



Press Release
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Record entries to 10th competitive edition of CMS VATAVARAN

The 10th Competitive Edition of CMS VATAVARAN Environment and Wildlife Film Festival and Forum scheduled to be held from November 27-30, 2019, has received a total of **1020 film entries from 60 countries**.

Initiated in 2002, CMSVATAVARAN is a unique green film festival and competition for environment and wildlife films for both national and international categories. Held once every two years, this festival is largest green festival in Asia and is among top five environment festivals in the world.

IHCAP or the Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme is the principle partner for the 2019 edition of CMS VATAVARAN Competitive Film Festival and Forum. IHCAP is a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and is being implemented in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. IHCAP is also supporting the implementation of the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) as a knowledge and technical partner.

The 2019 edition of CMS VATAVARAN has attracted the largest ever number of 1020 entries from across the world. In national category, films were received from **24 states** and maximum number of 42 films from Maharashtra. The festival has received an overwhelming response not just from India but from countries around the world. The international entries were received from more than **60 countries**, including 63 films from US alone.

Out of total 1020 Film Entries, 287 films were selected in the Internal peer review process under various categories, namely the festival theme Celebrating Himalayas, Wildlife Conservation, Environment Conservation, Livelihoods & Sustainable Technologies, Climate Change: Adaptation & Mitigation, Animation Films School student films, Amateur & Youth films and Public Service Announcements. *Some of the top categories that received the maximum number of films from both Indian and International filmmakers are Wildlife Conservation, Livelihoods & Sustainable Technologies and Environment Conservation.* This year, the festival also received a substantial number of films from talented newcomers.

Nomination Jury: The nomination Jury for the 10th CMS VATAVARAN comprising of 30 eminent personalities from different sectors will meet from July 23 to 25, 2019 at the Amity School of Communications, Noida. This panel will watch and debate each film for its merit and assign scores independently. Eminent green activist, social worker, botanist and the founder of Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation (HESCO), a Dehradun-based NGO, Padmashree Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi will be the Jury Chairperson of the Nomination Jury of 2019 CMS VATAVARAN.

Films selected by the Nomination Jury in this process will be presented to the Award Jury for selecting the winning entries in the month of August. The 2019 festival will have total 19 awards in 9 Indian and 10 International categories. A Best of the Festival Award will be awarded each in Indian and International categories. The award money for Indian category ranges from INR 25,000 – 1,00,000. International awards carry a citation and a trophy.



Apart from these awards, change-makers from the field of Filmmaking, Conservation and Journalism will be also felicitated during the 10th CMS VATAVARAN. CMS VATAVARAN Prithvi Awards, namely the **Prithvi Ratna** and **Prithvi Bhushan** recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions towards environmental and wildlife filmmaking and conservation in the country respectively.

CMS VATAVARAN's objective is also to actively encourage environment journalism in India. As an effort to encourage journalists for excellence in environment reporting, the **Young Environmental Journalism Awards** for young Journalists will be given to those, who have done exemplary investigative and inspired reporting on environmental issues in the country. The winners in each category (print, electronic and new media) will be awarded cash, a trophy and a citation.

All nominated films will then be screened in the upcoming film festival and forum. The 10th edition has been scheduled to be held from November 27 – 30th, 2019 in New Delhi. With the theme, '*Celebrating Himalayas*', several interesting programs such as film screenings, National seminars, Media workshops, exhibitions, etc. explore the spirit and serenity of the majestic Himalayan region to remind of its important role in our planet's ecology will be organized. Eminent conservationists, policy makers, environment journalists and the concerned communities will be engaged in deliberations and discourses on the range of the sub-themes and cross-cutting issues of environment, wildlife and conservation.

Major points at a glance

- **287 Thematic Films shortlisted from a total 1020 Film Entries**
 - 155 International & 132 National Films
- For 30 Indian & International Awards
 - Total Award money ranges from Rs 25,000 – Rs 1,00,000/- for Indian filmmakers
 - International awards carry a citation and a trophy.
- **The 10th CMS VATAVARAN is on November 27-30, 2019 in New Delhi**

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

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