



PRESS RELEASE
DEC 10, 2011 (SATURDAY)

Environment and wildlife film festival concludes today

The 6th international edition of CMS VATAVARAN-India's premier environment and wildlife film festival concluded today after a five-day long spectacular event marked by film shows, Open Forums, Master Classes, Trade Shows and a gala Award ceremony. With the screening of 114 films, participation of more than 100 filmmakers and 60 speakers the festival turned out to be a grand five-day affair. A special section for children was also organised at National Science Centre,

Winners 2011

A total of 28 Awards were presented in the Award Nite held yesterday at the Convention Centre. It was attended by Ms Ambika Soni, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, eminent filmmakers Basu Chatterjee and Prakash Jha, Mr Chandi Prasad Bhatt, environmentalist, Mr Havard Hugas, counsellor, Climate Change and Energy, Royal Norwegian Embassy and several other environmentalists and filmmakers. Eight films made by Delhi based directors won awards in different categories, including Best of the Festival Award. Kerala came second bagging 7 awards. In the International category 9 awards were presented. Three films from USA have won awards. One award each has been won by New Zealand, Canada, Japan and France.

In the inaugural ceremony of the festival eminent filmmaker Ashish Chandola was presented with the Prithvi Ratna Award (Lifetime achievement award). Two journalists, Ms Soma Basu (The Statesman, Kolkata) and Mr Manu C Kumar (Manorama News, Mumbai) were presented with the CMS-PANOS Young Environment Journalists Awards.

Programmes

Asian Summit

A major attraction of this year was the Asian Summit, which consisted of workshops, master classes, Trade shows, Meet the Commissioner sessions and speed pitching sessions. Master classes were 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. The Companies who participated in the Trade shows were Arri Germany (Franz Kraus, Managing Director, Arri AG, Germany), You Tube (conducted by David Macdonald, Head of You Tube, Partner

Operations, and Asia Pacific), Canon Mark II (conducted by Nandan Saxena, Filmmaker, India).

Indian and International film screenings

In the five day film festival a total of 114 films from 15 countries were screened. A Panorama of Norwegian films was also organised. A major attraction of this year was the 'Best of Natural History and Conservation Films' segment wherein award winning films from five international film festivals were screened.

Children section at National Science Centre

A special section for children was organised at the National Science Centre, Pragati Maidan from Dec 6-10. The main highlights included Indian and International film screenings, Biodiversity primer workshop for school teachers, a creative expression exhibition and competition, filmmaking and editing workshop (at Asola wildlife sanctuary) conducted under the guidance of renowned filmmaker Gurmeet Sapal and a comic making workshop conducted by Sharad Sharma, the founder of World Comics Network. More than 50 schools, 200 teachers and 3000 school children participated in the visual gala.

Key Speakers and Guests

There were noted conservationists and environmentalists in the festival including Dr George Schaller, Dr AJT Johnsingh and Chandi Prasad Bhatt. Special sessions were conducted by Shyam Benegal and Prakash Jha. Several filmmakers, producers and film commissioners were also present during the festival. This includes Ralf Quilbeldey, David MacDonald, Prerna Singh Bindra, Ravi Singh, Dr Balakrishna Pisupati and Dr TV Venkateswaran, Nalaka Gunawardene, Naresh Bedi, Amar Kanwar, Nandan Saxena, Nutan Manmohan, Praveen Singh, Ashish Chandola etc.

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