



**PRESS RELEASE: Students and Educators Unite for Wetland Conservation at CMS
VATAVARAN Festival in Birla Vidya Niketan, Delhi**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 September 2024 | New Delhi

The 'Delhi Wetlands For LiFE Festival' and '12th CMS VATAVARAN International Film Festival and Forum on Environment and Wildlife' brought together students, educators, and environmental enthusiasts at Birla Vidya Niketan, Pushp Vihar, New Delhi, in a powerful showcase of films, art, and discussions centered on wetland conservation.

Event Highlights:

Inspiring Film Screenings: Over 160 students engaged with a selection of thought-provoking environmental films focused on *Wetlands*, *Water*, *Climate Change*, and *Wildlife*. These films, in line with the festival's theme, "*Wetlands for LiFE*," showcased the crucial role wetlands play in maintaining ecological balance and stressed the urgent need for their preservation. The impactful films left a deep and lasting impression on the audience.

Creative Expression Through Art: A lively painting competition encouraged students to creatively express their understanding of wetland conservation. The event saw enthusiastic participation, with students presenting vivid interpretations of the "*Wetlands for LiFE*" theme. The top ten artworks from today's competition will be exhibited at the grand finale of the festival, set to take place at *Ganga Auditorium, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan*, from *September 25-27, 2024*.

Engaging Environmental Discussions: Experts led captivating discussions on key environmental topics, including *Wetlands*, *Water Conservation*, and *Climate Change*. These insightful dialogues ignited thoughtful conversations among attendees, inspiring them to take proactive steps towards safeguarding the environment.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment from participants to adopt sustainable practices and advocate for wetland conservation within their communities. The day's success further reinforces CMS VATAVARAN's mission to foster environmental awareness and inspire action for a more sustainable future.

"CMS VATAVARAN is a catalyst for change," remarked **Dr. P N Vasanti**, Director General of CMS. "Through this platform, we unite voices from around the globe to celebrate our natural world and encourage collective responsibility to protect it."

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India, The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environmental and forestry policies and programmes. Website: <https://moef.gov.in>

GIZ, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, often simply shortened to GIZ, is the main German development agency. It is headquartered in Bonn and Eschborn and provides services in the field of international development cooperation and international education work. GIZ has been working jointly with partners in India for sustainable economic, ecological, and social development for over 60 years. Website: <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/368.html>

Centre For Media Studies (CMS), Established in 1991, the Centre for Media Studies (CMS) (www.cmsindia.org) is an independent, not-for-profit multi-disciplinary organization. CMS endeavors to conduct path-breaking Research, Capacity Building and Advocacy in Social Development, Environment, Communication, Media and Transparency issues to work towards a vision of Responsive Governance & Equitable Development.

CMS VATAVARAN (www.cmsvatavar.org) is an outcome of CMS's core commitment to go "beyond research." The rich experience of CMS in environmental issues & developmental communication and the urge for "Beyond Research" – a commitment to perform the role of a practitioner of its own research, sowed the seeds of CMS VATAVARAN – India's only International Environment & Wildlife Film Festival and Forum.

For more information, please contact

Mr Sabyesachi Bharti, Deputy Director, CMS- VATAVARAN

sabyesachi@cmsvatavar.org,

Mob: +918826689218(WhatsApp) or +91 9818367459