

Press Release

29th August 2019



India's Sherpa to the G20 Shri Suresh Prabhu, chairs the 10th CMS VATAVARAN Award Jury.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, currently India's Sherpa to the G20 and former cabinet minister, GOI is heading a 12-member jury for the coveted CMS VATAVARAN Environment & Wildlife Film Festival Awards which is being held from August 30th to 31st at the Lemon Tree Premier, Aero city in New Delhi. The award jury members are viewing all the 77 films that have been nominated to select the winners in each category. **A total of 45 Indian films and 32 International films are competing in 9 different categories.**

The 10th CMS VATAVARAN Jury Committee comprises of jury members from widely divergent sectors and streams including cinema, conservation and media. The jury members include

R R Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow & Programme Director, Integrated Policy Analysis, TERI

Megha Tata, Managing Director – South Asia, Discovery Communications India

Suhasini Mulay, Film Director & Actor

Ricky Kej, Grammy® Winning Musician/ US Billboard #1 & Environmentalist

Richard Mahapatra, Managing Editor, Down To Earth

Abhilash Khandekar, Senior Editor & Environment Journalist

Archana Chatterjee, National Coordinator, IUCN

Kirtiman Awasthi, Senior Policy Advisor- CCA & Climate Finance Readiness, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Raajaysh Chetwal, Filmmaker and Founder, Rhombus Films

Rupa Gandhi Chaudhary, Senior Advisor, Wildlife Trust of India

Er. Vedakumar Manikonda, Chairman, Children's Film Society, Telangana

The Award Jury Chair is **Shri Suresh Prabhu**, who has been a mentor of CMS VATAVARAN since its inception in 2002.

In all, this Jury will decide 18 awards in 9 Indian and International categories. The eminent jury members will also be selecting two Best of the Festival Awards out of the 77 nominees. Cash prizes worth more than 7 lakhs will be decided by this Jury for the National Film Makers.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, who is heading the Award Jury, said, “CMS VATAVARAN is an important endeavour that everyone needs to support. Films are a powerful medium to address important issues to the masses.”

Ms P N Vasanti, Director General of CMS, who is also leading this film festival said “We are proud that in its 10th competitive edition CMS VATAVARAN has received record 1020 film entries! We are inspired to continue our endeavour to use films for impacting perception, practice and policy on environment & wildlife.”

All the nominated films will be screened over four days from November 27 to 30, 2019 and the awards will be conferred on November 30th, 2019 during the 10th CMS VATAVARAN Environment & Wildlife International Film Festival and Forum at the **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre at 15 Janpath, New Delhi.**

Along with the **film screenings**, the film festival and forum will see a host of **seminars** and **workshops** for children, teachers, filmmakers and filmmaking students.

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 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, eight competitive and 52 travelling festivals in 41 cities of 25 Indian states have been organized.

www.cmsvatavaran.org

For media related queries, please contact:

Sabyesachi Bharti

sabyesachi@cmsvatavaran.org

91-8826689218/9818367459