



## ***Press Release***

### **Ambassador of Norway to India May-Elin Stener inaugurates Environmental Film Festival “Quotes from the Earth” in New Delhi today**

**New Delhi, December 6, 2024:** The Ambassador of Norway to India, May-Elin Stener inaugurated the tenth biennial edition of environmental film festival 'Quotes from the Earth' at India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi today. Stressing on the excellent cooperation between India and Norway on blue economy and circular economy, she said India being a large country with high population has a critical role to play in achieving the global climate targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and thus it is necessary for Norway to have close relationship with India. “Without India we cannot achieve the SDGs.”

Addressing the audience, she said she was disappointed that governments could not arrive at a decision on the legally binding global plastic treaty last week during the meeting in Busan, South Korea. “Environmental negotiations are challenging but important,” she said and appreciated the range of environment issues covered in the films being screened at the festival.

The inaugural saw students from many schools and colleges, environmentalists, representatives from different non-government organisations and many film lovers gather in good numbers to enjoy a beautifully curated dance-drama “Boond-Every drop matters” by Tapaswini Nav Sadhana, a professional dance group. But what also took them by surprise is the power-packed street play by students of Bal Bhawan School, Mayur Vihar highlighting the adverse effect of improper disposal of plastics, ‘Plastic ki Paheli: Samjhdari Se Prabandh, Sthirtha Ki Aur (प्लास्टिक की पहेली: समझदारी से प्रबंध, स्थिरता की ओर)’.

In its 20<sup>th</sup> year and 10<sup>th</sup> show now, “Quotes from the Earth”, organised by Toxics Link and India International Centre (IIC) still aims to engage the public in the conversation around environmental conservation, the aim with which it was initiated in 2004. The two-day fest will show films on biodiversity, waste management, climate change, environmental justice, sustainability, etc.

Toxics Link Founding Director Ravi Agarwal said that environment is a complex issue and being around as an NGO and with the festival for so long, is a moment of pride for the organisation. Toxics Link Associate Director Satish Sinha said he wished he could take the festival across the country.

The two-day fest will screen 36 films including documentaries, animation movies shortlisted from among 1,400 films received from 80 countries. The fest will end with the feature film “Sherdil: The Pilibhit Saga” starring actor Pankaj Tripathy and directed by Srijit Mukherji of the Begum Jaan fame at 5:30 pm on December 7, 2024.

Besides watching the films, visitors to the fest will also have the opportunity to get into a dialogue with the filmmakers present during the event and be a part of a panel discussion on “Future of Environmental Filmmaking: Navigating the Challenges”.

### **About Toxics Link**

Toxics Link is an Indian environmental research and advocacy organisation set up in 1996. The non-profit is engaged in disseminating information to help strengthen the campaign against toxic pollution, provide cleaner alternatives, and bring together groups and people affected by this problem.

Toxics Link’s Mission Statement - “Working together for environmental justice and freedom from toxins.”

**More At:** [www.toxicslink.org](http://www.toxicslink.org)

### **[About India International Centre](#)**

India International Centre is a non-government institution widely regarded as a place in the national capital New Delhi where statesmen, diplomats, policymakers, intellectuals, scientists, jurists, writers, artists and members of civil society meet to initiate the exchange of new ideas and knowledge in the spirit of international cooperation. Against the frenetic pace of city life, IIC offers an ambience for reflection and leisured conversation.

***For interview, queries and more information, please contact:***

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