



PRESS RELEASE

Environment film festival from tomorrow

6th CMS VATAVARAN film festival to continue till Dec 10 at the Convention Centre, NDCC and National Science Centre. The theme of CMS VATAVARAN 2011 is “Biodiversity Conservation”. Film screenings, Open Forum, Master Classes, workshops, Trade Shows, children section to be the highlights of the film festival

New Delhi, Dec 5, 2011: India’s premier environment and wildlife film festival CMS VATAVARAN will be inaugurated tomorrow at the Convention Centre, NDCC (Opp Jantar Mantar), 06:30 pm onwards. Bringing together more than 100 films on diverse subjects the 6th international edition of the film festival and environment will be a five-day long treat for the nature lovers. 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. A special children section will also start tomorrow from 09:30 am onwards at National Science Centre.

Main Attractions (DAY 1)

Children Film Festival at National Science Centre (09:30am-04:00pm)

The five day long children film festival will kick start tomorrow morning at 09:30 am at the National science centre, Pragati Maidan. The main highlights on Day 1 includes Indian International film screenings in the auditorium, workshop for school teachers and a creative expression exhibition and competition. During the five day long children festival more than 50 schools, 200 teachers and 3000 school students will participate in it. There will be some very exciting activities including film screenings, creative expression competition, filmmaking and editing workshop (Asola wildlife sanctuary) and comic making workshop.

Inaugural Ceremony at the Convention centre, NDCC (06:30 pm):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. Others who would be present on the occasion include Ms P N Vasanti, Director, CMS, Dr P J Dilip Kumar, DGF & SS, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt of India and H E Ms Ann Ollestad, Ambassador of Norway to India.

Highlights of the inaugural programme:

“The Big Moments”

In a cinema-talk format environment and wildlife filmmakers will share their thrilling and exciting journey, enriching experiences, interesting anecdotes, while filming the environment and the magnificent biodiversity around the world.

Moderator: Mr Nalaka Gunawardene, Director and CEO, TVE Asia Pacific, Sri Lanka

Guests: Mr Naresh Bedi and Rajesh Bedi, Eminent Filmmakers

Mr Evert Van Den Bos, GM, Nature Conservation Films, Netherlands

“Reflections”

Dr A J T Johnsingh and Ms Prerna Bindra will be in conversation with Dr George Schaller on his personal experiences, memoirs and instances with short films or pictures in the background.

Moderators: Dr A J T Johnsingh, Eminent Wildlife Biologist, Nature Conservation Foundation and Ms Prerna Singh Bindra, Regional Coordinator, Tiger Programme, Panthera

Awards Presentation

- **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

Other attractions of the Film Festival (Day 6-10)

- **Indian and International film screenings**

More than 100 films from 15 countries will be screened during the festival at two different venues. The films are on ten different themes like climate change, biodiversity, water, environment conservation etc. There are 19 Indian and 9 International awards worth INR 15 lakhs. Awards will be presented on Dec 9. Films screening is free for all

- **Best of Natural history and conservation cinema**

- This exciting segment will showcase some of the award winning films of prestigious environment film festivals from across the world including Jacksonhole film festival (USA), Cineambiente (Italy), Inkafest (Peru), Wildlife Vassa (Finland), Animal festival (China) and others

- **Master classes**

These specialised sessions will be conducted by world renowned experts including Dr George Schaller (USA), Evert Van Den Bos (Germany), Dennis Aig (USA), Andie Clare (UK), Shyam Benegal (India), Adam Schmedes (Denmark), Prakash Jha (Theo Webb (UK) and others.

- **Trade show**

Arri Germany (Franz Kraus, Managing Director, Arri AG, Germany), You Tube (David Macdonald, Head of You Tube, Partner Operations, Asia Pacific), Canon Mark II (Nandan Saxena, Filmmaker, India)

- **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. 19 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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