



Ministry of Environment, Forest  
and Climate Change



Punjab State Council for  
Science & Technology



# Punjab State Council for Science & Technology

Under the **ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

*Presents*

## ENVIRONMENT FILM FESTIVAL & FORUM ON LiFE

*in collaboration with*

**CMS vatavaran**

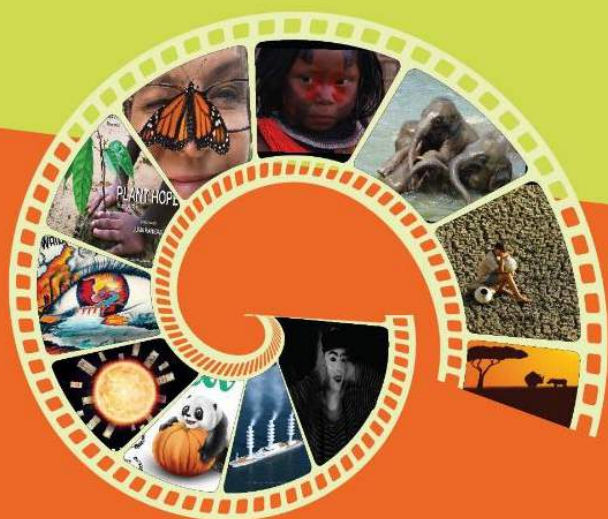
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**Panjab University, Chandigarh**

*Supported by*

**Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GoI**

**March 20-22, 2024 | Chandigarh, Punjab**



## FESTIVAL REPORT

BIODIVERSITY



ENVIRONMENT



LAND



WATER



REDUCE  
REUSE  
RECYCLE

[www.pscst.punjab.gov.in](http://www.pscst.punjab.gov.in)

[www.cmsvatavaran.org](http://www.cmsvatavaran.org)



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## Executive Summary

The Punjab State Council for Science & Technology (PSCST), in collaboration with the Centre for Media Studies (CMS VATAVARAN) and Panjab University, organized a Film Festival & Forum on LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment) from March 20-22. This event, part of the Environment Education Programme (EEP), was hosted at the Rajendra Mathur Auditorium, Panjab University. Over three days, the festival showcased award-winning national and international films focusing on various aspects of LiFE, aiming to encourage eco-friendly lifestyles among individuals.

Organized under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, with PSCST as the state nodal agency in Punjab, the festival brought together a diverse audience, including students, youth, policy-makers, government officials, and media representatives. The primary objective was to promote eco-friendly lifestyle changes.

The festival commenced with an inaugural ceremony graced by Dr. Kulbir Singh Bath, Joint Director of PSCST; Dr. Rajat Sandhir, Principal Investigator, North Region S&T cluster (PI-RAHI) PU; and Mr. Sabyesachi Bharti, Deputy Director of CMS VATAVARAN. Over the course of the festival, 16 national and international award-winning feature and documentary films were screened, addressing environmental issues such as climate change, wildlife conservation, water conservation, forest conservation, and sustainable livelihoods.

Highlights included the National Award-winning film "**Turtle**," which opened the festival and addressed rural India's environmental challenges. The closing day featured "**Kadvi Hawa**," directed by Nila Madhab Panda, depicting the stark realities of climate change. Other notable films screened were "**Kalira Atita: Yesterday's Past**" and "**Kalichaat**," exploring themes of human resilience and agricultural distress. The festival's closing highlight was "**Gyamo: Queen of the Mountains**" by Gautam Pandey, leaving a lasting impact on the audience with its conservation message.

The festival also featured an on-the-spot painting competition with 45 young artists and a MOJO filmmaking workshop led by filmmaker Gautam Pandey, attended by 58 participants. Both segments concluded with the distribution of awards and certificates, emphasizing the festival's commitment to promoting environmental awareness through creativity and storytelling.

Distinguished guests, including **Dr. Jatinder Kaur Arora**, Executive Director of PSCST; **Professor Dr. Renu Vig**, Vice-Chancellor of Panjab University; and **Dr. Kulbir Singh Bath**, Joint Director of PSCST, attended the closing ceremony, underscoring the importance of environmental education and advocacy.

Approximately 1,000 individuals, including students, the general public, and civil society members, participated in the festival, which aimed to inspire and educate attendees on positively impacting the environment and contributing to a sustainable future.

## Registration

The registration process for the three-day green festival witnessed enthusiastic participation from a diverse array of attendees. Students from various departments of Panjab University, as well as those from other schools, organizations, and civil society, showed significant interest in the event.

On the first day alone, over 300 individuals utilized the on-spot registration facility. Further details on the registration process are provided in Annex 1.

The high level of interest and engagement from participants underscores a growing awareness and concern regarding environmental issues and the importance of proactive steps towards sustainable living.

The diverse range of participants, spanning different academic and social backgrounds, highlights the broad appeal of initiatives aimed at promoting environmentally responsible behaviour and practices.

The registration process played a crucial role in fostering a community of like-minded individuals committed to making a positive impact on the environment.







## Inaugural Ceremony

The festival commenced with a warm welcome address and introduction by Mr. Sabyesachi Bharati, Deputy Director of CMS VATAVARAN. He outlined the festival program, setting the tone for the exciting three-day event.

The opening ceremony began with a symbolic plant watering, emphasizing the festival's commitment to environmental conservation. This meaningful act was performed by the distinguished guests **Dr. Kulbir Singh Bath**, Joint Director of PSCST; **Dr. Rajat Sandhir**, Principal Investigator, North Region S&T Cluster (PI-RAHI) PU; and **Mr. Sabyesachi Bharati**, Deputy Director of CMS VATAVARAN.





As the Chief Guest, Dr. Kulbir Singh Bath expressed PSCST's commitment to environmental awareness and praised the festival's focus on environmental issues and its potential to inspire action. He stated, "It is heartening to see a platform like this, which is creating awareness about environmental issues through the medium of film. Such events not only highlight the challenges but also create hope for a better future."



The inauguration ceremony featured the screening of the **National Award-winning film "Turtle,"** directed by critically acclaimed Indian filmmaker Mr. Dinesh Yadav. Following the screening, Mr. Yadav participated in a Q&A session, where attendees had the opportunity to engage with him and ask various questions.





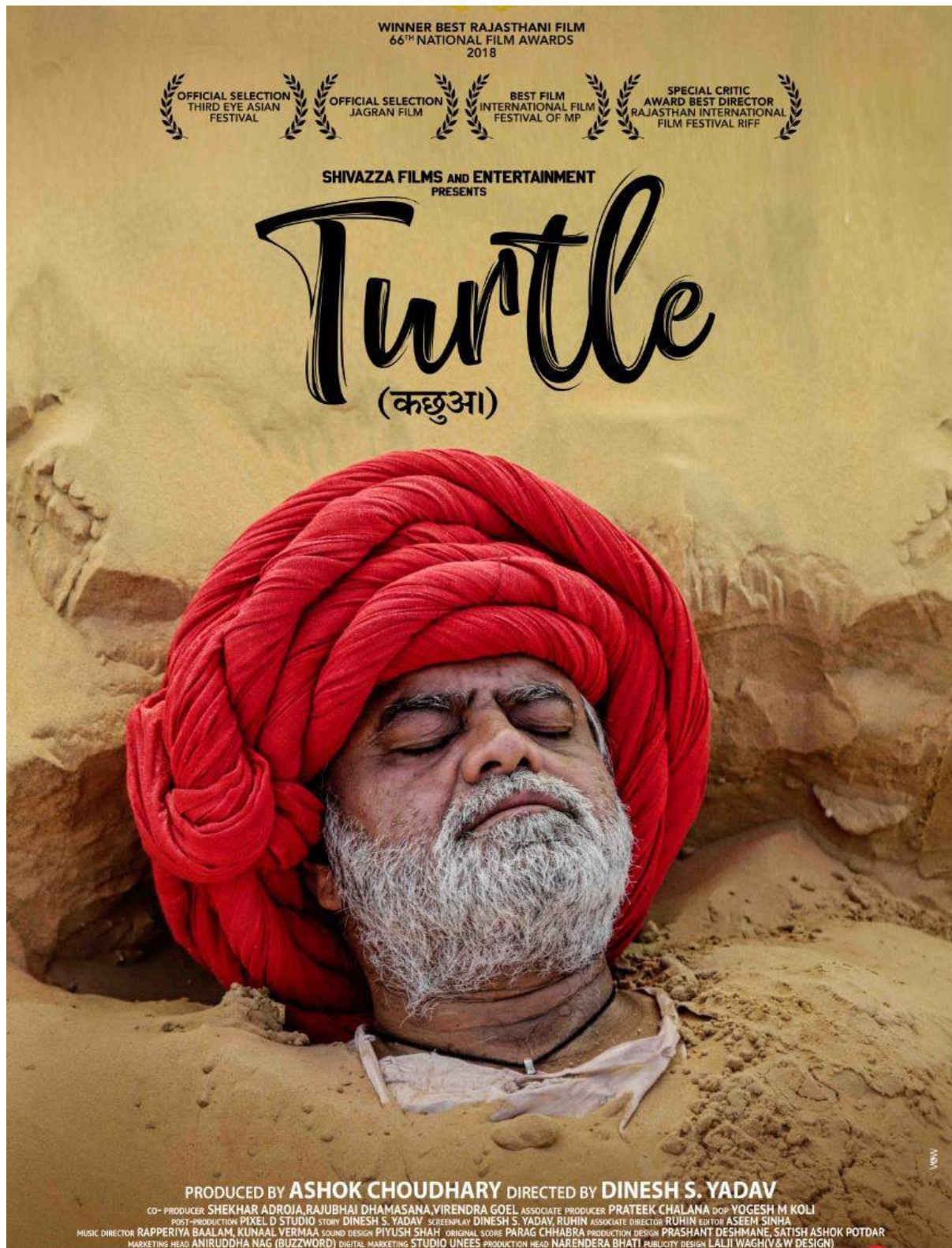




## Thematic Film Screenings During the Festival

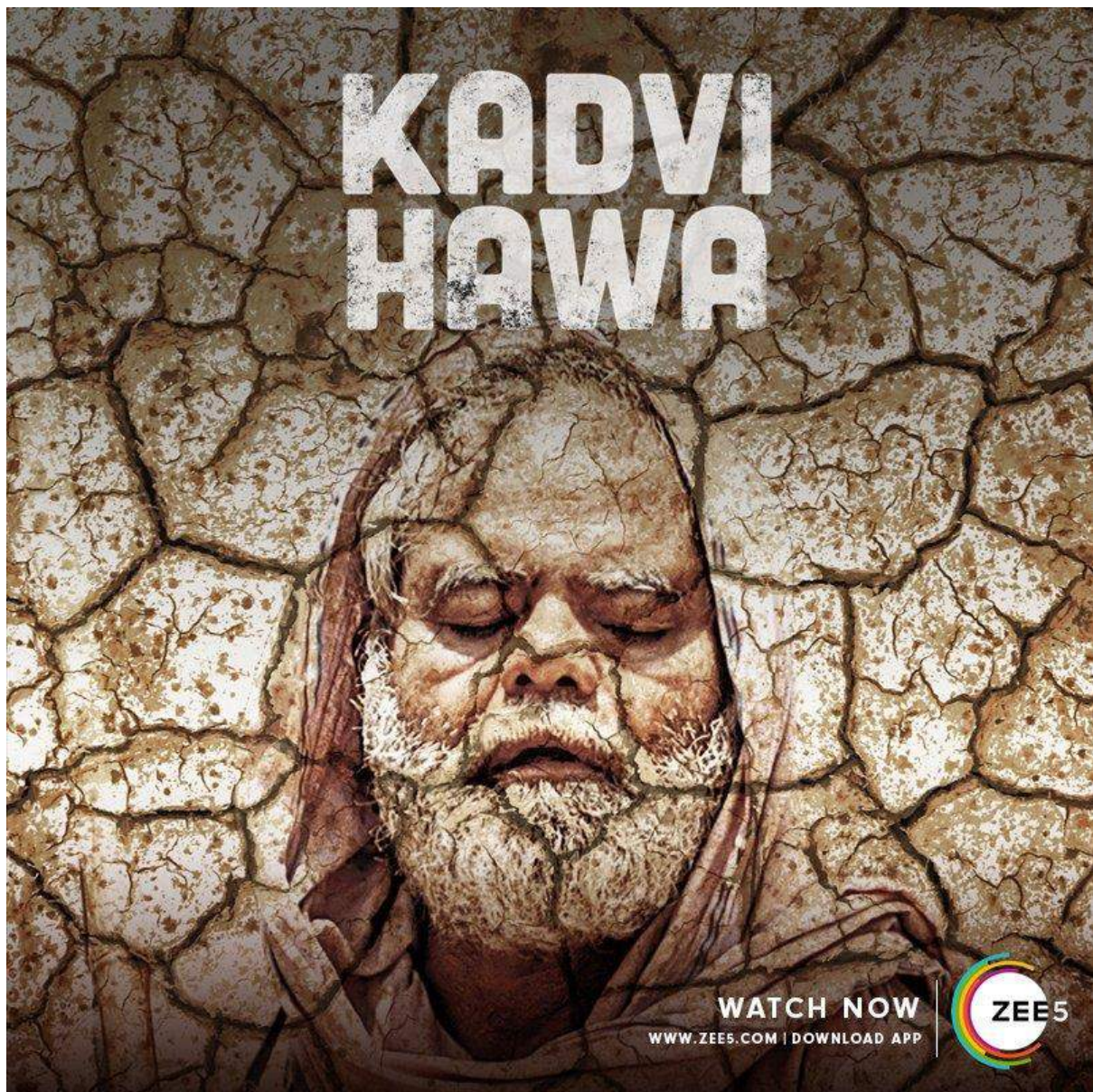
SCREENING SCHEDULE	
DAY 1, MARCH 20, 2024	
Law Auditorium	UBS Auditorium
10:00 am - 10:30 am REGISTRATION	
10:30 am - 11:00 am INAUGURAL	
11:15 am - 01:00 pm	
<b>Turtle (Feature Film)</b> 01:15:40   Hindi   Dinesh S Yadav   India <b>Elephants in my Backyard</b> 00:25:42   English   Vikram Singh   India	MOJO Filmmaking Workshop
01:00 pm - 02:00 pm LUNCH BREAK	
02:00 pm - 05:00 pm	
<b>The Climate Challenge</b> 00:24:33   English   Rakesh Rao   India <b>Lakshman-Rekha (The lines that Lakshman drew)</b> 00:59:53   Nandan Saxena, Kavita Bahal   Hindi & Rajasthani   India <b>Arsenic- The Creeping Killer</b> 00:29:00   Andreas Ewels & Norbert Porta   English   Germany <b>Holy (un) Holy River</b> 00:59:52   Jake Norton & Pete McBride   English   USA	MOJO Filmmaking Workshop
DAY 2, MARCH 21, 2024	
Law Auditorium	UBS Auditorium
10:00 am - 10:30 am REGISTRATION	
10:30 am - 01:00 pm	
<b>Kalichaat (Feature Film)</b> 01:10:12   Hindi, Malwi   Sudhanshu Sharma   India <b>Kokota-The Islet of Hope</b> 00:29:02   English, Swahili   Craig Norris   Canada <b>Jharia</b> 00:28:02   Hindi   Biju Toppo   India	MOJO Filmmaking Workshop
01:00 pm - 02:00 pm LUNCH BREAK	
02:00 pm - 05:00 pm	
<b>UseLess #</b> 00:50:00   Rakel Gardarsdottir & Ágústa M. Olafsdottir   English   Iceland <b>Kalira Atita: Yesterday's Past (Feature Film)</b> 01:29:15   Odiya   English   Nila Madhab Panda   India <b>Fishing Palk Bay</b> 00:30:17   English   Saravana Kumar   India	MOJO Filmmaking Workshop
DAY 3, MARCH 22, 2024	
Law Auditorium	UBS Auditorium
10:00 am - 10:30 am REGISTRATION	
10:30 am - 01:00 pm	
<b>Kadvi Hawa (Feature Film)</b> 01:39:40   Hindi   Nila Madhab Panda   India <b>Peng Yu Sai</b> 00:54:37   English   Nitye Sood & Malaika Vaz   India	MOJO Filmmaking Workshop
01:00 pm - 02:00 pm LUNCH BREAK	
02:00 pm - 04:00 pm	
<b>Rewild</b> 00:59:00   Alexis Breton, Cyprien d'Haese, Thomas Zibi   English, French, Portuguese and Russian   France <b>Gyamo - Queen of the Mountains</b> 00:43:00   Doel Trivedy and Gautam Pandey   English   India <b>Q&amp;A session with the filmmaker Gautam Pandey</b>	
04:00 pm - 04:45 pm	
Certificate Distributions and Closing Ceremony	
04:45 pm onwards HIGH TEA	

The Festival showcased a diverse array of award-winning films that promote environmental conservation at both national and international levels. The event commenced with the screening of the National Award-winning film "**Turtle**," an engaging narrative that highlights the environmental challenges faced in rural India. This film set a strong tone for the festival by providing an in-depth look at the intersection of rural life and environmental issues.





The closing day featured "**Kadvi Hawa**," a National Award-winning film by veteran director Nila Madhab Panda.



This film presented a stark portrayal of the harsh realities of climate change, offering a powerful conclusion to the festival's lineup. The festival also included "**Kalira Atita: Yesterday's Past**" and "**Kalichaat**," two critically acclaimed films that explore themes of human resilience and agricultural distress, respectively.

Among the standout films was "**Jharia**," which tells the story of Simon Uraon, an eighty-five-year-old man from Jharkhand known as "The Water Man." Since the age of fourteen, Simon has worked relentlessly on water management and environmental protection in Jharkhand's villages. His story is a testament to the power of individual dedication to environmental conservation.

Another significant film, "**Peng Yu Sai**," is an investigative documentary that delves into the illegal trade of Manta Rays from India's oceans, uncovering the ecological and ethical



implications of this practice. "Lakshman-Rekha (The Lines that Lakshman Drew)" provided an intimate cinematic window into how Laxman Singh, a school dropout, galvanized a drought-hit village into a voluntary force that transformed the destiny of 58 villages in the Great Indian Desert.

**"The Climate Challenge"** documented scientists conducting research in extreme environments such as the Arctic, the Himalayas, and the Southern Ocean. The film highlighted the life-threatening situations these scientists face to collect critical scientific data on climate change. **"Arsenic - The Creeping Killer"** shed light on the widespread issue of arsenic contamination in water sources, while **"Holy (un) Holy River"** explored the complex relationship between spirituality and pollution in India's rivers.



Additional films included **"Kokota - The Islet of Hope,"** which showcased sustainable living practices on a small island, and **"UseLess,"** which examined the global issue of waste and its environmental impact. **"Fishing Palk Bay"** focused on the challenges faced by fishermen in the Palk Bay region, while **"Rewild"** highlighted efforts to restore natural habitats.







The festival's closing highlight was the poignant **"Gyamo: Queen of the Mountains"** by the renowned Mr. Gautam Pandey. This film left a lasting impact on viewers with its compelling conservation message, rounding off the three-day festival on a powerful note.

## MOJO Filmmaking Workshop

The fight against climate change is a pressing issue that requires the participation of all members of society. It is widely acknowledged that awareness and education are crucial factors in this endeavour, particularly among the youth who will inherit the challenges posed by climate change. To address this issue, the Mobile Journalism and Environmental Film-Making (Mojo) workshop program was established to empower young people to inform and raise awareness about grassroots environmental issues.

The three-day Mojo workshop was conducted from 20 to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, during the Film Festival & Forum on LiFE at Panjab University, Chandigarh. The workshop aimed to equip young people with the necessary skills and resources to produce short films on conservation issues, which can be used to raise awareness and inspire change.



Mr. Gautam Panday, an acclaimed filmmaker from Goa facilitated the workshop, which had a total of 34 students registered, with 25 participants completing the program. The participants were divided into five groups and were trained in short filmmaking on conservation issues.



The training included topics such as the fundamentals of environmental/conservation filmmaking, how to make environmental/conservation films, the nuance of visual storytelling,



and representing data in the films. The students were also given practical training in scripting, production, and post-production, including cinematography rules, on-location audio, graphics, text, and subtitling.



On the second day of the workshop, the participants were given the task of conceptualizing and producing short films with a maximum length of 180 seconds. These films were then evaluated by the workshop facilitator and their peers. At the end of the festival, the completion of the workshop was marked with the conferment of certificates of completion to the participants by the esteemed guests present.



The Mojo workshop is a significant initiative that aims to engage young people in the fight against climate change by providing them with the necessary skills and resources to raise awareness and inspire change. The incorporation of environmental and climate change-related themes into short films has the potential to open up a new dimension to scientific ideas and interests, inspiring audiences to engage in a broader discussion of the issues at hand.



Overall, the Mojo workshop was a resounding success, and it is hoped that the knowledge and skills acquired by the participants will be used to contribute to the global effort to combat climate change. The Annex 2 of this document provides details of the students who participated in the workshop.

### Painting Competition

On the second day of the festival, an on-the-spot painting competition was organized, drawing enthusiastic participation from 45 young artists hailing from various schools and colleges. This event provided a vibrant platform for these budding artists to showcase their creativity and express their perspectives on pressing environmental issues.

The themes for the competition were thoughtfully chosen to reflect the core messages of the festival, focusing on critical topics such as environment conservation, climate change, and water conservation. Each participant brought their unique vision to life, using their artistic skills to highlight the beauty of nature, the urgency of environmental preservation, and the importance of sustainable practices.



Throughout the competition, the young artists displayed remarkable talent and creativity, producing a diverse array of paintings that captured the essence of the themes. Some depicted the serene beauty of untouched natural landscapes, while others illustrated the stark realities of environmental degradation and the consequences of climate change. Water conservation emerged as a particularly poignant theme, with several paintings emphasizing the need to protect this vital resource for future generations.



The competition fostered a spirit of camaraderie and healthy competition among the participants. It was inspiring to see the level of engagement and the depth of thought that each young artist put into their work. The artworks not only demonstrated technical proficiency but also conveyed powerful messages that resonated with the festival's broader goals of environmental advocacy and education.

The winners of the painting competition were honoured during the closing ceremony on the third day of the festival. Their exceptional artworks were recognized for their artistic merit and their ability to effectively communicate important environmental messages. The awards

presentation was a highlight of the closing ceremony, celebrating the creativity and dedication of these young artists.



Overall, the on-the-spot painting competition was a resounding success, adding a vibrant and engaging dimension to the festival. It provided a meaningful opportunity for young artists to contribute to the festival's mission and highlighted the importance of involving youth in the conversation about environmental sustainability. The event underscored the power of art as a tool for education and advocacy, leaving a lasting impression on both the participants and the audience.



## Valedictory ceremony

The culminating event on the third day of the festival was a grand closing ceremony, graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including **Dr. Jatinder Kaur Arora**, Executive Director of the Punjab State Council for Science & Technology (PSCST), **Professor Dr. Renu Vig**, Vice-Chancellor of Panjab University, and **Dr. Kulbir Singh Bath**, Joint Director of PSCST. Their attendance underscored the importance of environmental education and advocacy, highlighting the festival's mission to inspire action through powerful storytelling.



The ceremony commenced with a warm welcome address and festival report by **Mr. Sabyesachi Bharati**, Deputy Director of CMS VATAVARAN. He shared the highlights of the festival programs, screenings, and participations over the three-day event. Mr. Bharati emphasized the diverse range of films presented and the enthusiastic engagement of the attendees, setting the tone for an inspiring conclusion to the festival.



Following the welcome address, a ceremonial watering of a plant was performed by all the invited guests, symbolizing growth and commitment to environmental conservation. This act was a poignant reminder of the festival's core message: nurturing and protecting our planet.



Following the symbolic plant watering, the dignitaries were felicitated with the festival memento, appreciation certificates, and a khadi shawl. This gesture was a token of gratitude for their valuable contributions and support for the festival.



**Dr. Jatinder Kaur Arora**, in her speech, reflected on the festival's success, stating, "The overwhelming response and active participation of the youth in this festival underscore the collective aspiration for a sustainable future. It is a testament to the power of education and media in shaping our approach to environmental challenges." Her words resonated deeply with the audience, highlighting the vital role of youth engagement in driving environmental change.





**Professor Dr. Renu Vig** remarked, "This festival has been a beacon of inspiration, illuminating the path toward environmental conservation through the lens of cinema and art. The enthusiasm of the participants is a clear signal of the younger generation's readiness to lead the charge in safeguarding our planet." Her acknowledgment of the festival's inspirational impact reinforced the importance of artistic expression in environmental advocacy.



**Dr. Kulbir Singh Bath** also shared his thoughts, adding, "The dedication and creativity displayed during this festival have been truly remarkable. It is heartening to see how stories of environmental conservation can resonate so strongly with diverse audiences. The synergy between science, technology, and the arts is crucial for addressing the environmental challenges we face today."



The ceremony also included the presentation of awards to the winners of the painting competition. Certificates of merit were given to all the participants of the Mojo workshop, recognizing their creativity and effort.



The dignitaries then honored veteran filmmaker and workshop conductor Mr. Gautam Pandey for his significant contributions to environmental filmmaking and education. This recognition celebrated his work in raising awareness and inspiring action through cinema.







Furthermore, the ceremony provided an opportunity to express gratitude towards the volunteers from Chandigarh University, PSCST, partners, and their members. Their unwavering support played a crucial role in the festival's seamless execution. These volunteers were acknowledged and awarded certificates of appreciation, recognizing their selfless efforts in making the event a resounding success.



Over the course of three days, the festival and forum witnessed an impressive turnout of 1,000 attendees, signifying the immense impact and influence of the event. The festival's broad and inclusive approach to storytelling and its commitment to fostering creative expression has proven to be a significant source of inspiration and empowerment for the diverse range of individuals who participated.





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Presents

### ENVIRONMENT FILM FESTIVAL & FORUM ON LIFE

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**Panjab University, Chandigarh**

Supported by

**Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India**

# FILM SCREENINGS

March 20-22, 2024 | 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Venue: **LAW Auditorium, Panjab University, Chandigarh**



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