

Award Presentation Ceremony

11:30 pm – 1:30 pm, Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Vatavaran 2005 concluded on November 24, 2005 with a bounty of awards to the filmmakers and an appeal to TV channels to feature those films.

Eminent filmmaker Shri Shyam Benegal who was the chairperson of the Vatavaran jury was the Chief Guest of the occasion along with Shri. Namo Naraian Meena, the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Chief Minister of Delhi Ms. Sheila Dikshit, eminent film maker and Dada Saheb Phalke award winner for 2004 Shri Adoor Gopalkrishnan, Ms. Harriet Nimmo, CEO, Wildscreen also known as the Green Oscars, Mr. Ravi Kumar, STAR TV and Sir Micheal Arthur, the British High Commissioner and special invitee Ms. Satwant Kaur, United Nations Environment Programme. The master of the ceremony was Darryl D'Monte renowned environment journalist and Chairman, IFEJ.

The ceremony commenced with a welcome address by Ms. P N Vasanti, Director, Centre for Media Studies and remarks from Shri Shyam Benegal. A total of 10 awards were given in six different categories with two awards supported by Star TV and the Chief Minister of Delhi. The major attraction in this festival was the film fellowships. Star TV and the MoEF supported two of CMS film fellowships. The British High Commission supported the CMS UK fellowships.





Vatavaran 2005 concluded on November 24, 2005 with a bounty of awards to young producers and an appeal to TV channels to feature those films.

“Indian Leopards – The Killing Field” by Praveen Singh bagged the Best of Vatavaran 2005 Festival. “A Second Hand Life” by Nutan Manmohan won the Delhi Chief Minister’s award for the best documentary. “River Taming Mantras” by Sanjay Barnela and Vasant Saberwal won the best award in the Environment category.

The Best of Festival was given a cash prize of Rs.1,50,000/- and a citation. The other awards ranged from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/-. The categories awarded include Public Service Message, Wildlife Conservation, Environment, Student, Animation and Forests for Life. The best documentary awards in forest for life category was supported by Star.

Best documentary award in Wildlife category was given to “The Last Flight” by Nutun Manmohan and “The Policing Langur” by Ajay and Vijay Bedi produced for Public Service Broadcasting Trust. The Award carried a trophy, citation and award money of Rs. 1,00,000 each.



Awardees of Vatavaran 2005

2005 Festival Theme: Forest for Life awards was presented to “Invocations to the Mountain Goddess” by Christopher Rego. The Star award was given to best documentary under theme category to “Vikas Bندوق Ki Naal Se” by Biju Toppo and Meghnath. Best Animation film award was bagged by “Irony” by R Sathya Narayanan for Ramanujam Foundation. The award of Rs. 50,000, a trophy and citation was given.

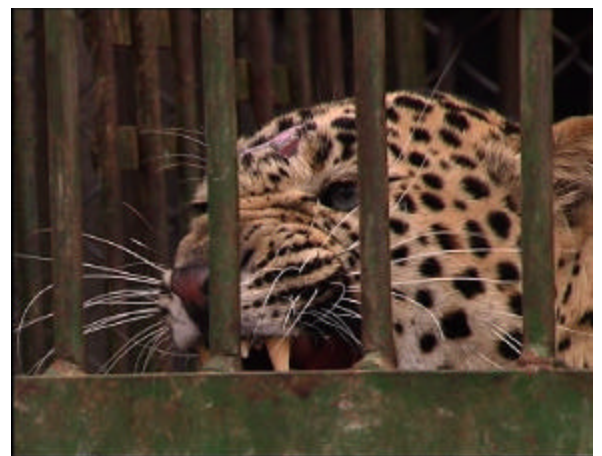


Vatavaran 2005 Trophy



Star award to “Vikas Bندوق Ki Naal Se” by Biju Toppo

The Award for Best Public Service Message Spot with Rs. 50,000 was won by “Do Your Bit” directed by Anand Thakur and produced by Ogilvy and Mather Advertising Limited for Eco-India. The student category award was given to “Fistful of Steel” by Leena Rani Narzary, Nidhi Bal Singh and Sabir Haque for A J Kidwai Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC), Jamia Millia Islamia. The award of Rs. 50,000 was given alongwith Trophy and a citation.



Best of Festival “Indian Leopards – The Killing Field” by Praveen Singh



A Second Hand Life by Nutan Manmohan

Eight awards worth Rs. 8 lakhs were supported by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India.

Table 6: List of Vatavaran Awards with Jury Citations

Category	Award	Film's Title	Amount	Director	Producer	Jury's Citation
Wildlife	Best of Festival	Indian Leopards – The Killing Fields	1,50,000	Praveen Singh	Praveen Singh	It deals with the very difficult problem of a man's intruding on animals' habitat, exploring possible solutions, which best seem elusive. It has high cinematic qualities, excellent sense of drama and highlights the film maker's own predicament in this situation.
	Best Documentary Award	The Last Flight	1,00,000	Nutan Manmohan	Nutan Manmohan	For an extremely good analysis of a problem which is significant, but not well known. It cites three possible causes of the decline in Asian vultures and honed in one of them. It was very precise and to the point.
	Best Documentary Award	The Policing Langur	1,00,000	Ajay and Vijay Bedi	Public Service Broadcasting Trust	The film shows wildlife adapts to new urban surroundings because of various pressures. It is somewhat like 'setting a thief to catch a thief' and so will appeal to audiences who are not necessarily sensitized to wildlife conservation. It was visually attractive and resorted to subtle humour and pathos.
2005 Festival Theme: Forest for Life	Best Documentary Award	Invocations to the Mountain Goddess	1,00,000	Christopher Rego	Christopher Rego	This showed how a ban, which was ironically introduced by the government to conserve an ecologically sensitive site, took away the people's livelihood and prevented the community from participating in any such plan. It is a familiar 'people versus conservation' dilemma, located in an idyllic mountain setting.

	Vatavaran Star Award for Best Documentary	Vikas Bandoor Ki Naal Se	1,00,000	Biju Toppo and Meghnath	Meghnath	This deals with a deeply-felt problem, showing how well-intentioned development activity has destroyed the ecology and livelihood of a tribal community. This problem recurs in several states and the film does well to illustrate the human dimension.
	Special Mention of the Jury	Leopards of Bollywood	Nil	Animitra Chakravarti	Niret Alva and Nikhil J Alva	A highly watchable and dramatized story of the existence of big cats in a forest, which also houses a Bollywood film studio complex in one of the world's largest cities. The highly stylized treatment – almost like a crime movie - would appeal to audiences in this country and abroad who may not be familiar with these issues.
Environment	Vatavaran Delhi Chief Minister's Award for Best Documentary	A Second Hand Life	1,00,000	Nutan Manmohan	Public Service Broadcasting Trust	This film explored a little-known facet of environmental degradation and employed a novel technique in dealing with it through the eyes of two children from different class backgrounds. This is a problem that has yet to unfold and the film maker does well to tackle it pro-actively.
	Best Documentary Award	River Taming Mantras	1,00,000	Sanjay Barnela and Vasant Saberwal	Moving Images	This film documents a complex issue very well and raises fundamental questions to which there are two easy answers. The issue acquired additional importance in the context of current proposals to inter-link rivers nationally.
Animation	Best Animation Film Award	Irony	50,000	R Sathya Narayanan	Ramanujam Foundation	The idea is expressed brilliantly in under a minute, with great precision and the 3-D animation is of high quality.

	Special Mention of the Jury	Cute Bunny	Nil	Dhimant Vyas	P Jayakumar, Toonz Animation India Pvt. Limited	It is very encouraging to see the overall quality so high, especially because most are made by students. The jury thought that such innovations made by younger film-makers were worthy of reward.
	Special Mention of the Jury	CNG	Nil	Debanjan Nandy	Debanjan Nandy	
	Special Mention of the Jury	Why Not?	Nil	Anitha Balachandran	Environment Protection Training Research Institute (EPTRI)	
	Special Mention of the Jury	A Hunter's Tale	Nil	Abhishek Singh	National Institute of Design (NID)	
Public Service Message Spot	Award for Best Public Service Message Spot	Do Your Bit'	50,000	Anand Thakur	Ogilvy and Mather Advertising Limited	For a very effective motivational film on conserving water, done with a great deal of humour. It is not only highly instructional but comprehensible. It is very easy to put into practice.
	Special Mention of the Jury	Shadows	Nil	Vishal Furia	Kartikeya Talreja	For a very original and clever idea, done with a very high degree of skill, using digital film techniques. An extremely well realized film.
Student Film	Best Documentary Award	Fistful of Steel	50,000	Leena Rani Narzary, Nidhi Bal Singh and Sabir Haque	A J Kidwai Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC), Jamia Millia Islamia	An extremely powerful film about the ecological imbalances that are caused by projects that ignore the ecological basis of natural resource exploitation for profit and politics.

	Special Mention of the Jury	Once Upon A Time	Nil	Pawanpreet Kaur	Madhubala Institute of Communication and Electronic Media	For an excellent portrayal of urban degradation caused by projects.
	Special Mention of the Jury	Punarjanikkai	Nil	Ambika	Centre for Development of Imaging Technology (C-DIT)	A very powerful film on pesticide pollution that has led to severe human disabilities and deformities. The issue has since become an international scandal – a byword for careless use of technology.