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The Meghalaya Gaurdian, Sillong

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CMS VATAVARAN, Environment & Wildlife film fest from Oct 27

GUARDIAN NEWS BUREAU

SHILLONG, OCT 21: The fifth edition of India's premier environment and wildlife film festival, CMS VATAVARAN will be organised from October 27 to 31 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. A total of 100 films from 17 States of the country and 15 different countries will be screened during the five-day-long film festival. The festival theme for 2009 is 'Climate change and sustainable technologies' and the focus area is 'Natural Heritage Conservation'.

Dr Farooq Abdullah, Union Cabinet Minister for New and Renewable Energy will inaugurate the festival on October 27 at 6.30 pm at Stein Auditorium. Naina Lal Kidwai, Group GM and Country Head,

HSBC India would be the guest of honour. Special invitees in the inaugural function include Anna Hazare, activist, Satinder Bindra, Director of Information and Communication, UNEP and Amrita Rao, actor (invited).

Home, a widely acclaimed film directed by French director Yann Arthus-Bertrand, will be screened as the inaugural film. *Home's* objective is to inspire global action by raising awareness of our shared responsibility for the planet and all of its inhabitants.

Through Indian and international films, seminars, workshops, panel discussions and exhibitions this green movement intends to take the green cause to

the masses. "As the theme of the festival suggests we are not just focusing on the grave problem of climate change but at the same time emphasizing on possible solutions in the form of sustainable technologies," says Alka Tomar, festival director. The endeavour seeks to be a people's festival on environment and wildlife to enhance understanding, appreciation and shift in attitudes on the natural world and its conservation through films and environment forums. As Dr N Bhaskara Rao, Chairman, CMS says, "CMS VATAVARAN is India's model of mass mobilization on issues like climate change and other environmental issues involving national policies and behavioural changes."