



First ever Green Film Festival and Forum at Uttarkashi Concludes successfully

PRESS RELEASE

February 26, 2021

The 2-day green film festival held at Uttarkashi concluded successfully today.

This unique green film festival and forum was open for public on February 25 & 26, 2021. This is being organised by SECURE HIMALAYA project of UNDP with support from the Uttrakhand Government & Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MOEFCC), GOI and CMS VATAVARAN. This is part of a series of '9th 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.

The 2nd day of Festival highlights was the Green Filmmaking workshop at Gomukh Sabhagaar, District Collectorate Auditorium, Uttarkashi. The workshop was presented by eminent filmmaker Mr. Anoop Khajuria.

Mr Anoop Khajuria is a national award winner filmmaker, and a television producer with over 29 years' experience in production & programming. During the workshop many students, teachers and media participated.

Explaining to the students and other participants in the Green film workshop, Mr Khajuria said, "We are the one who can spread the views, issues, and problems etc with the medium of film. We Just have to know the idea on which we can make the film,"

Dr. P N Vasanti, Director General CMS VATAVARAN said, We should be clear about our message, purpose and the medium could be anything. It could be a small story or big issue, with emerging technology, it can be reached to everyone from local to higher authority". The objective of the Green film workshop was to guide our young generation about making environment-related film, to creating awareness on the issues of conservation and wildlife.

The students from all different schools also witnessed the screening of many award-winning films such as Koti Banal directed by Shriniwas Oli, The Forgotten Tigers directed by Krishnendu Bose and many more along with a range of interactive activities like painting competitions and quiz. All the participants got small prizes in the quiz competition and the three winner of the pairing competition held on day one of the festival. Ms. Deeya Raana, class 10th B from Kendriya Vidayala, Uttarkashi, got 1st Prize, Ms. Anshika Panwar class 9 C, and Ms. Aarohi Ramola, 8 B from MDS, Uttarkashi got 2nd and 3rd prize, respectively.

The film screening of nominated awarded films on environment, Himalayan ecosystem, and wildlife issues was also held in different and multiple venues in the city including ITBP, Mahidanda and Kendriya Vidayala, Uttarkashi, many students and officers have shown interest and participated in the same.

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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