

Taking the green cause to the masses

Country's premier environment film festival begins in the Capital today

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NEW DELHI: The fifth edition of the country's premier environment and wildlife film festival, CMS-Vatavaran, opens at India Habitat Centre here this Tuesday.

Over a hundred films from 17 States and 15 countries will be screened during the five-day festival. The theme this year is "Climate change and sustainable technologies" and the focus area is natural heritage conservation.

Through Indian and foreign films, seminars, workshops, panel discussion 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 emphasising on possible solutions in the form of sustainable technologies," said festival director Alka Tomar.

The aim is to turn it into a people's festival on environment and wildlife to enhance public understanding, appreciation and shift in attitudes to the natural world and its conservation through films and environment forums.

"CMS-Vatavaran is India's model of mass mobilisation on issues like climate change and other

environment issues involving national policies and behavioural changes," said CMS chairman N. Bhaskara Rao.

The festival's inaugural film, *Home*, is by widely acclaimed French director Yann Arthus-Bertrand. The objective according to its maker is to inspire global action by raising awareness of our shared responsibility for the planet and all of its inhabitants.

The festival will also host a wide array of events including a workshop aimed at understanding how cities can cope with climate change in particular through use of appropriate technology.