

Film fest to get youth interested in green issues

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Nashik: The Nashik edition of Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival (KVIFF) – a popular festival dedicated to environment conservation – began in the city on September 4. This year, the festival is being held in city schools and colleges simultaneously to catch young audience and make them aware about environmental concerns.

The festival officially began at Guru Gobind Singh College on Tuesday afternoon. Literary events and screenings of documentary films began simultaneously at Rungtha High School, MET College, Pethe High School, IDEA College and Kusumagraj memorial.



Environment activist Shailaja Deshpande and others at the inaugural event of KVIFF at Guru Gobind Singh College

"This year, the theme of KVIFF is 'Prevent pollution, protect rivers'. This is the only Indian festival of its kind, which combines film screenings and allied activities related to environment, wildlife, energy, air, and water. This year

too, we have range of activities like wildlife photo exhibitions, audio-visual lectures, and the launch of the ec-rangers project," said Jagdish Gadage of Kirloskar Group.

The inaugural day marked

a screening of 10 documentaries at Guru Gobind Singh College. These include 'National Anthem' – a two-minute movie that represented India at a UN conference on climate change. Later, activist Shailaja Deshpande spoke about 'river pollution and citizen's participation'.

On September 5, a screening will be held for students in MET College, while the 'train the trainers' programme will be held in KVN Naik College. On September 6, screening is scheduled in IDEA College, and Rungtha High School. The day will also mark the presentation of the annual Vasundhara Mitra Awards at Kusumagraj Memorial.

"This year, Engineer Umakant Nikhare from Eklahare Power Project in city will be awarded Vasundhara Sam-

man award. He developed a unique and affordable technique that converts household waste into bio-fuel that can be used in the kitchen. Wildlife photographer Sangram Gowardhane and journalist Shivani Ganeshan will be honoured with the 'Vasundhara Mitra' for their contribution to environment conservation," Gadage said.

On September 7, the festival will conclude with a screening at Pethe High School and NTPS Plant, Eklahare. The formal concluding function will be held at Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited (KOEL) company auditorium at Ambad. Screenings at all colleges and at NTPS Plant is free for all movie lovers and environment enthusiasts. A detailed schedule of screenings is available on the website of KVIFF.