

Vasundhara International Film Festival begins today

■ **Amravati Bureau**
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KIRLOSKAR Vasundhara International Film Festival, which is presented in 27 selected cities in India, has been organised in Amravati city from October 1 to 3 in close relevance to World Wildlife Week. The theme of the festival is 'Conserve Water, Safeguard Future'. During the festival organisers will honour five personalities by giving *Vasundhara* awards to Dr Ganesh Wankhede, profound researcher of Zoology Science, the chief organiser of the festival, Kishor Rithe, member of Central Wildlife Board of Government of India and senior wildlife lover, nature lovers Dr Vijay Ingle, Nishikant Kale. Dr Anil Asole, President of Nisarga Sanrakshan Sanstha, announced the awards.

Vasundhara awards will be given in three categories. This year, 'Vasundhara Sanman Award' is going to be presented to retired Wildlife Warden P M Lad, Bhopal. 'Vasundhara Rakshak Award' has been announced to Sunil Wakode, working as forest guard in Akot Wildlife Division as well as to C S Hiwrale, working at the post of wildlife guard in East Melghat Forest Division. 'Vasundhara Mitra Award' is going to be presented to Rajashree Khalap, Satpuda Foundation Trustee, Mumbai, Raju Nannaware of Nature Conservation Society, Jalgaon and Principal Anant



Dr Deepak Apte

Balkrushna Marathe of Shri Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal, Amravati.

The inaugural ceremony of Vasundhara International Film and Environment Festival and 'Vasundhara Sanman Award' distribution will be held at 6.30 pm on October 1 at Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal's (HVPM) Auditorium. Dr Deepak Apte, Deputy Director, BNHS, Mumbai, will inaugurate the festival while dignitaries Dr Mohana Kulkarni, Prof Madhuri Chendke, Secretary, HVPM, Amravati and Dr Mohan Jha, Chief Conservator of Forest, Amravati Forest Circle will be prominently present. Wildlife and Environment Photography Exhibition will be inaugurated at 11 am at the hands of Dr Dinesh Tyagi, Field Director, Melghat Tiger Project. Virendra Chitrav, Festival Director, Vasundhara, Pune, Shrikant Chendke, Director, HVPM's Engineering College, Amravati and G A Dhepe,



Yuvraj Patil

Deputy Director, Social Forestry will be guests. Elocution Competition for school students will be held at 11.30 on the same day at HVPM auditorium.

On 2nd, Harit Cycle Rally will be held at 7.30 am from Tiger Project Office, Camp, Amravati. A 'Nature Walk' will be held on the same day at 7.30 am wherein the activities of bird watching and introduction of plants will be organised at SGAU premises. Dr Jayant Wadatar, Honorary Wildlife Warden of Amravati District, and Dr Dinesh Khedkar are the organisers of the event. Green Conference organised for college students will be inaugurated at 10 am on this day at HVPM auditorium. Film screening session will be held during 2 pm to 5 pm and 6 pm to 9.30 pm on the same day. 'Vasundhara Rakshak Award' will be presented at 7 pm. Dr Dinesh Tyagi will be chiefly present. This programme will be followed by a slide show-



Rajshree Khalap

'Ashi Pakhare Yeti' by P M Lad, Bhopal.

On Thursday Oct 3, Nature Walk: Butterflies and wild flowers watching will be organised at 7.30 am at Chhatra Talao area. Dr Jayant Wadatar and Dr Dinesh Khedkar will guide the participants.

At 11 am, a programme 'Sanmaan Jal Yoddyancha' will be held. Amravati District Collector, Rahul Ranjan Mahiwal will be prominently present. Suresh Khanapurkar from Dhule will deliver lecture on the topic of 'Jal Sanwardhanacha Shirpur Pattern- Ka aani Kasa?' at the auditorium. Digital Photography Workshop by Yuvraj Patil, well known wildlife photographer from Pune, will be held at 11 am at Zoology Department, SGAU. 'Green Globe' Workshop for school students will be held from 11 am to 2 pm at Engineering College auditorium, HVPM. Prakash Laddha, Amravati, and Amol Sawant, Akola, will conduct this



P M Lad



Dr Anant Marathe

workshop. Film screening session will be held from 2 pm to 5 pm at eh auditorium. Concluding session of this festival will be held from 7 pm to 9.30 pm. Ambadas Joshi, Judge, Mumbai High Court, Mumbai, will be chief guest. Concluding film 'Rain Forest: The Secret of Life' will be screened in this session.

This festival which is run by Kirloskar Trust at Pune is very popular in Maharashtra and other states. The festival has been organised in Amravati by Nisarga Sanrakshan Sanstha and Satpuda Foundation in co-operation with Wildlife and Environment Conservation Society at SGAU, CARS (Centre for Animal Rescue and Study), Amravati Garden Club, Melghat Tiger Project, Forest Department, and other chief organisations. Citizens are eagerly waiting for this festival to be celebrated at the grand premises of Shri Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal,

Amravati.

This year, around 40 national and international acclaimed environment related films are going to be screened in this festival. There is also going to be wildlife photography competition for local youths and photography enthusiasts. This wildlife photography competition has no entry fee. Photographs will also be exhibited during the festival at Harihar Hall of HVPM. Dr GN Wankhede, informed that *Vasundhara* is not merely a festival but it is a movement. To create awareness about the present condition of 'Vasundhara' (the earth) among students and citizens and to understand more about our opulent nature treasure is a role behind this festival.

Advait Keole, Atul Tikhe, Neel Mohite, Kartik Wat, Nandkishor Dudhe and many activists are striving hard under the guidance of Kishor Rithe, Dr V T Ingle, Umakant Bhojar, Dr Anil Asole, S N Bhav, Nishikant Kale, Vishal Bansod, Dr Jayant Wadatar, Savan Deshmukh, Dhore, Rekha Surve and Vrunda Bapat for making this festival a grand success.

Organisers have appealed to people to attend the programmes. Shrikant Rode of HVPM Engineering College, C N Deshmukh, President of Amravati Garden Club, Vishal Bansod, Honorary Wildlife Warden of Amravati District, Savan Deshmukh and other activists were present in the press conference.