

Change Capital

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Conservation filmmaker Krishnendu Bose's last documentary was on the tiger. After filming *Tiger: The Death Chronicles*, Bose has now trained his camera on the urban jungle. He is wrapping up a film on Delhi. "This is a subject close to my heart," says Bose.

"You can see the changing cityscape of the capital in the wake of the Commonwealth Games of 2010—massive construction, increasing traffic, flyovers, the metro. In this film I look at this change and try to find out what drives it. The film asks an important question: is Delhi an inclusive city? Does it include everybody who lives here?"

Clearly the answer is no. While the middle class thrives on quicker modes of transport and spanking new shopping malls, these are unthinkable luxuries for the city's poor, says Bose.

A clear case of inequity, he adds, is the shifting of the slums from VIKASPURI to BAWANA on the border of Delhi and Haryana. The displaced people, such as cycle rickshawallas, domestic help and construction workers have borne the brunt of the move. Their commute has got longer and now they have to shell out about Rs 50 on commuting both ways. And the story does not end with Delhi. The capital, says Bose, is a microcosm, a window to what is happening all over the country.

The film on Delhi follows the highly acclaimed *Tiger: The Death Chronicles*, which traces the tiger's future in the country. The film shows the danger to the animal from poaching, habitat loss and mining and an apathetic officialdom.

The 63-minute film traces the achievements and failures of 30 years of conservation, interlaced with candid comments by tiger scientists, conservationists and ordinary citizens. A clear case of environment-development conflict is a bauxite mining project in the heart of a tiger habitat in Kalahandi in Orissa, which threatens to oust both the wildlife and the tribals of the area.

And the bouquets have flowed in. The film won the Wildlife Conservation Award, instituted by Vatavaran at the International Environment and Wildlife Film Festival in September 2007 in Delhi. It was shown on the Doordarshan National Network in September and nominated for the 'Planet in Focus' Competitive Film Festival in Toronto in October 2007.