

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Unique Green Film Festival and Forum being organised first time at Uttarkashi**

February 24, 2021. A two-day green film festival and forum is being organised for the first time at Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand on February 25 & 26, 2021. This is being organised by SECURE HIMALAYA project of UNDP with support from the Uttarakhand Government & Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MOEFCC), GOI and CMS VATAVARAN.

This is part of a series of '9<sup>th</sup> CMS VATAVARAN Travelling Film Festival and Forum' in four Himalayan cities of Uttarkashi, Gangtok, Shimla and Leh. The idea behind this festival and forum is to support this unique green movement for conservation through using films, festivals and forums. Outreach and engage with to cross section of stakeholders, including Government of India, Media, Conservation organizations, Experts, Academics, Corporations, Youth and general public and to provide a platform for showcasing the SECURE Himalayas initiatives and programs.

#### **Key Highlights of the Uttarkashi festival:**

- **Inauguration** by the District Magistrate Mr Mayur Dixit and DFO Mr Deep Chand Arya and Dr Vasanti Rao, DG CMS, New Delhi
- Inaugural film screening – **"Heroes of the Wild Frontiers: The Return of the Shan"**, by Award winning film maker Mr Krishnendu Bose
- **Screenings of Nominated/Awarded films** on various environment & wildlife issues, at multiple venues in the city, including at the Collectorate Auditorium, GPG College, Kendriya Vidhyala, Nehru Institute of Mountaineering and ITBP
- On the **spot quiz competition** on environment for school children during film screenings
- **Competitions of drawing and painting** for students / youth.
- **Workshop on Green Film Making** by eminent film maker Mr Anoop Khajuria.
- Seminar for Media Professionals on **"Climate Change Reporting and its impact on Himalayan Ecosystem"**

Speaking on this occasion, CMS DG Dr Vasanti Rao said, *"The Himalayas are very sensitive and need special conservation efforts by all, even every citizen. This was clearly the message from the recent Chamoli disaster. Such brazen violation and greed has made every city in the Himalayas waiting for disaster to occur. Such festivals are occasion to celebrate the beauty & biodiversity, and also introspect/discuss what we all collectively can do conserve the same. We invite all residents and nature lovers to attend this two-day festival."*

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The Government of India and **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, with support from the Global Environment Facility, are implementing a programme in the high altitude Himalayas entitled "SECURE Himalayas - Securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems", to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem, while enhancing the lives and livelihoods of local communities. The project promotes sustainable management of alpine pastures and forests in the high range Himalayan ecosystems to secure conservation of globally significant wildlife, including endangered snow leopard and their habitats to ensure sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic benefits for communities in the selected high altitude landscapes in the Trans- and Greater Himalayan regions.

**CMS VATAVARAN** is India's premier environment and wildlife film festival and forum – it 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. The festival taps into an important motivating factor for audiences everywhere: the emotional draw of connecting with a compelling story or character. 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 organizations and students of all ages and is recognized as a calendar event amongst filmmakers, environment, wildlife and conservation sector. Its unique twin track approach of organizing competitive and traveling film festivals and environment forum has positioned it as one of the most prestigious film festivals across the globe. Since its inception in 2002, ten competitive and 52 travelling festivals in 41 cities of 25 Indian states have been organized. *Website: [www.cmsvatavarana.org](http://www.cmsvatavarana.org)*

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## Programme Schedule

**FEBRUARY 25, 2021, Thursday (DAY1)**

| Collectorate Auditorium |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 10.00 am to 11.00 am    | <b>INAUGURAL CEREMONY</b><br>Followed by <b>Opening Film</b><br><b>Heroes of the Wild Frontiers: The Return of the Shān</b><br>English   00:24:00   Krishnendu Bose  |
| 11.00 am to 11.30 am    | <b>High Tea</b>  |
| 11.30 am to 1.30 pm     | <b>Koti Banal</b><br>Hindi   00:12:18   Shrinivas Oli<br><br><b>Gyamo - Queen of the Mountains</b><br>English   00:43:00   Doel Trivedy and Gautam Pandey<br><br><b>Ladakh's Artificial Glaciers</b><br>  English   00:18:13   Rajendra Srivathsa Kondapalli<br><br><b>Saving the Wild - Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation</b><br>English   00:27:33   Rita Banerji<br><br><b>Eastern Himalaya - Ancient Risks Future Threats</b><br>English   00:19:56   Sandesh Kadur |
|                         | <b>Painting Competition</b>  |

| Gomukh Sabhagaar    |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 11.30 am to 1.30 pm | <b>Media Seminar on Climate Change Reporting and its Impact on Himalayan Ecosystem</b> |

| GPG, College, Uttarkashi |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 02.00 pm to 04.00 pm     | <b>Gharat : Revival of Watermills</b><br>Hindi   00:18:03   Shrinivas Oli<br><br><b>Whisper's of Warming</b><br>English   00:57:48   Anoop Khajuria<br><br><b>Hope: Climate Positive Stories From India</b><br>English   00:29:59   Gurmeet Sapal and Rishu Nigam<br><br><b>Causatum   Non-verbal</b><br>00:05:50   Sudhakar Kharande |

| Nehru Institute of Mountaineering |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm                | <b>Living...the Natural Way</b><br>Mishing and Assamese   01:18:31   Sanjib Parasar<br><br><b>Heroes of the Wild Frontiers: The Return of the Shān</b><br>English   00:24:00   Krishnendu Bose |

**FEBRUARY 26, 2021, Friday (DAY2)**

| Collectorate Auditorium |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 10.00 am to 01.00 pm    | <b>The Forgotten Tigers</b><br>English   00:54:00   Krishnendu Bose<br><br><b>Shrinking Shores</b><br>English   00:34:47   Ashish Rao<br><br><b>Gharat : Revival of Watermills</b><br>Hindi   00:18:03   Shrinivas Oli<br><br><b>Singalila in the Himalaya</b><br>English   00:18:38   George Thengummootil<br><br><b>India's Healing Forests</b><br>English   00:52:00   Nitin Das |
|                         | <b>Quiz Competition &amp; Prize Distribution</b>  |



| Gomukh Sabhagaar     |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10.30 am to 01.00 pm | <b>Green Filmmaking Workshop</b> |

| Kendriya Vidhyala    |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 11.00 am to 01.00 pm | <b>Koti Banal</b><br>Hindi   00:12:18   Shrinivas Oli<br><br><b>Eastern Himalaya - Ancient Risks Future Threats</b><br>English   00:19:56   Sandesh Kadur<br><br><b>Gharat : Revival of Watermills</b><br>Hindi   00:18:03   Shrinivas Oli<br><br><b>Tiger's Revenge</b><br>English   00:44:17   S Nallamuthu |

| ITBP                 |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 03.00 pm to 05.00 pm | <b>Hope: Climate Positive Stories From India</b><br>English   00:29:59   Gurmeet Sapal and Rishu Nigam<br><br><b>Living...the Natural Way</b><br>Mishing and Assamese   01:18:31   Sanjib Parasar |