

# 106 films nominated for CMS Vatavaran awards

## GUARDIAN NEWS BUREAU

SHILLONG, OCT. 3: Delhi is all set to have a wild visual treat for nature lovers this October as India's premier Environment and Wildlife Festival, CMS Vatavaran announced the much-awaited nomination results on August 17.

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 sixteen 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 Mr. M. Veda Kumar, president, Forum for Better Hyderabad.

The film festival will be organized from October 27 to 31 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi under the theme Climate Change and Sustainable

Technologies.

It is quite notable that 20 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 also participated in the festival. In addition to Delhi 14 films have been nominated from Maharashtra and 6 from Uttar Pradesh. National films are competing in sixteen categories including Environment Conservation, Nature, Livelihood, Ecotourism, Animation, Forest for life, Animal Conservation, Student film etc.

CMS Vatavaran 2009 received entries from 23 countries all across the world, as compared to 2007 when the festival received participation from 18 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 9 different categories.

There are attractive cash prizes to be won in the festival. The award will comprise of cash entitlements between Rs 50,000 and Rs 1, 50, 000, trophies and citations. The total prize money is Rs 20, 00,000. The international awardees will get a trophy and a citation. The award winners will be announced on October 30, 2009.

In addition, three films from the North East have been nominated for the programme. Information regarding the films, the directors has been provided below:

*Sesh Asha (The Last Hope)* by Dip Bhuyan.

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

*Loktak The Lake in Peril* by Rajkumar Robind Singh.

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