

■ ■ NORTH EAST ■ ■

Meghalaya Times

SHILLONG THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2009

Wildlife Film Fest on October 27

Our Bureau

NEW DELHI, Oct. 12: The fifth edition of India's premier environment and wildlife film festival, CMS VATAVARAN, will be organized from October 27 to 31 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

106 films from 17 states of India and 15 different countries will be screened during the five day long film festival. The festival theme is 'Climate change and sustainable technologies' and the focus area is 'Natural heritage conservation'.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Union Cabinet Minister of 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, will 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.

'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."

The five day long film festival will have a wide array of events including, 1. 'Confronting climate change-Towards carbon neutral Indian cities' on October 29 and 30. This workshop aims to spotlight how cities can cope with climate change in particular through the use of appropriate technology. 2. International Federation of Environment Journalists (IFEJ) Congress from October 28 to 30. The theme of the congress is 'Bridging North-South difference in

reporting climate change: Journalists' role in reaching an agreement at COP15 in Copenhagen.' 3. Workshop for media on Delhi's bus rapid transit system on October 29. The idea is to expose the journalists from other cities in India to the fact that BRTS is a low cost and smart solution to transportation woes and that it stands in sharp contrast to the capital-intensive and long gestation investment in Metro. 4. 'Communicating climate change' on October 30. The main aim of the seminar is to evaluate the effectiveness of climate change messages in promotional campaigns and the media. The seminar will be a launch pad for initiating the study and

stakeholder's dialogue on this pertinent issue. Various exhibitions will also be held including 'CMS environment exhibition on climate change' and 'Architecture for humanity' from October 27 to 31. A panorama of feature films (Indian and international), will be held at Stein Auditorium from 7 pm to 9 pm. The films include 'Age of Stupid' on October 28, 'Disneynature' on October 29 and 'Zor Lagaa Ke..Hajya' on October 31. 25 awards in 16 Indian categories and 10 awards in 9 international categories will be announced on October 30 at the Hub Lawns, IHC. The total prize money is Rs 20 lakh.

Delhi Chief Minister,

Shiela Dikshit will be the chief guest and Bob Hiensch, Ambassador of the Netherlands to India, filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and film director Jahnu barua will be the guests of honour.

CMS VATAVARAN is India's premier biennial competitive and traveling environment and wildlife film festival. It was initiated in 2002 towards raising awareness about environmental issues. The CMS Environment Forum and CMS VATAVARAN have ushered in a fresh green global consciousness on an extraordinary scale using environment forums and films. CMS VATAVARAN is an initiative of Centre for Media Studies.

CMS VATAVARAN is India's premier biennial competitive and traveling environment and wildlife film festival. It was initiated in 2002 towards raising awareness about environmental issues. The CMS Environment Forum and CMS VATAVARAN have ushered in a fresh green global consciousness on an extraordinary scale using environment forums and films. CMS VATAVARAN is an initiative of Centre for Media Studies.

CMS VATAVARAN is India's premier biennial competitive and traveling environment and wildlife film festival. It was initiated in 2002 towards raising awareness about environmental issues. The CMS Environment Forum and CMS VATAVARAN have ushered in a fresh green global consciousness on an extraordinary scale using environment forums and films. CMS VATAVARAN is an initiative of Centre for Media Studies.