

**Press Release**

**New Delhi, May 29, 2020**

**Treat for Environmental Filmmakers and Film lovers during the global COVID 19 lockdown**

CMS VATAVARAN Lockdown Special Online Film Festivals

India's longest and Asia's largest environmental and wildlife film festival and forum – CMS VATAVARAN has been active in engaging during the COVID 19 Lockdown to engage audiences across the world on contemporary conservation issues through the medium of films.

CMS VATAVARAN team organised an online film festival of thought-provoking films by some of the most prominent environmental filmmakers of our time. This online film festival is a fixed duration and free for all and was available online on the CMS VATAVARAN social media platforms i.e. the Facebook page and YouTube page.

This lockdown special online film festival is divided in three different phases. Two phases of the festival are already over. The first phase of screening was scheduled a curated selection of 8 environmental films - available free for streaming from anywhere in the world every day from April 7 to 14, 2020, daily from 3 to 6 pm IST. Second phase of screening was scheduled from April 22, 2020 to May 1, 2020. A curated selection of 10 environmental films were screened every day daily from 3 to 6 pm IST on the Facebook page and YouTube page of CMS VATAVARAN.

To celebrate the International Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2020 CMS VATAVARAN also organised a special online screening of three environmental films which has been joined by more than 1500 viewers.

Both the phases of this “**Lockdown Special Online Film Festival**” has got very encouraging response from the viewers. More than 30000 viewers from different parts of the world watched these films. Based on the experience gained during the two phases of online film festivals and the feedbacks from the viewers, CMS VATAVARAN team has decided to organize a third phase of online film festival from **07 to 13 June, 2020**.

A curated selection of seven award winning films can be seen every day daily from 4 to 8 pm IST on the Facebook and YouTube page of CMS VATAVARAN. The films that can be seen during this phase of screening are:

7 June 2020: **SunGanges (SuryaGanga)** by Valli Bindana

8 June 2020: **Looking for Sultan** by Gautam Pandey, Doel Trivedy

9 June 2020: **Arsenic: The Creeping Killer** by Andreas Ewels

10 June 2020: **Whispers of Warming** by Anoop Khajuria

11 June 2020: **Sundarbans: Rising Water, Ebbing Life** by Dheeraj Sarthak

12 June 2020: **Gharat** by Shriniwas Oli

13 June 2020: **I Cannot Give You My Forest** by Nandan Saxena and Kavita Bahl



*“During this time, people with creative ideas and brilliant visions are needed. The team of CMS VATAVARAN have proven this by successfully organizing their online festival. With their project they have reached many people and made important environmental and nature protection issues better known and understandable. The documentaries shown were impressive and overwhelming”*

said Mr. Andreas Ewels, a German filmmaker and director of the NATOURALE Film Festival Germany.

*“These were really a very good initiative for enjoying some of the excellent films on Environment and Wild life. Mainly in such a panic condition of COVID-19 it was created some sorts of mental relief for the viewers. They enjoyed really some best films indeed. Specially in my country Bangladesh and they enjoyed almost all the films”*

said award winning Bangladeshi filmmaker, cinematographer & researcher Mr. KM Tajbiul Hasan

*“It was great to see India's longest running environmental and wildlife film festival shift gears and go entirely online, including live streaming. This might be the way events and festivals will be held increasingly, as we adapt to these strange yet interesting times”*

said Mr. Gautam Pandey, National Award winner Indian wildlife filmmaker.

Along with the online film festivals, a series of engaging competitions and webinars are also being organised by the CMS VATAVARAN team. The one-minute film competition on the subject of “Rethinking Conservation during and after COVID” got enthusiastic response from students of various schools across NCR. The idea behind it was to use films to capture once observations and interesting snippets on care and concern of our nature, environment and natural life.

Based on the experience gained during the one-minute film competition and the feedbacks from the School & Colleges, CMS VATAVARAN has decided to organize a three- minute film making Competition in June on the eve of World Environment Day 2020.

CMS VATAVARAN has also designed a webinar series for both new filmmakers and film buffs to learn the about the requirements to make short films and documentaries on environmental and wildlife issues. The “CMS VATAVARAN WEBINAR SERIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL FILMMAKING” will take place over the course of five one-hour webinars at 4.30 pm on Sundays during May, June & July 2020. To participate, prior registration would be required and a completion certificate will be provided to the registered participants. Each Webinar will be conducted by award winning film maker, expert or film critic.

<b>Webinar Schedule</b>	<b>Theme</b>
Sunday, May 31, 2020	<b>Why and How Should You Make Short Films!</b> By award-winning short filmmaker Mr Anshul Sinha
Sunday, June 14, 2020	<b>Directing as a Collective Effort</b>
Sunday, June 28, 2020	<b>Production of Environmental and Wildlife Films or Documentary</b>
Sunday, July 11, 2020	<b>Script Development &amp; Writing for Short Environmental Films</b>
Sunday, July 25, 2020.	<b>Wildlife and Conservation Photography</b>

Further details and information is available on these and other programs at CMSVATAVARAN website and social media handles.

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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, ten competitive and 54 travelling festivals in 41 cities of 25 Indian states have been organized. **[www.cmsvatavaran.org](http://www.cmsvatavaran.org)**

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