

KOLKATA CMS **vatavaran**

Biodiversity Film Festival and Forum 2012

December 03 – 07, 2012



TRAVELLING

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18.	Green films for the masses	http://blogs.nature.com/indigenus/2012/11/green-films-for-the-masses.html	November 28, 2012
19.	Film Festival	http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Film-Festival/speednewsbytopic/keyid-1666.cms	November 29, 2012
20.	Film festival to focus on biodiversity conservation	http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/film-festival-to-focus-on-biodiversity-conservation/article4153052.ece	December 1, 2012
21.	7th CMS Vatavaran	http://sanctuaryasia.com/events/upcoming-events/9056-7th-cms-vatavaran	December 1, 2012
22.	State to organise biodiversity film fest	http://portal.thebengalpost.com/index.php/index/newsdetails/State-to-organise-biodiversity-film-fest-147425521354293192	December 1, 2012
23.	First film festival on biodiversity	http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx	December 1, 2012
24.	5-day biodiversity film fest targets students	http://portal.thebengalpost.com/index.php/index/newsdetails/5-day-biodiversity-film-fest-targets-students-290480211354551663	December 4, 2012
25.	Green film fest sees huge turnout on Day I	http://portal.thebengalpost.com/index.php/index/newsdetails/Green-film-fest-sees-huge-turnout-on-Day-I-341567841354640091	December 5, 2012
26.	Sunderbans biodiversity back to normal: Experts	http://portal.thebengalpost.com/index.php/index/newsdetails/Sunderbans-biodiversity-back-to-normal-Experts-8069921354725259	December 6, 2012
27.	Silver Screen, Green issues	http://www.goodnewstab.com/upload/issue/pdf/GNTab_11th_%20Issue.pdf	December 15, 2012

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1.	Ekdin	1	November 27, 2012

নন্দনে আন্তর্জাতিক পরিবেশ চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব

সুকুমার মিত্র • প্রিন্স রায়

আন্তর্জাতিক কলকাতা চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবের রেশ কাটতে না কাটতেই ফের উৎসবমুখর হচ্ছে কলকাতা। তবে এই চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব 'জারা হটকে', অন্য ধরনের। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মমতা বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের নির্দেশে রাজ্য পরিবেশ দফতরের সহযোগিতায় স্বেচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থা বাতাবরণ ও আস্টার উদ্যোগে হচ্ছে আন্তর্জাতিক পরিবেশ চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব-২০১২। পশ্চিমবঙ্গ দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ পর্ষদকে সঙ্গে নিয়ে পরিবেশ ও বন্যপ্রাণী বিষয়ের গুপার এই প্রথম আন্তর্জাতিক চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবের খবরে খুশি রাজ্যের সমস্ত মহল।

রাজ্য পরিবেশ দফতরের মন্ত্রী ডা. সুদর্শন ঘোষ দস্তিদার এই উৎসবের জন্য গর্বিত বলে জানান। তার মতে, এই ধরনের উৎসব পরিবেশ সচেতনতা বাড়ানোর পাশাপাশি, পরিবেশপ্রেমী মানুষকে একটু অন্য স্বাদ এনে দেবে কয়েকটা দিনের জন্য। কলকাতায় বসে দেশ বিদেশের পরিবেশ নিয়ে তৈরি বিশমানের তথ্যচিত্র দেখার সুযোগ পাবেন। তবে পরিবেশ চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব নিয়ে কোনও আগ্রহ নেই

বিশিষ্ট অভিনেতা সৌমিত্র চট্টোপাধ্যায়। ফোনে যোগাযোগ করা হলে তার সাফ জবাব, 'এ বিষয়ে আমার বিন্দুমাত্র আগ্রহ নেই।' তার আগ্রহ না থাকলেও যথেষ্ট আগ্রহী বিখ্যাত অভিনেতা সব্যাসাচী চক্রবর্তী। তার প্রতিক্রিয়া, 'কলকাতায় এই উদ্যোগ প্রশংসনীয় ও উদ্যোক্তাদের সাধু উদ্যোগ বলেই আমি মনে করি।'

আস্টার পক্ষ থেকে জানানো হয়, ২০০০ সালে নয়াদিল্লিতে প্রথম এই উৎসবের আয়োজন করেছিল। এরপর একে একে ভারতের বড় শহরগুলো, যেমন গোয়া, রাজস্থান, দেহাদুনে পরিবেশ ও বন্যপ্রাণী নিয়ে এই জাতীয় চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব হলেও কলকাতা এত দিন ব্রাত্যই ছিল।

কলকাতার ইএম বাইপাসে পরিবেশ ভবনকে পাশে পেয়ে এই সংস্থা প্রথম বারের জন্য শহরে এই অনুষ্ঠানের আয়োজন করতে চলেছে। জোরকদমে চলছে প্রস্তুতি। ব্যস্ততার ফাঁকে আস্টার অন্যতম কর্মকর্তা অশোক চট্টোপাধ্যায় বলেন, '৩-৭ ডিসেম্বর

পাঁচ দিন এই উৎসব চলেবে। তবে দেখা যাবে না টিকিট কাটার দীর্ঘ লাইন। সম্পূর্ণ বিনামূল্যে এখানে ছবি দেখানোর ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে। দেখানো হবে ১২টি সিনেমা। যার মধ্যে অধিকাংশই বিভিন্ন দেশের।

৩ ডিসেম্বর নন্দনে এই উৎসবের আনুষ্ঠানিক উদ্বোধন হতে চলেছে। হাজির থাকবেন রাজ্যের পরিবেশমন্ত্রী সুদর্শন ঘোষ দস্তিদার, বাংলা চলচ্চিত্র জগতের অন্যতম তারকা সব্যাসাচী চক্রবর্তী-সহ

পরিবেশবিদ থেকে শুরু করে সিনেমা জগতের বিশিষ্ট তারকরা। এই উৎসব নিয়ে পরিবেশমন্ত্রী সুদর্শন ঘোষদস্তিদার বলেন, 'উদ্যোগটি প্রশংসনীয়, সরকার সবরকম ভাবে এই উদ্যোগের পাশে রয়েছে।' পাশাপাশি বিশিষ্ট পরিবেশবিদ ও নদী বিশেষজ্ঞ ড. কল্যাণ রুদ্র জানান, 'বিষয়টি খুব আনন্দের, দিনের পর দিন পরিবেশ যেভাবে দুর্বিত হচ্ছে, শহরবাসীকে সচেতন করার জন্য এই ধরনের বিষয় আনা জরুরি।'

নন্দনে চলচ্চিত্র অনুষ্ঠানের আনুষ্ঠানিক উদ্বোধন হলেও এই চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবটি শহরের বিভিন্ন স্কুল ও কলেজে দেখানো হবে। রূপকলা কেন্দ্র, প্রেসিডেন্সি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, সেন্ট জেভিয়ার্স কলেজে এই সিনেমা দেখানোর ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। যে ছবিগুলো দেখানো হবে, তার সবগুলিই পরিবেশ ও বন্যপ্রাণীদের কেন্দ্র করে নির্মিত।

আন্তর্জাতিক পরিবেশ চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব এ বারে পাঁচ বছরে পা দিলেও কলকাতায় এই উৎসব প্রথম হতে চলেছে। তাকে ঘিরেই পরিবেশ কর্মী থেকে সংস্থার কর্মীদের মধ্যে ব্যস্ততা তুঙ্গে। বিশিষ্ট পরিবেশবিদ স্বাতী নন্দী জানান, 'বিষয়টি অবশ্যই প্রশংসার দাবি রাখে। তবে জেলা শহরগুলোতেও এই ধরনের উৎসব করলে সাধারণ মানুষের সচেতনতা অনেকটাই বাড়বে। বাতাবরণ নামে এই স্বেচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থা অনেক দিন থেকেই এই ধরনের জন সচেতনতা অনুষ্ঠান করে চলেছে। কলকাতায় এ ধরনের উৎসব করার পরিকল্পনা দীর্ঘ দিন থেকেই ছিল। শেষপর্যন্ত রাজ্য সরকারের সহযোগিতায় এই অনুষ্ঠান কলকাতায় হতে চলেছে।'

Film festival to focus on biodiversity conservation

Staff Reporter

KOLKATA: A five-day 'Biodiversity Film Festival and Forum' being organised by the State Environment Department and CMS Environment -- a non-government organisation -- from December 3 aims to sensitise the youth of the city to conserve natural resources.

The festival started in July this year in Dehra Dun and will conclude in Kolkata. It was also held in Jaipur, Goa, and Hyderabad earlier this year.

Thirty films on the ecological diversity of our planet will be screened at eight ven-

ues across the city. A panel discussion on the challenges to biodiversity of West Bengal from climate change is organised by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board on December 5. "The theme of this film festival organised every alternate year by CMS Environment is 'Biodiversity' because the United Nations has declared 2011-2020 as the 'Decade of Biodiversity' and also because for the first time India hosted the Convention on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad in October," said Festival Coordinator, Priya Verma of CMS Environment.

"India was among the first in the world to have a Biodi-

versity Act in 2002 but we are facing alarming biodiversity loss. The aim of the festival is, among other things, permanently change the way we consume natural resources," she added.

"Films are potentially a strong medium to communicate with society and creating an effective medium to sensitize the young generation," said Chairman of the State's Pollution Control Board, Prof Binoy Kanti Dutta. "Public perception on biodiversity is quite vague so through films it will be easy to make people aware of conservation and sustainable use of the rich biodiversity," he added.

जैव विविधता पर 30 फिल्में दिखायी जायेंगी

कोलकाता ■ पृथ्वी पर जैव विविधता के बारे में कोलकाता के विभिन्न स्कूल-कॉलेजों और प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड सहित कुल आठ जगहों पर 30 फिल्मों प्रदर्शित की जायेंगी. सीएमएस वातावरण और पश्चिम बंगाल प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (डब्ल्यूबीपीसीबी) के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में तीन से सात दिसंबर तक पर्यावरण और वन्य जीवन फिल्मोत्सव व फोरम 2012 का आयोजन किया जायेगा. इन फिल्मों का उद्देश्य जैव विविधताओं के बारे में जागरूकता और उनके संरक्षण के उपायों पर प्रकाश डालना है. सॉल्टलेक के डब्ल्यूबीपीसीबी में शुक्रवार को आयोजित एक संवाददाता सम्मेलन में इसकी जानकारी दी गयी. फिल्मोत्सव का उद्घाटन नंदन सिनेमा में राज्य के

पर्यावरण मंत्री सुदर्शन घोष दस्तीदार करेंगे. सीएमएस की कॉन्वेनर प्रिया बर्मन ने कहा कि ये फिल्में जैव विविधता पर किये गये कई शोध का नतीजा हैं. इनका लक्ष्य पर्यावरण की समस्याओं, लोगों में जैव विविधताओं के बारे में जागरूकता लाना और देश के फिल्मकारों को इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर फिल्में बनाने के लिए प्रेरित करना है. फिल्मोत्सव के दौरान पांच दिसंबर को जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण पश्चिम बंगाल के समक्ष आनेवाली चुनौतियों पर एक परिचर्चा की जायेगी. डब्ल्यूबीपीसीबी के अध्यक्ष विनय कांति दत्ता ने कहा कि परिवेश भवन में फिल्मों के प्रदर्शन के लिए विद्यार्थियों को लाया जायेगा, जिससे वे राज्य की जैव विविधताओं की जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकें.

अब पर्यावरण पर फिल्म महोत्सव

नगर संवाददाता, कोलकाता : अंतर्राष्ट्रीय फिल्म महोत्सव के बाद कोलकाता में अब बिल्कुल अलग तरह का फिल्म महोत्सव देखने को मिलेगा, जो पर्यावरण पर आयोजित होगा। 3 से 7 दिसम्बर तक चलने वाले इस फिल्मोत्सव को 'कोलकाता सीएमएस वातावरण' नाम दिया गया है, जिसका आयोजन राज्य के पर्यावरण विभाग की ओर से किया जाएगा। फिल्म महोत्सव की फेस्टीबल की संयोजक प्रिया वर्मा ने शुक्रवार को इसकी जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि उद्घाटन समारोह नंदन में होगा। राज्य के पर्यावरण मंत्री सुदर्शन घोष दस्तीदार फिल्म महोत्सव के शुरू होने की घोषणा करेंगे। फिल्म महोत्सव के दौरान आठ जगहों पर 30 फिल्मों दिखाई जाएंगी। फिल्म महोत्सव के साझेदारों में सत्यजीत रे फिल्म एंड



जानकारी देती फेस्टीबल की संयोजक
प्रिया वर्मा

जागरण

टेलीविजन इंस्टीच्यूट, पश्चिम बंगाल प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, पश्चिम बंगाल बायोडाइवर्सिटी बोर्ड समेत अन्य शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा विभिन्न स्कूल-कालेज में इसमें भाग लेंगे। महानगर में पहली बार इस तरह के फिल्म महोत्सव का आयोजन होने जा रहा है।

बाँयोडायवर्सिटी पर पांच दिवसीय फिल्म उत्सव

कोलकाता. महानगर में पहली बार बाँयोडायवर्सिटी पर पांच दिवसीय फिल्म उत्सव का आयोजन किया गया है। तीन दिसम्बर को इसका उद्घाटन नंदन में पर्यावरण मंत्री सुदर्शन घोष दस्तीदार करेंगे। शुक्रवार को आयोजित संवाददाता सम्मेलन में प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के चेयरमैन प्रो. विनय कान्त दत्त ने यह सूचना दी। उन्होंने बताया कि प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, बाँयोडायवर्सिटी बोर्ड तथा दिल्ली की कम्पनी सीबीएस इन्वार्मेंट ने संयुक्त रूप से यह प्रयास कर रही है। दत्त ने बताया कि इस मौके पर

30 फिल्मों दिखाई जाएंगी। पीसीबी के सभागार के अतिरिक्त स्कूल व कॉलेजों में फिल्म दिखाई जाएगी। जो इको क्लब के छात्र को भी फिल्म दिखाई जाएगी। सुरेन्द्र नाथ कॉलेज तथा सेडी ब्रबन कॉलेज आदि भी फिल्मों दिखाई जाएंगी।

State to organise biodiversity film fest

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
 KOLKATA

In a first of its kind, a five-day long film festival on issues related to biodiversity will be organised by the state environment department with other government and private partners. Around 30 international and Indian films in eight different venues will be screened with the theme, 'Biodiversity Conservation'.

The festival would be inaugurated by state environment minister Sudarshan Ghosh Dastidar on December 3 at Nandan. CMS Vatavaran - Environment and Wildlife Film Festival and Forum - is the key partner organising this film festival. "Kolkata CMS Vatavaran is a people's festival on biodiversity to enhance understanding, appreciation and shift in attitudes on the natural world and its conser-

vation through films and biodiversity forums," said Alka Tomar, festival director.

Apart from Nandan, the films would be screened at educational institutes such as Lady Brabourne College, Surendranath College and Ashok Hall Girls' Higher Secondary School. Films would also be shown at the state pollution control board (PCB) and other venues. PCB chairman Binay K Dutta said: "Festivals on biodiversity would encourage us to think about film as a potentially strong medium to communicate with society." He also appreciated that Kolkata has been selected as the travelling film festival city. Not only film screening, a panel discussion on biodiversity is also a part of the festival. The topic for discussion is 'Challenges to Biodiversity of West Bengal from Climate Change'.

7.

Hindustan Times

3

December 01, 2012

FIRST FILM FESTIVAL ON BIODIVERSITY

HT Correspondent
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KOLKATA: The state's first film festival on biodiversity, 'Kolkata CMS Vatavaran', will kick off on December 3 in Kolkata.

"This film festival is the first of its kind in West Bengal. The themes of all the films will centre around biodiversity and its conservation and would mainly target school students from across the state," AK Sanyal, West Bengal Biodiversity Board chairman, said on Friday.

The five-day festival will showcase 30 award-winning films at eight venues across the city, including the auditorium of the state pollution control board, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute and other schools and colleges.

The festival first kicked off in Dehra Dun in July 2102, visiting Jaipur, Goa and Hyderabad before Kolkata.

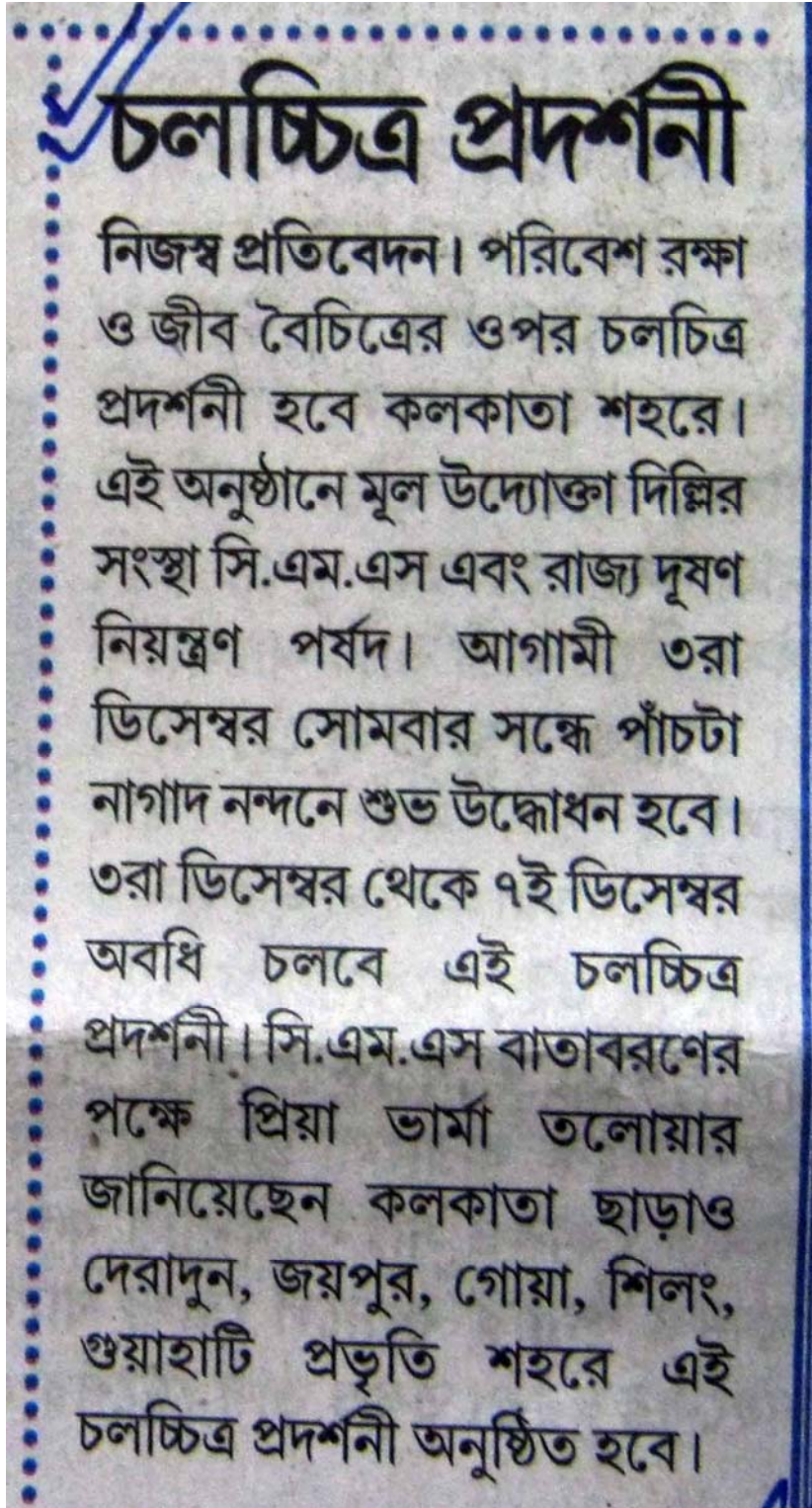
"This is the first year and we are mainly targeting schoolchildren. Representatives of at least 350 eco-clubs run by the biodiversity board in various schools across the state have been invited," BK Dutta, state pollution control board chairman, said.

Dutta said that even though this festival was organised mainly for schoolchildren, officials will try doing it on a bigger scale from 2013 so it is open to all.

CMS Environment - a Delhi based NGO - and the state environment department organised the festival. With films, there will be discussion and forums on challenges to biodiversity.

"We will also felicitate five green ambassadors - individual who have done exemplary work at the grass roots level for the conservation of biodiversity in West Bengal," said Priya Talwar, festival coordinator.





‘জীব বৈচিত্র’ চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবে পরিবেশ রক্ষার শপথ পড়ুয়াদের

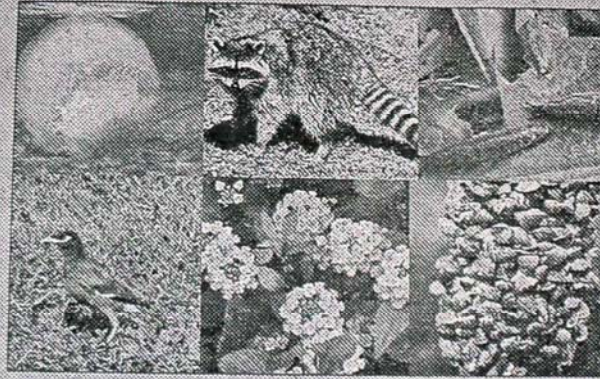
স্টাফ রিপোর্টার: ‘দাও ফিরে সে অরণ্য, লহ এ নগর...’ কলকাতায় শুরু হয়ে গেল জীববৈচিত্র সংক্রান্ত চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব। সোমবার নন্দন-৩ প্রেক্ষাগৃহে এই চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবের উদ্বোধন করেন রাজ্যের পূর্ত ও পরিবেশ দফতরের মন্ত্রী ডা. সুদর্শন ঘোষদত্তিদার। প্রধান অতিথি ছিলেন রাজ্যের

শিল্প-বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী পার্থ চট্টোপাধ্যায়। ‘সিএমএস বাতাবরণ’ শীর্ষক এই চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবটি এর আগে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে দেহাদুন, গোয়া, হায়দরাবাদ এবং জয়পুরে। সোমবার থেকে শুরু হয়ে চলবে আগামী ৭ ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত। জীববৈচিত্র

সংক্রান্ত বিভিন্ন বিষয়ের ৩০টি তথ্যচিত্র প্রদর্শনের পাশাপাশি চলবে আলোচনা সভা, বিতর্ক ইত্যাদি। এদিন চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবের উদ্বোধনস্থল থেকে এ রাজ্যের ‘গ্রিন অ্যান্ডারসার্ড’ হিসেবে মনোনীত করা হল সুচন্দ্রা কুণ্ডু এবং প্রদীপ দত্তকে। সুচন্দ্রা সুন্দরবনের ম্যানগ্রোভ অরণ্য সংরক্ষণের জন্য দীর্ঘদিন আন্দোলন করেছেন। আর, দাঁতনে পরমাণু প্রকল্প বাতিলের দাবিতে ব্যাপক প্রচারাভিযান

চালান প্রদীপ দত্ত।

এদিন চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবটি উদ্বোধন করে ডা. সুদর্শন ঘোষদত্তিদার বলেন, আজকের পৃথিবীর পরিস্থিতি অত্যন্ত জটিল। বাতাসে দূষণ, জলে দূষণ। যে জীববৈচিত্র আমাদের গ্রহের সম্পদ, তা নষ্ট হয়ে যাচ্ছে। এই



জীববৈচিত্রই এই গ্রহটি সবুজ রাখার অন্যতম শর্ত। যে কোনও উপায়ে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে। বাঁচিয়ে রাখতে হবে ইকো-সিস্টেমকে। আগামীদিনে যখন শক্তিসঙ্কট তীব্র হবে, তখন ভরসা একমাত্র পরিবেশ-বান্ধব সৌরশক্তি। পার্থ চট্টোপাধ্যায় বলেন, পৃথিবীর বুকে যে

জীববৈচিত্র রয়েছে, তা বিবর্তনের ইতিহাসকে ধরে রেখে ছে। রাষ্ট্রসংঘ ২০১১ থেকে ২০২০ সাল পর্যন্ত জীববৈচিত্র দশক হিসেবে ঘোষণা করেছে। পৃথিবীকে বাঁচাতে গেলে জীববৈচিত্রের সংরক্ষণ প্রয়োজন। চলতি চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবে যোগ দিচ্ছে শহরের সাড়ে তিন হাজার ইকোক্লাব। প্রায় ৬০০জন বিভিন্ন স্কুল-কলেজের পড়ুয়া অংশ নিচ্ছেন এই চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবে।

জীববৈচিত্র সংরক্ষণের লক্ষ্যে শহরে শুরু চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার : ফুরিয়ে আসতে থাকা জীববৈচিত্র সংরক্ষণে শহরে শুরু হল চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব। সোমবার নন্দনে 'কলকাতা সিএমএস বাতাবরণ ২০১২' শীর্ষক এই চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবের উদ্বোধন করেন রাজ্যের শিল্পমন্ত্রী পার্থ চট্টোপাধ্যায়। ছিলেন পরিবেশমন্ত্রী ডা. সুদর্শন ঘোষদস্তিদার, রাজ্য পরিবেশ দফতরের প্রধান সচিব আর পি এম কাহালো, রাজ্য দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান বিনয় কে দত্ত, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ জীববৈচিত্র পর্যদের চেয়ারম্যান ডঃ এ কে সান্যাল, চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবের কো-অর্ডিনেটর প্রিয়া ভার্মা তলোয়ার, তাপস ধরমপাল প্রমুখ।

রাজ্য পরিবেশ দফতর ও নয়া দিল্লির 'সিএমএস এনভায়রনমেন্ট'-এর যৌথ উদ্যোগে আয়োজিত এই চলচ্চিত্র উৎসবে প্রদর্শিত হবে জীববৈচিত্রের উপর পুরস্কৃত পাঁচটি ছবি। উদ্বোধনী ছবি হিসাবে এদিন 'বক্সা টাইগার রিজার্ভ ফরেস্ট'-এর উপর একটি তথ্যচিত্র প্রদর্শিত হয়। অনুষ্ঠানে পরিবেশমন্ত্রী সুদর্শন রায়চৌধুরি জানান, "রাজ্যে এই ধরনের

উদ্যোগ এই প্রথম। নতুন প্রজন্মের মধ্যে জীববৈচিত্র সংরক্ষণের ভাবনাকে উস্কে দিতেই এই উদ্যোগ।" তিনি বলেন, "সুরেন্দ্রনাথ কলেজ, লেডি ব্রিগেন কলেজ, হেরম্বচন্দ্র কলেজ, লরেটো ডে স্কুল, অশোকা গার্লস হাইস্কুল-সহ রাজ্য দূষণ পর্যদ ও নন্দনে প্রদর্শিত হবে উৎসবের ছবি। পাশাপাশি আগামী ৫ ডিসেম্বর দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ পর্যদের অডিটোরিয়ামে জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন নিয়ে একটি আলোচনাসভার আয়োজন করা হয়েছে।" জীববৈচিত্র নিয়ে মৌলিক গবেষণার পক্ষে এদিন প্রস্তাব দেন তিনি। রাজ্যের বিভিন্ন 'ইকো-ক্লাব'-এর তিন হাজার ছাত্রছাত্রী এই উৎসবে অংশগ্রহণ করেছে। অনুষ্ঠানে শিল্পমন্ত্রী পার্থ চট্টোপাধ্যায় বলেন, "এই ধরনের উদ্যোগ আগে দেখেনি। রাজ্যে পরিবর্তন আসার পর দিল্লির দুই সংস্থা এই শহরকে বেছে নিয়েছে। আগেও হয়তো তারা ভেবেছিল। কিন্তু আমাদের সরকার তাদের উদ্যোগকে স্বাগত জানিয়েছে।" এদিন অনুষ্ঠানে দুই পরিবেশবিদকে পুরস্কৃত করা হয়।

5-day biodiversity film fest targets students

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
 KOLKATA

With the city's youth showing more responsibility towards environmental conservation, the state's first film festival on biodiversity has targeted students of schools and colleges. The five-day festival was inaugurated at Nandan on Monday.

The film festival has roped in 3,500 eco-clubs from various schools in the city and the districts and will see the participation of at least 10,000 students and teachers over the next four days. Apart from Nandan, the other venues will be Loreto Day School, Ashok Hall Girls' Higher Secondary School, Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, City College (South), Lady Brabourne College and Surendranath College. These will be screening 30 award-winning films that delve into the issue of biodiversity conservation.

"Cinema is a visual medium and has the power to educate all. Films on reducing carbon emissions, energy efficiency and eco-friendly industries will be screened at the festival. With mountains, seas, and forest areas, Bengal has a very rich bio-

diversity. Bengal is also home to a colossal pool of researchers from various disciplines. We should focus on using our own resources to save our own environment," said state environment minister Sudarshan Ghosh Dastidar.

At the inauguration, two green ambassadors from West Bengal were awarded for the remarkable contribution in the field of biodiversity conservation. From a list of 32 nominations submitted by the state government, Suchandra Kundu was selected for her outstanding work in saving the mangrove system and conserving the Bengal tiger in the delta region while Pradeep Dutta was chosen for spearheading the anti-nuclear movement in Haripur. A 14-minute-long film titled Tiger Project in Buxa Forest was also screened at the event.

"The work of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board in saving biodiversity has been noted across the country. This film festival will help in spreading awareness and educating citizens on the necessity to continue this pursuit," said RPS Kahlon, principal secretary, state environment department.

पहली बार पर्यावरण फिल्म महोत्सव



पर्यावरण कार्यकर्ता सुचंद्रा कुंदू को सम्मानित करते मंत्री पार्थ चटर्जी

जामरण

जगर प्रतिनिधि, कोलकाता : देश की सांस्कृतिक राजधानी कोलकाता में पहली बार पर्यावरण और बायोडाइवर्सिटी सुरक्षा आधारित फिल्म महोत्सव आयोजित किया गया है। सोमवार शाम उद्योग मंत्री पार्थ चटर्जी और पर्यावरण मंत्री डा. सुदर्शन घोष दस्तिदार ने रंजन में महोत्सव का दीप प्रज्वलित कर संयुक्त उद्घाटन किया।

राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड और पर्यावरण सुरक्षा के लिए काम रहे दिल्ली आधारित संगठन सीएमएस वातावरण की ओर से शुरू हुए इस महोत्सव में कुल 30 फिल्में दिखाई जाएगी। समारोह का उद्घाटन करते हुए उद्योग मंत्री पार्थ चटर्जी ने कहा कि इस तरह की फिल्मों का प्रसारण इस लिए भी जरूरी है क्योंकि वे पर्यावरण को ही रहे नुकसान की तरफ ध्यान आकृष्ट करती हैं और हमें उसे रोकने को प्रेरित करती हैं। राज्य सरकार इस तरह के आयोजनों को हमेशा बढ़ावा

देगी। उद्घाटन सत्र में पर्यावरण मंत्री ने दिल्ली की आयोजक संस्था से कहा सरकार आपको हर सम्भव सहायता करेगी। उल्लेखनीय है कि पीसीबी ने आयोजन के लिए आर्थिक मदद प्रदान की है। उद्घाटन सत्र में सुंदरवन के मैश्रीव जंगलों को बचाने के लिए मुहिम चला रही सुचंद्रा कुंदू और दांतन में परमाणु संयंत्र के खिलाफ लोगों को एक जुट करने वाले प्रदीप दत्ता को डा. दस्तिदार ने सम्मानित किया। फिल्म समारोह की संयोजक प्रिया वर्मा ने बताया कि आयोजन की विशेषता इसलिए भी है कि फिल्मों के प्रसारण स्थल के तीर महानगर के कुछ कालेजों और स्कूलों का भी चयन हुआ है। मालदा और मुर्शिदाबाद में गंगा के भयावह कटाव पर बनी फिल्म भांगन समारोह का खास आकर्षण है। इसके अलावा फिल्म सेकेंड हैंड लाइफ में विदेशों से भारत में आ रहे इलेक्ट्रॉनिक कबाड़ के खतरों पर आगाह किया जाएगा।

Green film fest sees huge turnout on Day I

■ OUR CORRESPONDENT
 KOLKATA

The first set of film screenings of Vatavaran – a five-day film festival and forum on biodiversity conservation, saw an unexpectedly large turnout at each of the three venues where a total of 12 films were screened throughout the day. Most of the visitors were glued to their chairs during the screenings that lasting for one-and-a-half-hours. Four short-films were shown at each venue.

Of the eight venues across the city that will be screening a total of 30 award-winning films till December 7, on Tuesday Surendranath College, West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) were the three venues where students and environmentalists came together to witness the dilapidating condition of biodiversity across the world.

"Not only did the films depict the degree of exploitation man has inflicted upon natural resources but also emphasised the necessity to conserve biodiversity," said Malini Choudhury, law student at Surendranath College, where the screenings began at 10.00 am. Films like *Amongst Tigers and Elephants*, a 25-minute documentary for Prasar Bharati by the Bedi Brothers and Peter McBride's 18-minute long *Chasing Water*, were screened here before the next set of screenings that commenced at WBPCB at noon.

At WBPCB, where at least one screening will take place every day during

the festival, World Wildlife Fund's *The Jungle Gang Meets the Rhino* by Shankar S was screened along with three other prominent films.

"Shankar has been promoting biodiversity conservation for years and his work display hard-hitting truths about the deteriorating condition of the environment as well as wildlife. I am glad that this was one of the films to be shown to the youth. It is an inspirational piece of work," said Sundeeep Srivastav, senior festival manager.

Screenings at the third venue SRFTI began at 6 pm and the auditorium was packed as most of spectators were film students. "Santosh Pednekar's *Crumple* not only delves into the issue of environmental degradation but the techniques in the film are remarkable. Same goes for Christian Baumeister's *Amazon Alive*. We usually have the evenings to ourselves and I am thrilled that I did not have to rearrange my schedule to watch the films," said Ashim Paul, direction student, SRFTI.

With the aim of reaching out to people about saving the environment through this film festival, Vatavaran has adopted a two-year format for the past 10 years.

Every alternate year, a competition is organised where the best of environmental short-films from across the world are selected and the following year, the same films are screened at various destinations across India to spread environmental awareness amongst citizens.

पर्यावरण और वन प्राणी फिल्मोत्सव शुरू

■ दस्तीदार का संतुलित वातावरण पर जोर

■ फिल्मोत्सव से युवकों होंगे जागरूक - पार्थ

कोलकाता. महानगर के नंदन फिल्म सेन्टर में पर्यावरण और वन प्राणी फिल्मोत्सव शुरू हो गया है। यह सात दिसम्बर तक चलेगा। सीएमएस वातावरण द्वारा आयोजित इस फिल्मोत्सव में ग्रह, पृथ्वी के वन प्राणी और जैविक विविधता पर बनी फिल्में दिखाई जाएंगी। इसका उद्घाटन रा'य के पर्यावरण मंत्री सुदर्शन घोष दस्तीदार ने किया। उन्होंने कहा कि वातावरण के प्रति जागरूकता फैलाने के लिए फिल्म

एक प्रभावशाली माध्यम है। जैविक पद्धति में काम करने वाले हम सभी जानते हैं कि हम अभी तक बचे रह सकते हैं जब तक वातावरण में संतुलन बना रहेगा। यह खुशी की बात है सीएमएस वातावरण जैसी संस्था ने यहां पर वन प्राणी व पर्यावरण पर बनी फिल्मों का उत्सव का आयोजन किया है। महानगर के स्कूली बच्चे इस तरह की फिल्में देखेंगे और पृथ्वी को बचाने के प्रति जागरूक होंगे। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित राज्य के उद्योग मंत्री पार्थ चटर्जी ने कहा कि यूनाइटेड नेशन्स ने वर्ष 2011-20 को जैविक विविधता वर्ष घोषित किया है। कोलकाता के लोग इस फिल्मोत्सव का आनन्द उठाएंगे। इस अवसर पर फिल्मोत्सव की संयोजक प्रिया वर्मा उपस्थित थीं।

Sunderbans biodiversity back to normal: Experts

OUR CORRESPONDENT
 KOLKATA

As part of Vatavaran, the first film festival and forum on biodiversity conservation, a panel discussion was organised to discuss the environmental development after Cyclone Aila hit the Sunderbans and other areas in May 2009. Though the central government sanctioned ₹5,500 crore to rebuild the embankment of the world's largest estuarine forest at the cost of relocating the locals of the Sunderbans, the locals refused to move out but offered to be a part of the restoration process.

"When the locals refused to be relocated, we designed a development module whereby not only would the Sunderbans be restored but the extensive biodiversity could also be conserved," said environmentalist A K Ghosh. Through the work of the Sunderbans board, seven to eight departments of the state government, private agencies and over a 100 NGOs, the input cost of the organic rehabilitation was reduced, ecological benefits provided, net farm income sustained and agro biodiversity was nurtured.

"Cyclone Aila caused the salinity level of the water to increase and hence

the locals lost the primary source of their income. The 5.1 million residents of the 55 islands of the Sunderbans did not know how to sustain themselves despite the diverse flora and fauna found in the Sunderbans," said Anurag Danda, an environmentalist with the World Wildlife Fund.

As part of rehabilitating the locals and simultaneously conserving biodiversity, over two-and-a-half years and across 2,000 hectares, 30,000 community members from 108 villages successfully planted 41 lakh saplings. These saplings would produce seeds that would keep the farmers from purchasing commercialised grains and hence create a seed bank of their own.

By involving community members in the project, men and women were empowered alike and the bio-reserve was strengthened. "Apart from conserving the biodiversity, community models and sustenance models help to integrate biodiversity. For instance, if the vast 6,000-hectares span of mangrove forests along the coastal border secured a land inhabited by the people during natural calamities like Cyclone Aila, their houses, farms and businesses will also be saved," Ajanta Dey, the president of Nature Environment Wildlife Society.

Photo Courtesy: Pictorandis.com



Silver screen, Green issues

At the five-day CMS Vatavaran Film Festival, the first of its kind in the country, filmmakers bring to light environmental concerns from across the globe, reports **Dhritiman Ray**

In 2008, Pete McBride, an American photojournalist, set out to trace the journey of the American Nile — the mighty Colorado River. As a kid, he was in awe of the river that flowed beside his family ranch in a central Colorado district. Along with his friend, Jonathon Waterman, a former National Geographic Channel photographer, McBride followed the river from its origin in the Rocky Mountains to the Cortez Sea, a more than 2,300km-long journey.

A painstaking five-month journey on raft, through air and by foot later, McBride was reeling under what he discovered. The Colorado's water — which breathes life into seven states and major cities such as Las Vegas — is fractured by the gigantic Hoover Dam and deposition of salt, and is poisoned with industrial and human waste. McBride was equally astonished to find Las Vegas, a city unparalleled in grandeur, paying its residents to replace the grass on their lawns with desert shrubs, so that the local, native flora doesn't drain the underground water, unlike the ornamental grass.

GREEN FILM FESTS

- INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL (FIGMA), BARCELONA, SPAIN
- TORONTO ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL, CANADA
- ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL, WASHINGTON DC, USA
- REEL EARTH FESTIVAL, NEW ZEALAND
- SAN FRANCISCO OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL, USA
- INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL OF SERRA DA ESTRELA, SEIA, PORTUGAL

As he reached the confluence, he found the river reduced to large mazes of concrete canals, its bed growing into a desert. He discovered a shocking truth — the river that had been flowing to the Sea of Cortez for over 6 million years, since 1998, stops before reaching the sea.

McBride's award-winning 12-minute documentary, *Chasing Water*, unearths the wretched state of the Colorado River. The picture is the same for rivers around the world. While conservationists, scientists and governments try to address water issues in their own ways, documentary makers help by spreading awareness through films.

In 2010, Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas, then students of Mass Communication in Jamia Millia Islamia University, directed and produced *The Miracle Water Village*, a 12-minute film on rain-water harvesting in Hiware Nagar village in Ahmad Nagar district, Maharashtra. In the Sixties, scanty rainfall and the village's reduced water levels — thanks to boring — aggravated farmers' problems, which included cultivating in rocky terrains. Farmer Yadav Dada Thange's story is typical of life in the

village. Now in his sixties, Thange, who had 15 acres of farmland, was forced to migrate to Mumbai in 1965 and live as a daily wage.

It all changed in 1989, when the village panchayat decided to trap and divert rainwater to the fields. Underwater boating was banned, and this helped raise the water levels. Ten years later, there were four harvests in summer alone.

Ghosh and Thomas' documentary, made as part of their UK Fellowship programme, impressed critics and conservationists everywhere. The film was aired on the National Geographic Channel in June 2010 and screened at the UN Convention of Climate Change, Cancun, Mexico in 2010. It brought to light the people's efforts to develop a sustainable model. "We don't know why nobody actually made a film on them," Ghosh says.

But, Ghosh and Thomas are not alone. Every year, hundreds of Indian filmmakers bring burning environmental issues to light. And, in the process, they brave many challenges. Ghosh and Thomas took over six months to finish the project, which involved extensive travelling and meeting many people. "Making documentaries [is] tougher than making films," Ghosh opines.

Where Ghosh and Thomas use a soft approach in narrating their story, Sourav Sarangi tries an aggressive outlook. Sarangi's *Bhanganon* is a one-minute film on the erosion of the banks of the Padma river. The film captures the wrath of nature and the affected people's rage against the government.

"Documentary is about reality, not a reality show," says Sourav Sarangi to *Tehelka*. Sarangi is a former Presidency College and Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, graduate. His films such as *Bilal*, *Chor—Jhe Island Within*, have been lauded at international film festivals, such as at the Locarno Open Door Festival, 2011 and the Dubai International Film Festival, 2012. *Bhanganon* earned Sarangi the Best Director's Award at the Madurai International Documentary and Short Film Festival in 2007 and the prestigious Film South Asia award in 2007.

"Not much work has been done on water, although it is a burning issue worldwide. Since 2007, West Bengal has witnessed mass movements (for) land. The day is approaching when there will be a worldwide movement on water, which will inspire filmmakers to make more films on this issue," says Shyamal Karmakar, the Head of the Department of Editing, Satyajit Ray Film and

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THE DAY IS
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ON THIS ISSUE

SHYAMAL KARMAKAR

Television Institute (SRFTI), and Sarangi's classmate at FTII. Karmakar is making a film on the lesser-known rivers of Bengal that are headed towards extinction.

It may come as a surprise, but a handsome number of films are made by Indian filmmakers each year on water. Tarini Manchanda's *Groundwater Up*

(2010) focuses on the depleting water resources in Delhi. Several documentaries have been made on burning issues such as the Narmada Movement (*A Narmada Diary* by A. Patwardhan, *Narmada Rising* by Tarini Manchanda) and the infamous Bihar floods of 2008, caused by the swelling of the Kosi River (*Kosi Katha — The Making of a Ravine* by Jan Madhyam), but these have failed to reach the masses. "Unlike in other countries, documentary makers in India suffocate under scarce budgets. This compromises the quality of their films and hampers the dissemination of their work," Ghosh says.

Even though documentary filmmakers lack financial and technological muscle, unlike Bollywood, they leave no stone unturned to reach the masses. Their films are screened at various educational institutions, corporate events and government organisations. Moreover, their films are uploaded to prominent social networking sites such as Facebook and YouTube. "The *Miracle Water Village* has over 50,000 views," Ghosh says. "The film was used as a resource, as an advocacy tool by organisations," Ghosh clarifies. "Screening our films at festivals is the best platform for us. But every major festival demands hefty entry fees. We need new and bigger platforms to

reach out to the people," he says.

Karmakar too blames the absence of a platform where films can be presented. "The absence of glamour makes the investors and the audience reluctant. People [need to] understand that small films contain even bigger stories," he says. The CMS Vatavaran Film Festival is one such platform that provides the essential push to this genre. What started as an endeavour in 2002 to save nature has evolved into a dedicated film festival on environment, the first of its kind in India. The festival was recently hosted in Kolkata, and screened over 30 films (including *Chasing Water*, *Bhanganon* and *The Miracle Water Village*) by eminent and amateur filmmakers from across the world.

"Back in 2002, a study by our team found that India does not make good films on environment," says Priya Vema Taylor, the festival coordinator. The inaugural festival was launched in Delhi in 2002 and the first edition received 100 entries. However, the festival soon went travelling so it could reach a wider audience. This year, the festival has toured Jaipur, Dehradun, Hyderabad and Panaji. In Kolkata, the five-day festival stayed away from conventional theatres and, instead, was screened across educational institutes such as Surendranath College, SRFTI, Loreto School for Girls and the Ashok Hall Girls' School. That apart, seminars and interactive sessions were organised at the West Bengal Pollution Control Board auditorium. The organisers also encourage awareness among people outside the regular social set-up. "In the Jaipur edition, we screened our films for inmates of the Jaipur Jail," Taylor says.

Director of *The Miracle Water Village*, Ghosh, feels that a confluence of filmmakers and experts from around the world can help support the movement. "It offers amateur filmmakers [a] platform ... and ... exposes Indian filmmakers to new technologies," he says.

Karmakar adds, "The festival was not something where theatres were overflowing ... But, still, it was praised."

Year 2012 marks 100 years of Indian cinema. As the megastars of Bollywood dance to popular tunes at glossy award ceremonies and movie lovers savour the delight of back-to-back film festivals such as KFF (Kolkata International Film Festival) and IFFI (International Film Festival of India), movie makers like Ghosh and Sarangi continue to make documentaries on global issues, far from quietly eluding the glittering world of the silver screen.



Shyamal Ghosh and Rinku Thomas created *The Miracle Water Village*, a documentary on rainwater harvesting in Maharashtra

INTERNET MEDIA COVERAGE

18.	http://blogs.nature.com/indigenus/2012/11/green-films-for-the-masses.html	November 28, 2012
<p>Nature India Indigenus</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Green films for the masses</p> <p>28 Nov 2012 11:42 GMT Posted by SubhraPriyadarshini Category: Art of Science, Environment, Wildlife</p> <p>Films on environment and wildlife have come a long way in India in the last decade. Celluloid seems to be quite a medium of choice to take the message across. The film making format has also seen a change with many film makers changing over to new ways of storytelling.</p> <p>However, documentary films screened at environment and wildlife film festivals, viewed by select audiences most of whom are already aware of the issues, do not somehow seem to go beyond that mandate. Yes, the challenges to cross over to the other side, the mainstream, and be seen by the masses are many — no one goes to a movie theatre to be preached, they go there for entertainment.</p> <div data-bbox="149 831 630 1167" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Is there a middle path for environment & wildlife film makers? A still from 'Life of Pi'.</p> <p>Life of Pi movie/Flickr</p> <p>At the other end of the spectrum are big budget movies such as 'Life of Pi', which every middle class and upper class household in India worth its salt went to check out last weekend. The movie taught children a thing or two about animal behaviour and survival strategies (though many could scientifically challenge some of the films contents, specially the dream-like carnivorous island). Agreed that it takes one Ang Lee and truckloads of money to make such movies but the take home message here is the art of storytelling.</p> <p>Is there a way of telling a story, beyond the documentary mode, that could perhaps make a movie much more 'mainstream'? Why don't more environment and wildlife film makers use innovative ways of telling stories? That, in no way, is intended to belittle the classic documentary format, which will forever continue to charm the more intellectually-oriented — the classes, as cinema lingo labels them. As for the masses, these festivals will perhaps need to reinvent themselves in form and tenor for people to sit up and take note.</p> <p>The organisers of environment and wildlife film festivals seem to realise this and are struggling hard to reach their message across to more people every year.</p> <p>One of the biggest film festivals in this genre in India — the multi-city traveling festival CMS Vatavaran that began in 2002 — boasted of 300 entries from 27 countries last year. It is still travelling this year with the theme 'biodiversity conservation' and is scheduled to screen films in the West Bengal capital Kolkata next week (December 3-8, 2012). Their theme was a good fit for Hyderabad's COP-11 to the Convention on Biological Diversity, where they hosted the 'International Biodiversity Film Festival' with more than 50 Indian and international films on biodiversity issues.</p> <p>The organisers say, "Ideals are abstract, but they are necessary, too. They can be transformed into a felt experience, but can get only as febrile as the passion that pushes it. The questions that provoked</p>		

us a decade ago remain.”

Being screened in New Delhi next week is ‘Quotes from the Earth’ (December 6-7, 2012), an environment film festival organised by advocacy group Toxics Link and India International Centre, Delhi. It will have about 25 films from across the world, some of which are currently on show at the more mainstream film event ‘International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2012) in Goa (November 20-30, 2012).

That brings us to films with overt or covert environment/wildlife themes being screened at the more talked about and attended IFFI, 2012. Of these films, just about a couple adopt the documentary-style story telling technique. While the Greek film ‘Boy eating Bird’s Food’ is the story of a boy and a canary bird with insights into the bird’s life, the Hebrew-Russian ‘Igor and the Crane’s Journey’ is the story of a father and son tracing the journey of migratory birds from Russia to Africa. English film ‘Salmon Fishing in the Yemen’ is a visionary sheikh’s passion for a peaceful pastime of salmon fishing and the ‘Last dogs of Winter’ tells the story of wild bears peacefully sharing a barren strip of coastal land with a large number of chained dogs during polar bear season in Manitoba, Canada. ‘Fogo’, featuring a small community in the Fogo island that is forced to leave as the tundras take over their habitats and ‘More than Honey’, a personal perspective of a beekeeper’s grandson in Switzerland, are a couple of others to mention.

Adopting the documentary style are Elemental (by GayatriRoshan and Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee) which narrates the journey of three people connected by their deep bond with nature and driven to confront some of the most pressing ecological challenges of our times, the Vidarbha farmer suicides story ‘Cotton for my Shroud’, and the self explanatory ‘Himachal’s Avian Paradise: Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary’ and ‘Mangroves: Guardian of the Coast’.

‘Tiger Dynasty’, a popular film in wildlife film circuit by director-producer-cinematographer S. Nallamuthu shows the life of a young tigress taken from her home in Ranthambore National Park and released in Sariska with the hope that she will raise a new dynasty there. The film maker has been filming the tigress ever since she was a cub and he reveals what challenges such displaced animals feel in their new environments. ‘Char: the No Man’s Land’, is an account of environment refugees from India and Bangladesh.

GirishKasaravalli’s national award winning film from 2002 ‘Dweepa’ is also a refreshing entry — it deals with the issues of building dams and displacement of natives — with some master storytelling and camera.

I’m sure the issue has been debated in umpteen panel discussions, perhaps in these very film festivals, but it would be good to know what film makers in this genre think about marrying entertainment with hard-core information-packed story telling techniques? Is there a middle path for environment and wildlife messages? Infotainment, without dumbing down the message? What are the cult movies in this genre, according to you?

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19.	http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Film-Festival/speednewsbytopic/keyid-1666.cms	November 29, 2012
<div>  Film Festival Raghunath K Shriramwar, the Aurangabad lad, bagged nomination for CMS Vatavaran, the environment and wildlife film festival to be held in December in Delhi. </div> <div> By Syed Rizwanullah, Aurangabad 441 days ago      </div>		

20.	http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/film-festival-to-focus-on-biodiversity-conservation/article4153052.ece	December 1, 2012
<div>  <p>HomeNewsOpinionSportBusinessArtsLife & StyleS & TEducationHealthJobsClassifiedsToday's PaperTopics Today's Paper » NATIONAL » OTHER STATES</p> <p>Kolkata, December 1, 2012</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Film festival to focus on biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Staff Reporter</p> <p>A five-day 'Biodiversity Film Festival and Forum' being organised by the State Environment Department and CMS Environment -- a non-government organisation -- from December 3 aims to sensitise the youth of the city to conserve natural resources.</p> <p>The festival started in July this year in Dehra Dun and will conclude in Kolkata. It was also held in Jaipur, Goa, and Hyderabad earlier this year.</p> <p>Thirty films on the ecological diversity of our planet will be screened at eight venues across the city. A panel discussion on the challenges to biodiversity of West Bengal from climate change is organised by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board on December 5. "The theme of this film festival organised every alternate year by CMS Environment is 'Biodiversity' because the United Nations has declared 2011-2020 as the 'Decade of Biodiversity' and also because for the first time India hosted the Convention on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad in October," said Festival Coordinator, Priya Verma of CMS Environment.</p> <p>"India was among the first in the world to have a Biodiversity Act in 2002 but we are facing alarming biodiversity loss. The aim of the festival is, among other things, permanently change the way we consume natural resources," she added.</p> <p>"Films are potentially a strong medium to communicate with society and creating an effective medium to sensitize the young generation," said Chairman of the State's Pollution Control Board, Prof BinoyKantiDutta. "Public perception on biodiversity is quite vague so through films it will be easy to make people aware of conservation and sustainable use of the rich biodiversity," he added.</p> <p>More In: OTHER STATES NATIONAL</p> <p>Ads by Google</p> <p>Travel India with Savaari</p> <p>India's Largest Car Rental Company. Pay @Booking or Drop-off, Book Now!</p> <p>Savaari.com/Safe-Way-To-TravelClub Mahindra Holidays</p> <p>40 luxury resort in India, 6300 RCI affiliated resorts abroad. Register</p> <p>clubmahindra.com/Visit_ClubMahindraFree coaching for IIT JEE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Access Free Video Lectures, Notes & Test to crack IITJEE. Register Now!</p> </div>		

21.	http://sanctuaryasia.com/events/upcoming-events/9056-7th-cms-vatavaran	December 1, 2012
 <p>7th CMS Vatavaran</p> <p>December 3-8, 2012: CMS Vatavaran announces its 7th wildlife and environment film festival and calls for entries for the year 2012 from filmmakers from around the country. Themes concerning everything from sustainable urban planning to show casing the wilderness of the country.</p> <p>Event details</p> <p>Dates: December 3-8, 2012</p> <p>Venue: Kolkata</p> <p>Related info: http://www.cmsvatavaran.org/#</p> <p>About the event</p> <p>The 2012 CMS VATAVARAN film festival has a central theme of biodiversity. The organisers of the festival explain: "We chose this theme because public perception on biodiversity is quite vague. We have a hazy understanding of the multiplicity of species on Earth, little sense of how this diversity gives stability to life and provides ecosystem services to villagers as well as those living in cities. The situation in India is, indeed, ironic: this country was among the first in the world to have a Biodiversity Act in 2002. So focus must fall on why a country like ours faces alarming biodiversity loss. The impact is, sometimes, shocking to see. But to go beyond, we want discussion on possible solutions to ensure that the ecosystems of the planet continue to sustain human well-being in the future. "</p>		

22. <http://portal.thebengalpost.com/index.php/index/newsdetails/State-to-organise-biodiversity-film-fest-147425521354293192>

December 1, 2012



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State to organise biodiversity film fest

Fest, environment, Kolkata, West Bengal

By Our Correspondent, On 12-01-2012

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In a first of its kind, a five-day long film festival on issues related to biodiversity will be organised by the state environment department with other government and private partners. Around 30 international and Indian films in eight different venues will be screened with the theme, 'Biodiversity Conservation'.

The festival would be inaugurated by state environment minister Sudarshan Ghosh Dastidar on December 3 at Nandan. CMS Vatavaran - Environment and Wildlife Film Festival and Forum - is the key partner organising this film festival. "Kolkata CMS Vatavaran is a people's festival on biodiversity to enhance understanding, appreciation and shift in attitudes on the natural world and its conservation through films and biodiversity forums," said Alka Tomar, festival director.

Apart from Nandan, the films would be screened at educational institutes such as Lady Brabourne College, Surendranath College and Ashok Hall Girls' Higher Secondary School. Films would also be shown at the state pollution control board (PCB) and other venues. PCB chairman Binay K Dutta said: "Festivals on biodiversity would encourage us to think about film as a potentially strong medium to communicate with society." He also appreciated that Kolkata has been selected as the travelling film festival city. Not only film screening, a panel discussion on biodiversity is also a part of the festival. The topic for discussion is 'Challenges to Biodiversity of West Bengal from Climate Change'.

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FIRST FILM FESTIVAL ON BIODIVERSITY



The state's first film festival on biodiversity, 'Kolkata CMS Vatavaran', will kick off on December 3 in Kolkata.

"This film festival is the first of its kind in West Bengal. The themes of all the films will centre around biodiversity and its conservation and would mainly target school students from across the state," AK Sanyal, West Bengal Biodiversity Board chairman, said on Friday.

The five-day festival will showcase 30 award-winning films at eight venues across the city, including the auditorium of the state pollution control board, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute and other schools and colleges.

The festival first kicked off in Dehra Dun in July 2102, visiting Jaipur, Goa and Hyderabad before Kolkata.

"This is the first year and we are mainly targeting schoolchildren. Representatives of at least 350 eco-clubs run by the biodiversity board in various schools across the state have been invited," BK Dutta, state pollution control board chairman, said.

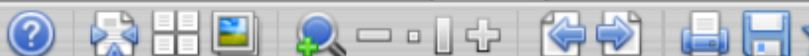
Dutta said that even though this festival was organised mainly for schoolchildren, officials will try doing it on a bigger scale from 2013 so it is open to all.

CMS Environment - a Delhi based NGO - and the state environment department organised the festival. With films, there will be discussion and forums on challenges to biodiversity.

"We will also felicitate five green ambassadors-individual who have done exemplary work at the grass roots level for the conservation of biodiversity in West Bengal," said Priya Talwar, festival coordinator.

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24.

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5-day biodiversity film fest targets students

By Our Correspondent, On 12-04-2012

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With the city's youth showing more responsibility towards environmental conservation, the state's first film festival on biodiversity has targeted students of schools and colleges. The five-day festival was inaugurated at Nandan on Monday.

The film festival has roped in 3,500 eco-clubs from various schools in the city and the districts and will see the participation of at least 10,000 students and teachers over the next four days. Apart from Nandan, the other venues will be Loreto Day School, Ashok Hall Girls' Higher Secondary School, Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, City College (South), Lady Brabourne College and Surendranath College. These will be screening 30 award-winning films that delve into the issue of bio-diversity conservation.

"Cinema is a visual medium and has the power to educate all. Films on reducing carbon emissions, energy efficiency and eco-friendly industries will be screened at the festival. With mountains, seas, and forest areas, Bengal has a very rich biodiversity. Bengal is also home to a colossal pool of researchers from various disciplines. We should focus on using our own resources to save our own environment," said state environment minister Sudarshan Ghosh Dastidar. At the inauguration, two green ambassadors from West Bengal were awarded for the remarkable contribution in the field of biodiversity conservation. From a list of 32 nominations submitted by the state government, Suchandra Kundu was selected for her outstanding work in saving the mangrove system and conserving the Bengal tiger in the delta region while Pradeep Dutta was chosen for spearheading the anti-nuclear movement in Haripur. A 14-minute-long film titled Tiger Project in Buxa Forest was also screened at the event.

"The work of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board in saving biodiversity has been noted across the country. This film festival will help in spreading awareness and educating citizens on the necessity to continue this pursuit," said RPS Kahlon, principal secretary, state environment department.

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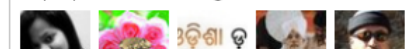
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25. <http://portal.thebengalpost.com/index.php/index/newsdetails/Green-film-fest-sees-huge-turnout-on-Day-I-341567841354640091>

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Green film fest sees huge turnout on Day I

By Our Correspondent, On 12-05-2012

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The first set of film screenings of Vatavaran – a five-day film festival and forum on biodiversity conservation, saw an unexpectedly large turnout at each of the three venues where a total of 12 films were screened throughout the day. Most of the visitors were glued to their chairs during the screenings that lasting for one-and-a-half-hours. Four short-films were shown at each venue.

Of the eight venues across the city that will be screening a total of 30 award-winning films till December 7, on Tuesday Surendranath College, West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) were the three venues where students and environmentalists came together to witness the dilapidating condition of biodiversity across the world.

"Not only did the films depict the degree of exploitation man has inflicted upon natural resources but also emphasised the necessity to conserve biodiversity," said Malini Choudhury, law student at Surendranath College, where the screenings began at 10.00 am. Films like *Amongst Tigers and Elephants*, a 25-minute documentary for Prasar Bharati by the Bedi Brothers and Peter McBride's 18-minute long *Chasing Water*, were screened here before the next set of screenings that commenced at WBPCB at noon.

At WBPCB, where at least one screening will take place every day during the festival, World Wildlife Fund's *The Jungle Gang Meets the Rhino* by Shankar S was screened along with three other prominent films.

"Shankar has been promoting biodiversity conservation for years and his work display hard-hitting truths about the deteriorating condition of the environment as well as wildlife. I am glad that this was one of the films to be shown to the youth. It is an inspirational piece of work," said Sundeep Srivastav, senior festival manager.

Screenings at the third venue SRFTI began at 6 pm and the auditorium was packed as most of spectators were film students. "Santosh Pednekar's *Crumple* not only delves into the issue of environmental degradation but the techniques in the film are remarkable. Same goes for Christian Baumeister's *Amazon Alive*. We usually have the evenings to ourselves and I am thrilled that I did not have to rearrange my schedule to watch the films," said Ashim Paul, direction student, SRFTI.

With the aim of reaching out to people about saving the environment through this film festival, Vatavaran has adopted a two-year format for the past 10 years.

Every alternate year, a competition is organised where the best of environmental short-films from across the world are selected and the following year, the same films are screened at various destinations across India to spread environmental awareness amongst citizens.

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26. <http://portal.thebengalpost.com/index.php/index/newsdetails/Sunderbans-biodiversity-back-to-normal-Experts-8069921354725259>

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Sunderbans biodiversity back to normal: Experts

By Our Correspondent, On 12-06-2012

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Kolkata

As part of Vatavaran, the first film festival and forum on biodiversity conservation, a panel discussion was organised to discuss the environmental development after Cyclone Aila hit the Sunderbans and other areas in May 2009. Though the central government sanctioned '5,500 crore to rebuild the embankment of the world's largest estuarine forest at the cost of relocating the locals of the Sunderbans, the locals refused to move out but offered to be a part of the restoration process.

"When the locals refused to be relocated, we designed a development module whereby not only would the Sunderbans be restored but the extensive biodiversity could also be conserved," said environmentalist A K Ghosh. Through the work of the Sunderbans board, seven to eight departments of the state government, private agencies and over a 100 NGOs, the input cost of the organic rehabilitation was reduced, ecological benefits provided, net farm income sustained and agro biodiversity was nurtured.

"Cyclone Aila caused the salinity level of the water to increase and hence the locals lost the primary source of their income. The 5.1 million residents of the 55 islands of the Sunderbans did not know how to sustain themselves despite the diverse flora and fauna found in the Sunderbans," said Anurag Danda, an environmentalist with the World Wildlife Fund.

As part of rehabilitating the locals and simultaneously conserving biodiversity, over two-and-a-half years and across 2,000 hectares, 30,000 community members from 108 villages successfully planted 41 lakh saplings. These saplings would produce seeds that would keep the farmers from purchasing commercialised grains and hence create a seed bank of their own.

By involving community members in the project, men and women were empowered alike and the bio-reserve was strengthened. "Apart from conserving the biodiversity, community models and sustenance models help to integrate biodiversity. For instance, if the vast 6,000-hectares span of mangrove forests along the coastal border secured a land inhabited by the people during natural calamities like Cyclone Aila, their houses, farms and businesses will also be saved," Ajanta Dey, the president of Nature Environment Wildlife Society.

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TODAY'S PAPER » NATIONAL » ANDHRA PRADESH HYDERABAD, October 8, 2012

Five-day biodiversity film festival in Hyderabad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SHARE · PRINT · T+

The Hyderabad Film Club in association with the Information & Public Relations Department and the Bangalore Film Club will be organising a five-day biodiversity film festival at the Indira Priyadarshini hall, Public Gardens, from October 8 to 12, 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

52 films to be screened

About 52 films will be screened as part of the festival. The Minister for I&PR, D.K. Aruna, will inaugurate the festival on October 8 at 9.30 a.m. Noted film-maker Sekhar Kammula and his team of actors from 'Life is Beautiful' will also be present, a press release said.

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
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Photo Courtesy: The Independent.com

Silver screen, Green issues

At the five-day CMS Vatavaran Film Festival, the first of its kind in the country, filmmakers bring to light environmental concerns from across the globe, reports **Dhritiman Ray**

In 2008, Pete McBride, an American photojournalist, set out to trace the journey of the American Nile — the mighty Colorado River. As a kid, he was in awe of the river that flowed beside his family ranch in a central Colorado district. Along with his friend, Jonathon Waterman, a former National Geographic Channel photographer, McBride followed the river from its origin in the Rocky Mountains to the Cortez Sea, a more than 2,300km-long journey.

A painstaking five-month journey on raft, through air and by foot later, McBride was reeling under what he discovered. The Colorado's water — which breathes life into seven states and major cities such as Las Vegas — is fractured by the gigantic Hoover Dam and deposition of silt, and is poisoned with industrial and human waste. McBride was equally astonished to find Las Vegas, a city unparalleled in grandeur, paying its residents to replace the grass on their lawns with desert shrubs, so that the local, native flora doesn't drain the underground water, unlike the ornamental grass.

As he reached the confluence, he found the river reduced to large mazes of concrete canals, its bed growing into a desert. He discovered a shocking truth — the river that had been flowing to the Sea of Cortez for over 6 million years, since 1998, stops before reaching the sea.

McBride's award-winning 12-minute documentary, *Chasing Water*, unearths the wretched state of the Colorado River. The picture is the same for rivers around the world. While conservationists, scientists and governments try to address water issues in their own ways, documentary makers help by spreading awareness through films.

In 2010, Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas, then students of Mass Communication in Jamia Millia Islamia University, directed and produced *The Miracle Water Village*, a 12-minute film on rain-water harvesting in Hiware Bazaar village in Ahmed Nagar district, Maharashtra. In the Sixties, scanty rainfall and the village's reduced water levels — thanks to boring — aggravated farmers' problems, which included cultivating in rocky terrains. Farmer Yadav Dada Thange's story is typical of life in the

GREEN FILM FESTS

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- ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL, WASHINGTON DC, USA
- REEL EARTH FESTIVAL, NEW ZEALAND
- SAN FRANCISCO OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL, USA
- INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL OF SERRA DA ESTRELA, SEIA, PORTUGAL



village. Now in his sixties, Thange, who had 15 acres of farmland, was forced to migrate to Mumbai in 1965 and live as a daily wage.

It all changed in 1989, when the village panchayat decided to trap and divert rainwater to the fields. Underwater boring was banned, and this helped raise the water levels. Ten years later, there were four harvests in summer alone.

Ghosh and Thomas' documentary, made as part of their UK Fellowship programme, impressed critics and conservationists everywhere. The film was aired on the National Geographic Channel in June 2010 and screened at the UN Convention of Climate Change, Cancun, Mexico in 2010. It brought to light the people's efforts to develop a sustainable model. "We don't know why nobody actually made a film on them," Ghosh says.

But, Ghosh and Thomas are not alone. Every year, hundreds of Indian filmmakers bring burning environmental issues to light. And, in the process, they brave many challenges. Ghosh and Thomas took over six months to finish the project, which involved extensive travelling and meeting many people. "Making documentaries [is] tougher than making films," Ghosh opines.

Where Ghosh and Thomas use a soft approach in narrating their story, Sourav Sarangi tries an aggressive outlook. Sarangi's *Bhargon* is a one-minute film on the erosion of the banks of the Padma river. The film captures the wrath of nature and the affected people's rage against the government.

"Documentary is about reality, not a reality show," says Sourav Sarangi to *Teheka*. Sarangi is a former Presidency College and Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, graduate. His films such as *Bulul*, *Char—The Island Within*, have been lauded at international film festivals, such as at the Locarno Open Door Festival, 2011 and the Dubai International Film Festival, 2012. *Bhargon* earned Sarangi the Best Director's Award at the Madurai International Documentary and Short Film Festival in 2007 and the prestigious Film South Asia award in 2007.

"Not much work has been done on water, although it is a burning issue worldwide. Since 2007, West Bengal has witnessed mass movements [for] land. The day is approaching when there will be a worldwide movement on water, which will inspire filmmakers to make more films on this issue," says Shyamal Karmakar, the Head of the Department of Editing, Satyajit Ray Film and



THE DAY IS
APPROACHING WHEN
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WORLDWIDE
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WATER, WHICH WILL
INSPIRE FILMMAKERS
TO MAKE MORE FILMS
ON THIS ISSUE

SHYAMAL KARMAKAR

Television Institute (SRFTI), and Sarangi's classmate at FTII. Karmakar is making a film on the lesser-known rivers of Bengal that are headed towards extinction.

It may come as a surprise, but a handsome number of films are made by Indian filmmakers each year on water. Tarini Manchanda's *Groundwater Up*

(2010) focuses on the depleting water resources in Delhi. Several documentaries have been made on burning issues such as the Narmada Movement (*A Narmada Diary* by A. Patwardhan, *Narmada Rising* by Tarini Manchanda) and the infamous Bihar floods of 2008, caused by the swelling of the Kosi River (*Kosi Katha — The Making of a Ravine* by Jan Madhyam), but these have failed to reach the masses. "Unlike in other countries, documentary makers in India suffocate under scarce budgets. This compromises the quality of their films and hampers the dissemination of their work," Ghosh says.

Even though documentary filmmakers lack financial and technological muscle, unlike Bollywood, they leave no stone unturned to reach the masses. Their films are screened at various educational institutions, corporate events and government organisations. Moreover, their films are uploaded to prominent social networking sites such as Facebook and YouTube. "The *Miracle Water Village* has over 50,000 views," Ghosh says. "The film was used as a resource, as an advocacy tool by organisations," Ghosh clarifies. "Screening our films at festivals is the best platform for us. But every major festival demands hefty entry fees. We need new and bigger platforms to

reach out to the people," he says.

Karmakar too blames the absence of a platform where films can be presented.

"The absence of glamour makes the investors and the audience reluctant. People [need to] understand that small films contain even bigger stories," he says. The CMS Vatavaran Film Festival is one such platform that provides the essential push to this genre. What started as an endeavour in 2002 to save nature has evolved into a dedicated film festival on environment, the first of its kind in India. The festival was recently hosted in Kolkata, and screened over 30 films (including *Chasing Water*, *Bhargon* and *The Miracle Water Village*) by eminent and amateur filmmakers from across the world.

"Back in 2002, a study by our team found that India does not make good films on environment," says Priya Verna Taylor, the festival coordinator. The inaugural festival was launched in Delhi in 2002 and the first edition received 100 entries. However, the festival soon went travelling so it could reach a wider audience. This year, the festival has toured Jaipur, Dehradun, Hyderabad and Panaji. In Kolkata, the five-day festival stayed away from conventional theatres and, instead, was screened across educational institutes such as Surendranath College, SRFTI, Loreto School for Girls and the Ashok Hall Girls' School. That apart, seminars and interactive sessions were organised at the West Bengal Pollution Control Board auditorium. The organisers also encourage awareness among people outside the regular social set-up. "In the Jaipur edition, we screened our films for inmates at the Jaipur Jail," Taylor says.

Director of *The Miracle Water Village*, Ghosh, feels that a confluence of filmmakers and experts from around the world can help support the movement. "It offers amateur filmmakers [a] platform ... and ... exposes Indian filmmakers to new technologies," he says.

Karmakar adds, "The festival was not something where the theatres were overflowing ... But, still, it was praised."

Year 2012 marks 100 years of Indian cinema. As the megastars of Bollywood dance to popular tunes at glossy award ceremonies and movie lovers savour the delight of back-to-back film festivals such as KFF (Kolkata International Film Festival) and IFFI (International Film Festival of India), movie makers like Ghosh and Sarangi continue to make documentaries on global issues, far from quietly eluding the glittering world of the silver screen.



Suhrit Ghosh and Rinku Thomas created *The Miracle Water Village*, a documentary on rainwater harvesting in Maharashtra



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