



New Delhi to host biggest green film festival from Dec 6-10 -114 films, 15 countries, 56 speakers, 400 delegates-

- **18 Indian and 9 International awards worth INR 15 lakhs to be won**
- **Shyam Benegal, Prakash Jha, Basu Chatterjee to be a part of the festivities**

New Delhi, Dec 1, 2011: Delhiites are all set to see some action packed wild *drama* live on the big screen this December, as the much awaited CMS VATAVARAN, India's one and only environment and wildlife film festival is finally here. The theme of CMS VATAVARAN 2011 is "Biodiversity Conservation" and is in sync with India hosting the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 11th Conference of Parties (CoP11) in October 2012. The festival will be organised from Dec 6-10 at the Convention Centre, NDCC and National Science Centre, near Pragati Maidan.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The five-day long film festival (Dec 6-10) is all set to open with a glittering inaugural ceremony at the Convention Centre, opp. Jantar Mantar on December 6 evening. Eminent conservationists Dr George Schaller and Dr AJT Johnsingh will declare the festival open. Two awards will be presented in the inaugural programme. These are:

- **CMS-PANOS Young Environment Journalists Awards 2011:** The winners are Ms Soma Basu (The Statesman, Kolkata) and Mr Manu C Kumar (Manorama News, Mumbai)
- **CMS Prithvi Ratna Award:** This is the highest award in the country for environment and wildlife filmmaking. The award will be presented to eminent filmmaker Mr Ashish Chandola

INDIAN AND INTERNATIONAL FILMS

It's going to be an eventful journey during the course of these fun-filled five days that would take the people in to the diverse geographical realms of our planet, through the lens of some of the finest environment and wildlife filmmakers. A total of 114 films (70 Indian and 44 international) will be screened during the festival. In a special segment "*Best of Natural History and conservation Cinema*" award winning films from prominent international film festivals including Jacksonhole film festival (USA), Cineambiente (Italy), Inkafest (Peru), Wildlife Vassa (Finland), Animal festival (China) and others would be shown.

Entry is free for film screenings. Films will be screened at the Convention Centre, NDCC and National Science Centre, near Pragati Maidan.

ASIAN SUMMIT OF FILMMAKERS

The first ever Asian Summit is a unique platform for film commissioners, producers, broadcasters/channel heads, financial institutions and filmmakers. The Summit will act as an important platform for Asian filmmakers seeking international production assignments as well as a market for their films and creative skills. For international commissioning heads it will be an opportunity to interact with a select group of highly accomplished filmmakers from different Asian countries. The Summit will have following specialised sessions:

Master Classes -Meet the Commissioner sessions -Trade Shows -Speed Pitching sessions

CHILDREN SECTION

There will be a five day long children section at the National science centre, Pragati Maidan. More than 50 schools, 200 teachers and 3000 schools students will participate in it. There will be some very exciting activities including Film Screenings, Creative Expression Competition, Moviemaking and Editing Workshop, Comic Making workshop and the Biodiversity Primer Workshop for teachers.

KEY SPEAKERS AND GUESTS

There are more than 50 speakers and 300 plus delegates from 15 countries who will be participating in a variety of programmes. These include Dr George Schaller (USA), Dr AJT Johnsingh (India), Evert Van Den Bos (Germany), Dennis Aig (USA), Andie Clare (UK), Adam Schmedes (Denmark), Theo Webb (UK), Franz Kraus (Germany), Lene Poulsen (Denmark), Roberto Cazzolla Gatti (Italy), David Macdonald and several others

AWARD NITE

The Award Nite is the most awaited evening of CMS VATAVARAN Festival. It is the culmination of over 2 years of effort which begins with the announcements of the Call for Entry. 18 Indian and 9 International awards worth INR 15 lakhs will be presented during the Award Nite. It would be attended by Smt Ambika Soni, Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting, GOI, Smt Sheila Dikshit, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Shri Prakash Jha, eminent filmmaker and Shri Basu Chatterjee, veteran film director.

ABOUT CMS VATAVARAN (www.cmsvatavar.org)

Initiated in the year 2002 by CMS (www.cmsindia.org), the festival and forum is aimed towards enhancing understanding, appreciation and shift in attitudes towards the natural world and to increase space for environmental issues in mass media and evolve a nationwide environment outreach framework. CMS is an independent professional forum engaged in research, policy advocacy, advisory services and programme evaluation. The festival reaches out to people from all walks of life including filmmakers, civil society groups, government organizations, environmentalists, researchers, conservationists, policy makers, activists, public and private sector organisations and students of all ages and is recognized as a calendar event amongst filmmakers, environment, wildlife and conservation sector.

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