

Filmmaker from Delhi & US-based activist to take home green award

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: New Delhi-based filmmaker Gurmeet Sapal, US-based activist Parineeta Dandekar and Youth of Integration, a Tripura-based organization, will receive this year's Vasundhara Mitra Award.

The award will be presented at the 12th Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival on January 4 at Balgandharva Rangmandir. The festival will be organized from January 4 to 8 at Balgandharva Rangmandir and Ghole Road Art Gallery.

Addressing a news conference here on Wednesday, festival director Virendra Chit-rav said, "The recipients of the award work for betterment of the environment. Sa-



Filmmaker Gurmeet Sapal

pal won the Vatavaran award in 2002 for his film *Chasing butterflies*. Dandekar is a well-known name in the area of river conservation and rejuvenation. Youth for Integration is an organization that was started with the aim of creating awareness among the youth on environmental issues. Its president Bibhuti Debbarma will receive the



Activist Parineeta Dandekar

award." Apart from films related to this year's theme 'Prevent Pollution, Protect Rivers', the festival will also host activities like eco-quiz, eco-bazar and river walks.

"When we began 12 years ago, the festival was more of films and had very few activities. With every passing year we are striving to increase the number of activities and

spread awareness among citizens," said Arti Kirloskar, convener of the festival.

Kirloskar Vasundhara Eco Rangers is an initiative involving 80 colleges from across Pune in the Green College Clean College (GCCC) mission. The students were required to carry out environment protection activities and capture these activities in the form of a short film.

Sir Parashurambhau College and Tikaram Jahan-nath College, Khadi, bagged the first and second prize respectively. The third prize was shared between Fergus-son College and Banuben Na-navati College of Architecture. Consolation prize will be given to H V Desai College and D E S College.