. The award winners will be announced on October 30.

Three films from the North East have been nominated for the program. Information regarding the films, directors are provided below:

Assam (1)

Sesh Asha (The Last Hope) by Dip Bhuyan

The film highlights the issue of flood and need of conservation of animals in Kaziranga National Park. 'Sesh Asha' competed with several other entries in the category- Natural heritage conservation, to find its place in the nominated films.

Manipur (2 films)

1. Loktak The Lake in Peril by Rajkumar Robindro Singh

The film talks about the threat to the natural environment of the lake from human interference such as mega projects and deforestation in the catchments areas