**International Biodiversity Day celebration at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**

*Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change celebrates International Biodiversity Day with film screenings*

**New Delhi, May 22, 2015:** On the occasion of the International Biodiversity Day (IBD), the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hosted a day long film screening at the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh today.**

The United Nations proclaimed May 22 the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) in order to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. Every year the IBD celebrations focus on a particular theme. The theme for 2015 is ‘Biodiversity for Sustainable Development’.

Mr P J Michael, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change said, “In commemoration of the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992, we are observing this day as the International Day for Biological Diversity. The MoEF & CC in its special efforts will be highlighting these issues through various activities. Some of the effective communications means are through films and we have been extensively using this medium to propagate our message.”

Ms P N Vasanti, Director General of CMS also said, “Biodiversity is the cornerstone of our existence on earth. We depend on it for air, food and water. And it is important to spread awareness on biodiversity issues.”

Additionally, the ministry in collaboration with CMS VATAVARAN has been hosting film screenings every Friday at the ministry on various identified themes. MoEF & CC as part of its environmental and wildlife awareness campaign have **identified four themes that will be in focus during the years 2015 and 2016, which includes aforestation, waste to wealth, reduction of pollution and plastic.** The MoEF & CC will be using films to promote awareness on these issues. CMS VATAVARAN, with a rich repository of environment and wildlife documentaries, animation and short films will be providing the films for the film screenings.

**The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been a Principal Partner of CMS VATAVARAN since its inception in 2002**. And this is for the **first time that the Ministry will be hosting film screenings at its premises for its officials.** The film screenings will be held every Friday at the MoEF & CC’s state of the art green building-Indira Paryavaran Bhawan. **The film screening is free and open to all.**

**CMS VATAVARAN – India’s premier environment and wildlife film** festival and forum is aimed towards enhancing understanding, appreciation and shift in attitudes towards the natural world and to increase space for environmental issues in mass media and evolve a nationwide environment outreach framework. It has created a strong network of Indian and International filmmakers, policymakers, academicians, research think tanks, environmentalists, journalists, students of all streams, defense & paramilitary forces and nature enthusiasts. **Till date, 44 festivals have been organised in 35 cities of India. The travelling festivals are organised in state capitals and other important towns and cities.** [**www.cmsvatavaran.org**](http://www.cmsvatavaran.org) **For media inquiries, please contact-**

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