**Films Depicting Challenges in Water to be in focus in upcoming 8th CMS VATAVARAN**

* 178 film entries (117 Indian and 61 International)
* The festival will have 26 Indian & International Awards
* Total Award money ranges from Rs 50,000 – Rs 1,50,000/- for Indian filmmakers
* International awards carry a citation and a trophy.
* The 8th CMS VATAVARAN is scheduled from October 9-12, 2015 at NDMC, New Convention Center, Janpath, Opposite Jantar Mantar, New Delhi

The 8th Competitive Edition of CMS VATAVARAN Environment and Wildlife Film Festival and Forum scheduled to be held from October 9-12, 2015 has received a total of 178 film entries from 27 countries.

**Theme of the 8th Edition:** The theme for the 8th competitive edition is ‘Water for Life’ with a special focus on “Conserving our Water Bodies”, which will encompass various sub themes, including water sources, pollution, conservation, cleaning mechanism, health, social and management issues, corporatization, water conflicts and solutions. To highlight this theme, CMS VATAVARAN has initiated a campaign called “We are Water” that involves students in schools and colleges through online competitions such as poster design and slogan writing and on ground activities such as film screenings, musical acts, quizzes, etc.

**178 Thematic Films on Environment and Wildlife:** A total of 178 films were received from Indian and International filmmakers under various categories, namely, Wildlife Conservation, Climate Change & Sustainable Technologies, Environment Conservation, Water for Life, Livelihoods, Films for Children and Public Service Announcements. *Some of the top categories that received the maximum number of films from both Indian and International filmmakers are Water for Life, Wildlife Conservation, Climate Change & Sustainable Technologies and Environment Conservation***.** This year, the festival also received a substantial number of films from talented newcomers.

**Films from 20 States and 26 Countries:** Of the 178 films received, 117 were received from 20 states across India. *The maximum submissions were recorded from Delhi, which led with 40 films. With 20 film entries, Maharashtra came second.* The festival has received an overwhelming response not just from India but from countries around the world. Consistent with past festivals, filmmakers from 26 countries have entered their films in the international section this year as well. *USA leads the chart with 14 film entries, while Germany comes close with 12 films. This number is significant as the American Centre is the 8th CMS VATAVARAN’s Country Partner wherein various important issues that concerns the two countries will be in focus in the forthcoming festival.*

**Nomination Jury:** The nomination jury for the 8th CMS VATAVARAN comprising of 24 eminent personalities from different sectors will meet from June 24th to 26th, 2015 at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), Vasant Kunj in New Delhi. This panel will watch and debate each film for its merit and assign scores independently. *Stockholm*

Films selected by the Nomination Jury in this process will be presented to the Award Jury for selecting the winning entries in the month of August.

**Number of Awards:** The 2015 festival will have 15 awards in 8 Indian categories and 11 awards in 5 International categories. A Best of the Festival Award will be awarded each in Indian and International categories. 5 Thematic Awards will be given out, one each for Wildlife Conservation, Climate Change & Sustainable Technologies, Environment Conservation, Water for Life and Livelihoods. 2 General Awards will be given to the best film under each of the categories: Film for Children and Newcomer. Lastly, there are 2 Technical Excellence Awards, one that will be awarded to the Best Public Service Announcement (PSA) and another for Best Cinematography. The award money for Indian category ranges from INR 50,000 – 1, 50,000. International awards carry a citation and a trophy.

**Upcoming 8th CMS VATAVARAN:** All nominated films will then be screened in the upcoming film festival and forum. The 8th edition has been scheduled to be held from October 9th – 12th, 2015 at NDMC, New Convention Center, Janpath, Opposite Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. The winning filmmakers will be receiving the awards on October 9th, 2015 at a gala inaugural and award ceremony. With the theme, 'Water for Life', several interesting programmes such as film screenings, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, etc focussing on the environmental, social and economic aspects of water conservation will be organised. Eminent conservationists, policy makers, environment journalists and the concerned communities will be engaged in deliberations and discourses on the range of the sub-themes and cross-cutting issues of water and conservation.

**About CMS VATAVARAN:** For more than 10 years, CMS VATAVARAN has been committed to spreading awareness on environment and wildlife issues through films. The festival taps into an important motivating factor for audiences everywhere: the emotional draw of connecting with a compelling story or character. CMS upholds the belief that documentaries are an excellent way to bring the world’s problems to people who can do something about it, which is to say everyone. Good films can grab attention to vexing issues, and help people move past what can be largely explained by denial. Sometimes it must be seen, to be accepted and engaged.

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