

Goa Environmental Film Festival to open with Oscar-winning ‘The Elephant Whisperers’ on **June 3**

2 Goan films ‘Saxtticho Koddo’ and ‘Ek tha Goan’ to be screened as part of the special Goan section

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On the sidelines of the highly anticipated G20 meeting in Goa, the Goa Environmental Film Festival will kick off on **Saturday, June 3** at 10.30 a.m. at Maquinez Palace, ESG Complex. Academy award-winning ‘The Elephant Whisperers’, as the opening film, will set the tone for the three-day film festival to be inaugurated by **Mr. Nilesh Cabral, Minister for Public Works Department, Law & Judiciary, Environment & Climate Change and Legislative Affairs, Government of Goa.**

June 3 – 5 will see environment studies students, activists and film enthusiasts partake in this film festival that is aimed at raising awareness about environmental issues faced globally. Here, a diverse line-up of over 40 films, including documentaries, narratives, and short films, all focused on environmental themes from all over the world, will be screened. These films are from countries like US, South Africa, Canada, UK among others. Attendees can expect a captivating and thought-provoking selection of films that address topics such as climate change, wildlife conservation, sustainable development, and the role of individuals in safeguarding our planet.

The Goa Environmental Film Festival is proud to feature captivating Goan films that highlight the local perspective and showcase the rich cultural heritage of the region. Among the films to be screened is ‘Saxtticho Koddo’ directed by Vince Costa. The film talks about/focuses on a heartfelt portrayal of the unique cultural and environmental issues faced by the community, inviting viewers to reflect on the delicate balance between tradition and progress.

‘Ek tha Goan’, by Shrishti Lakhera portrays a compelling story that delves into the life of a Goan individual, capturing their journey of self-discovery and personal growth. Both the films have garnered both acclaim for their portrayal of the Goan way of life, traditions, and the intricate relationship between human beings and nature. These films offer a unique glimpse into the beauty and challenges faced by the coastal state, emphasising the importance of preserving its natural resources and promoting sustainable practices.

In addition to the Goan films, the festival will present a captivating selection of international titles, each contributing a unique perspective on global environmental concerns. Audiences can look forward to thought-provoking films such as 'Metamorphosis' from Canada, which delves into the fragile balance of ecosystems; 'Into the Dark' from the UK, exploring the impact of light pollution on nocturnal animals; 'Zeneruh' from Italy, a powerful narrative on the relationship between humanity and nature; 'Green Nettle' from South Africa, highlighting the fight against deforestation; 'The Love Bugs' from the USA, documenting the extraordinary world of fireflies; and 'Un Mar De Lixo' from Portugal, shedding light on marine pollution.

These international films bring diverse perspectives and narratives, inspiring viewers to reflect on the urgent need for environmental stewardship on a global scale. Through the medium of film, the festival aims to inspire, educate, and ignite conversations about pressing environmental issues affecting our planet. It provides a unique opportunity for attendees to immerse themselves in the beauty of storytelling while gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by our environment. The film festival which is being held on the side-lines of G20 meeting will come to a close on [June 5](#), with the closing film from Spain 'Alcarass' by Carla Simon.

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