

# More youth, revamped Eco Bazaar at this year's KVIFF

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Pune:** Organisers of Kirlskar-Vasundhara International Film Festival (KVIFF), themed on environmental and wildlife issues, said on Wednesday that a majority of registrations had been from college students.

"Free offline registration at the Balgandharva counter and on the website has already started. We are extremely happy with the response, especially from the students and younger audiences. Nearly 70% of all registrations have been from students across a number of colleges in the city," said Virendra Chitraw, the festival director.

As part of its 'reach-out' programme toward students, the organizers are screening a number of films and allied activities, such as lectures and workshops, at the college

campuses itself. Multiple screenings and events have been lined up at SP College, campuses of various Symbiosis Institutes, as well as other campuses.

The green NGO Biospheres will also host a number of events in conjunction with the festival organizers. The

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events planned by the NGO include a nature walk through the Botanical Survey of India grounds on Friday. It will also host an expert panel on biodiversity in and around the city. The panel will include environmentalists, as well as officials from the Pune Municipal Corporation.

During the opening ceremony on Thursday, the organizers will honour agro-scientist Vijay Paranjpye with a lifetime achievement award

The self-made seed activist from Kumbhalne village in Ahmednagar district Rahiba Popere will also receive a lifetime achievement award for her work on preserving several varieties of indigenous seeds through her initiative.

The organizers' flagship Eco-Bazaar initiative will also be slightly revamped this year, with a larger base of participants. It will run from January 4 to 6, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Art Gallery.

"This year, the difference we are bringing to the KVIFF Eco Bazaar is many new participants and live demonstrations of how some of these products are made along with information panels that will talk about the importance of the products. More youngsters and kids will participate in this year's Eco-Bazaar," said Gaur Kirlskar, convener of the bazaar.