**Water Man of India, Mr Rajendra Singh inaugurates the 8th CMS VATAVARAN**

*India’s longest running film festival begins today at the NDMC Convention Centre.*

**New Delhi, October 9th 2015:** The 8th CMS VATAVARAN was inaugurated today at the NDMC Convention Centre by Mr Rajendra Singh, Stockholm Water Prize Laureate. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Singh said “2.25 lakh wells have been revived by people. What governments can’t do, people can.” He also moderated an important session on river rejuvenation. He says, “We need water rights before human rights.” Representing the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Shri Hem Pande, Additional Secretary said “We need simple solutions to water problems and revival of water bodies.”

The conversation was joined by Mr Ravi Singh, WWF India. He reiterated that the importance of traditional reviving methods of water bodies.

The 8th competitive edition will be showcasing 74 films at the five day film festival. the first day began with the screening of Fueling Change by Ahona Datta Gupta, g2G: From Grassroots to Global by Neela Venkatraman, Losing Ground by Rishu Nigam, The Hunt by Biju Toppo, Harvesting the Seas (The Shell Story) by Himanshu Malhotra, Poop on Poverty by Vijay S Jodha, to name a few. School and college students, filmmakers, conservationists, journalists attended the first day of the screenings.

Simultaneous programmes were also organized apart from the film screenings. A workshop on Water Auditing by Ms Ranjita Menon of CSE was attended by 50 students from 10 Delhi NCR schools. A media workshop on the coverage of water issues was conducted by Mr Dinesh C Sharma and Mr Manu Moudgil from India Water Portal. The workshop was attended by around 20 environment and science reporters from across the country.

The next four days film screenings, eco trips, filmmaking workshops, sessions on water, an award ceremony and a global peace march for will be organized. The sessions and workshops will be attended by subject experts, journalists, students and pre-registered participants. The film screenings are open to all.

**The highlights Day 2 (October 10th) of the film festival and forum are:**

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| **Film Screenings of nominated films**  Hall 1-  Ring the Change  An Elegy for the Traditional Way of Life  Carry your own Bag  Chewing Gum  Missing  The Pad Piper  India’s Disappearing Beaches: A Wake Up Call  Phum Shang  **Hall 2-**  Life Force 2- India’s Western Ghats  Rescuing the Stolen River  Le Semeur | Announcement of CMS YES BANK Prithvi Bhushan Award and Prithvi Award (3:00 pm)  Special Screening of Aisa Yeh Jahaan (3:00 pm)  Director- Biswajeet Bora  Special Guest- Adil Hussain  Session on Reviving Local Water Bodies (4:30 pm)  Filmmaking workshop by PSBT (10: 30 am) |

The American Centre is the Country Partner of the 8th CMS VATAVARAN. YES BANK is the Banking Partner. Seminars, workshops, book launches and talks are being organized in partnership with The Asia Foundation, GIZ, Arghyam, CSE, CEE, RSTV, WWF to name a few.

**About CMS VATAVARAN:** CMS VATAVARAN is not just a film festival celebrating the cinematic art of films but is a platform that enables **film as a tool and catalyst for creating impact**. CMS VATAVARAN remains resolute to encourage environment films and forums resulting **change in perception, practice and policy**. Since its inception in 2002, **7 competitive and 41 travelling festivals in 36 cities of 25 Indian states** have been organised. It has reached more than 500000 people directly. CMS VATAVARAN has now become a movement and inspired many organizations and individuals to use **films and film festivals as a medium to catalyse change.**

**For More Information log in at:** [**www.cmsvatavaran.org**](http://www.cmsvatavaran.org)

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