**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**8th CMS VATAVARAN to be on the theme “***water for life”*

*A five day film festival on environment and wildlife issues is all set to take place from October 9- 13 in New Delhi.*

**September 23, New Delhi:** India’s longest standing and largest Environment and Wildlife based film festival, CMS VATAVARAN is celebrating its **8th competitive edition** with screening of **74 Indian and International films**. The festival is scheduled to be screened across 5 days from **October 9 to 13, 2015 (Friday to Tuesday)** at the NDMC Convention Centre, in New Delhi.

**Festival Theme:** Water for life

**Date:** 9 to 13 October,2015

**Venue:** NDMC Convention Centre, Opp Jantar Mantar, Jai Singh Road, ND

**ENTRY FREE**

CMS VATAVARAN 2015 will be an **amalgamation of celebration and discourse** with film screenings, forums on critical water issues, panorama of international film festivals, workshops on filmmaking, exhibitions, green haat and much more.

**Highlights of the 8th CMS VATAVARAN Environment & Wildlife Film Festival and Forum:**

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| **Film Screenings** | **Workshops** |
| * 74 nominated films from 16 States and 11 Countries to be screened * Special Screening of Bollywood Films   + Kaun Kitne Paani Mein by Nila Madhab Panda   + Aisa Yeh Jahaan by Biswajeet Bora * Panorama of 25 award winning films on Water * Panorama of 10 nominated films from Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival * 5 Nature films from Conservation International | * Media Workshop ‘Water in the Newsroom’ by India Water Portal * Media Workshop ‘Climate and Water: 5 W and I H’ by CMS ENVIS and The Third Pole * Quark Workshop on Digital Cinematography by Nandan Saxena and Kavita Bahl * Filmmaking Workshop by PSBT * Water Auditing Workshop for Students- CSE * Eco visits for students by WWF and GIZ |
| **Sessions & Discussions** | **Award Ceremony** |
| River Rejuvenation, Water Security Act, Challenges In Wildlife Filmmaking, Reviving Local Water Bodies, Groundwater Management, Water And Biodiversity, Water And Culture, Trans Boundary Water Cooperation, Water Quality and Health.  Please join us for a Symbolic March on ‘**Global Water Walk for Peace**” on Sunday (Oct 11), 7:30 am. | * Gala Award Ceremony on October 11, 2015 (6:30 pm onwards) to give out-   + Prithvi Ratna and Prithvi Bhushan Awards   + CMS VATAVARAN Film Awards   + Young Environmental Journalism Awards * Chief Guests:   + Shri Prakash Javdekar, Hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forests and Climate Change GoI   + Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Railways GoI   + Shri Arvind Kejriwal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi |
| **Book Launches** | **Other Attractions** |
| * Environmental History- CSE * Ganges Water Machine: Designing New India’s Ancient River- Anthony Acciavatti * Witness To The Meltdown: Logs Of A Science Reporter From The Arctic- Dinesh C Sharma | * Exhibitions * Green Haat- A marketplace for forest handicrafts, herbal and medicinal products and forest based food items (Organised by MoEFCC, GEF, UNDP, SGP & CEE) * Wild Foods by Adivasi and Organic Farmers from 6 States |
| **Partners** | |
| Country Partner- The American Centre  Banking Partner- YES BANK  Programme Partners- Arghyam, The Asia Foundation, GIZ, RSTV, WWF  Media Partners- AIR, The Third Pole, India Water Portal  Knowledge Partners- CEE, Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan, CSE, PSBT, NDNS, Quark Workshops and MoEFCC, GEF, UNDP, SGP & CEE  Film Festival Partner- Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, Voices from the Waters and Conservation International  Supporting Partner- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, GoI | |

The **theme for the 8th competitive edition is ‘Water for Life’** with a special focus on **“Conserving our Water Bodies”**. It seeks to mark the **interconnectedness of water and life** and raise concern over the rapidly **deteriorating condition of our water bodies**. The fact that India has just **4% of the world’s fresh water but 16% of the global population** is reason enough to begin a serious discussion on proper and effective water **management and conservation**. CMS VATAVARAN 2015 with its theme ‘Water for Life’ aims to do just that.

Contemporary issues related to water and conservation will be deliberated upon by eminent conservationists, policy makers, environment journalists and the concerned communities in the forum. Water for life being a cross cutting theme necessitates a **multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder participation** in discussions to address the issues in a holistic manner. This impressive lineup of programs and screening schedule has been announced and is now available online.

**CMS VATAVARAN aims to create awareness and sensitize people through films and discussions regarding water conservation, water management and water rights**.

“CMS Vatavaran is doing a magnificent job, making people aware by taking arranging these festivals and taking them to different cities and involving more and more younger generation. CMS Vatavaran is a great platform to inform people about issues like wildlife conservation, sustainable technology and climate change.” - **Amol Palekar*, Veteran actor-director*, Head of the jury of 8th CMS Vatavaran.**

“In the 8th competitive festival, we are focusing on water and problems in water management systems around the world to show the disturbing effects these choices have on human beings. The theme has been chosen keeping in mind the fact that the way water scarcity issues are addressed, impacts upon the successful achievement of most of the development goals.” - **Ms P N Vasanti, Director General of CMS.**

The American Centre is the Country Partner of the 8th CMS VATAVARAN. A special curtain raiser programme will also be organized on evening on October 8, 2015 in the presence of American filmmakers, guests and delegates. Seminars, workshops, book launches and talks will be 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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