

We aim to protect!

The eight-day long Vasundhara Festival, will screen films and documentaries on environment

SUKIRT D GUMASTE

A LOT is being done to protect our environment and create awareness in the society. And taking a step forward, to provide an effective and meaningful message to preserve our natural heritage is the Vasundhara Festival. This year, it aims to explore nature and analyse topical issues relating to the environment—wildlife, energy, air and water. The festival provides an opportunity to convey the message of 'conserve, protect and save the earth' for the GenNext!

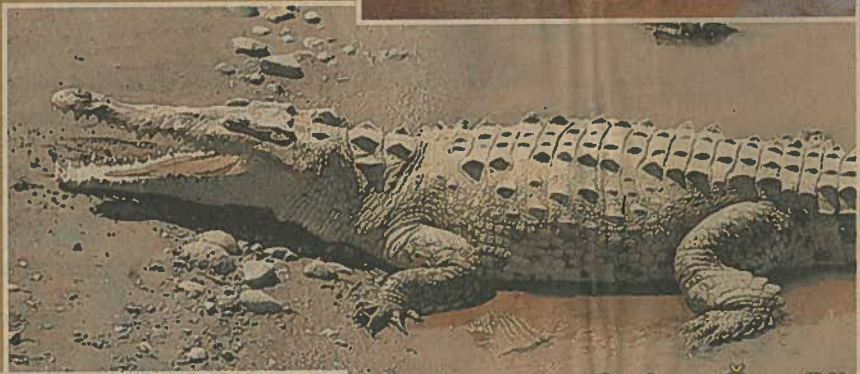
Vasundhara Festival is the only eight-day long festival in India, which combines exclusive national and international film screenings along with a number of other activities. Organised by Club Vasundhara and Kirloskar, the festival will witness the felicitation of Dr Madhav Gadgil, by Vasundhara Sanman.

"This is the first time a festival has been organised on such a huge scale. The festival is open to all. Instead of fees, we shall ask our audience to take a pledge to protect our earth," says Virendra Chitraw, director of the festival.

Vasundhara will showcase 75 short films, documentaries, feature films of various countries in different languages. *Ganges*, the film by co-produced by Discovery Channel and BBC will be the inaugural film of the festival. Shekhar Dattatri's *Monsoon*, will be the closing film. This year, the topic in question is water. The best films from all over the world based on this topic will be showcased.

Several activities like daily nature and heritage walks around the city are also scheduled. *Chaitra Palvi*, a special audio-visual programme, which includes songs, poetry sessions, interactions, visual clips and narration will be presented by Subodh Bhave, Sania Patankar, Sharvari Jamenis, Supriya Chitraw, Dr Hema Jene, Nilimkumar Khaire, Subhash Puranik and Dr Ramchandra Khane.

The festival will also showcase Vasundhara Photography Exhibition, which will have around 7,000 photo-



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graphs on display from all over the globe. Other events like slogan competition, workshops and audio-visual lectures related to environment by eminent personalities.

Vasundhara Mitra Honour, an award will be presented to a filmmaker, activist and an organisation. This year it will be, Shekar Dattatri, a dedicated film-maker working for the last 25 years with topics related to environment and wildlife, Vilas Pansare, a snake rescuer from the

city who has been working for more than 20 years for the conservation of snakes and Nisarga Sevak organisation, which is working in the field of nature protection, nurturing and research education for the last 22 years.

(Catch the films from March 22-29 at Yashwantrao Chavan Auditorium. Entry pass will be distributed by Pathfinder, Near Neelayam Talkies, Sadashiv Peth Pune. Contact: 020-24329694, 24336040)