

Creating environmental awareness through films!

February 20, 2020: A one-and-a-half-day eco film festival by environmental research and advocacy group Toxics Link with support from The Swedish Society For Nature Conservation will be held in Panaji on February 22 and February 23.

Toxics Link(www.toxicslink.org),is a non-profit organization based in Delhi working on environmental issues related to waste and chemicals for over the last two decades and has credible representations at public and private forums and discussions. Toxics Link in collaboration with India International Centre, has been jointly organising a biennial environmental film festival called 'Quotes from the Earth' in Delhi since 2004 and the eighth edition of the festival was held in 2018.The eco film fest with a visual tapestry of films showcasing critical environmental issues on diverse topics like water, sustainability, biodiversity, forest conservation, waste etc is being organised for the first time by Toxics Link in Goa.

A film that tries to understand the ecology that sustains the snow leopard and also the deep connections with Ladakhis who share its home, the transition of a village from hunters of Amur Falcons to becoming their most fervent preservationists, a documentary on a Warsaw father of an asthmatic son searching for answers about why air pollution continues to be a major problem in Poland, or green hero Uday Tukaram Mandrekar's efforts to preserve the fragile mangrove ecosystem of Chorao in Goa- all such ecological concerns, challenges and more are part of the eco film festival where fourteen green films by Indian and international environmental filmmakers will be screened.

"As filmmakers, writers or any artist we always question why we do what we do. What might be the point of it all. But at a time like this in history when the planet is facing the biggest environmental crisis ever, we have no choice but to keep the conversation going through films and any other medium we have access to, in any small way we can", said Goa-based filmmaker Doel Trivedy whose award-winning documentary Gyamo is part of the festival.

Films of critically acclaimed and award-winning directors like Sesino Yhosu, Gautam Pandey, Doel Trivedy, Shashank Bhosale and Krishnendu Bose will be part of the screenings. "The festival provides a unique opportunity for people to be sensitised towards critical environmental issues through the medium of films. All our screenings are free and interactions with filmmakers, open discussions are an inherent part of it," said Satish Sinha, Associate Director of Toxics Link.

The festival hopes to draw people from all walks of life including students, film lovers, environment enthusiasts and citizens and will focus upon different issues, regions and struggles to give the audience a better chance to understand and engage with the stark environmental challenges. Also by highlighting environmental issues at the global and the international level, the festival aims to strengthen the dialogue around environment preservation at public discourses and policy making circles.

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