



CMS VATAVARAN International Film Festival @ Srinagar
September 24 – 27, 2018 (MONDAY-THURSDAY)
EMMRC Auditorium, University of Kashmir

**Screenings of 28 Award Winning National and International Films, Panel discussions,
Filmmaking workshops, Quiz and Painting competitions & Cleanliness Drive**

Srinagar, September 20, 2018: The 8th travelling edition of CMS VATAVARAN International Film Festival and Forum on Environment and Wildlife is being organized in Srinagar at EMMRC Auditorium, University of Kashmir from September 24 - 27, 2018.

The theme of this acclaimed festival is “Conservation4water” with special focus on Youth Empowerment & Community Engagement. It will delve on issues of the inter-connectedness of climate change and water, water struggles in a world dealing with global warming, livelihood insecurity and highlighting the important issues affecting water through film screening, panel discussions, green filmmaking workshop, open forum discussions and cleanliness drive. In addition, there would be drawing and environmental quiz competitions for the school students.

This edition of CMS VATAVARAN @ Srinagar is being organized with active support from our partners. *Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of India (MOEFCC)* and **National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)** are the National Level partners. State Programme Partners for the festival are **EMMRC Kashmir, University of Kashmir** and **Consortium for Educational Communication, UGC**.

“We are delighted to be organizing this international film festival at EMMRC, University of Kashmir. Such festivals are important for our valley and our expanding city as we are seeing the environmental changes and often feel helpless. This festival with screening of the awarded films and various programs will inspire youth and citizens to be more environmentally engaged and active.” Dr. Salima Jan, Director EMMRC

This is the second time that this international film festival is being organized in Srinagar. In the year 2006, Kashmir CMS VATAVARAN – Environment & Wildlife Traveling Film Festival was organized on 22-23 September 2006 at Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar. Kashmir CMS VATAVARAN 2006 was path-breaking event for the valley as over 3000 people attended the festival and took keen interest in the different activities. The tremendous response received in 2006 and the persistent requests since then by various film makers, the 8th Travelling CMS VATAVARAN International Environment and Wildlife Travelling Film Festival and Forum @ Srinagar, is being planned.

Program Highlights of CMS VATAVARAN International Film Festival @ Srinagar

- **INAUGURAL CEREMONY, 11:30am – 12:30 pm, Monday, September 24, 2018 at EMMRC Auditorium, University of Kashmir.**
 The Guest of Honor at Inaugural Ceremony is Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir **Prof. Talat Ahmad** who himself is a renowned earth scientist.
The Inaugural Ceremony will also include:
 - Felicitation of Green Ambassadors
 - Screening of Inaugural Film: 'Saving the Saviour' a twenty-seven-minute film in English and Kashmiri by well-known Kashmiri environmental documentary filmmaker Jalal Ud Din Baba.
- Indian and International Film Screenings Followed by Open Forum, at EMMRC Auditorium.
A total of 28 award winning and nominated films will be screened and will include films of filmmakers from Jammu and Kashmir which will screened under "Kashmir Retrospective."
- Panel Discussion on **"An Inconvenient Truth: Climate Change in Jammu & Kashmir"**, on Sept 24, 2018 from 2.30 pm at EMMRC Auditorium.
 Speakers include: **Prof. M S Bhat**, Professor and head, Department of Geography, University of Kashmir; **Shafqut Habib**, Film-maker, Producer, EMMRC; **Justice Hussnain Masoodi**, Former Judge of the High Court and Senior Advocate Supreme Court of India; **Gowher Geelani**, Journalist, commentator and political analyst;
- Panel Discussion on **"The Himalayas and Climate Change in India"**, on Sept 25, 2018 from 2.30 pm at EMMRC Auditorium.
 Speakers include: **Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo**, Professor and Head Earth Sciences Department, University of Kashmir; **M Ashraf**, (Ex-DG Department of Tourism – Jammu and Kashmir) and Columnist Greater Kashmir; **Prof. Ayub**, Prof. Environmental Law; **Jalal Ud Din Baba**, Guerrilla Green filmmaker, writer and activist; **Farooq Masoodi**, Film-maker, Head, Media Education Research Centre.
- **Painting Competition** on Conservation 4 Water/ Climate Change for the school students, at 11 am onwards on Sep 24 at EMMRC Lawns
- **Environmental Quiz Competition** for the school students, at 11 am onwards on Sep 25 at EMMRC Lawns
- Green Filmmaking Workshop on Conservation 4 Water/ Climate Change/ Environmental Conservation, Hall # 2, EMMRC at 10.30 am to 1 pm. By **Mr. Shafqut Habib**, Producer EMMRC on Sep 25 and by **Mr. Jalal Ud Din Baba**, Guerrilla Green filmmaker, on Sep 26, 2018.
- **Closing Ceremony**, EMMRC Auditorium- on Sept 26, 2018 from 4.30 pm onwards
- Cleanliness Drive on Sep 27, 2018 morning (location TBD)



ABOUT CMS VATAVARAN

CMS VATAVARAN is an outcome of CMS's core commitment to go "beyond research". The rich experience of CMS in environmental issues & developmental communication and the urge for "Beyond Research" – a commitment to perform the role of a practitioner of its own research, sowed the seeds of CMS VATAVARAN – India's largest International Environment & Wildlife Film Festival and Forum.

Though it is aimed at sensitizing people about their rich environmental heritage and the need to conserve it, CMS VATAVARAN is not just a film festival celebrating the cinematic art of films but focuses more on using the films as a tool and catalyst for creating impact. CMS VATAVARAN remains resolute to encourage environment films and forums resulting change in perception, practice and policy. www.cmsvatavaran.org

CMS VATAVARAN is completing sixteen glorious years of its journey from 2002-2018. The festival has an International recognition and till date, in all more than 60 festivals have been organized in 41 cities of India. Renowned people like Dr. Karan Singh, Shyam Benegal, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Jahnu Baruah, Prakash Jha, Mahesh Bhatt and Suresh Prabhu have been CMS VATAVARAN patrons.

For more information, please contact:

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