



## FIRST EVER BIODIVERSITY FILM FESTIVAL AND FORUM IN AGRA

MARCH 26-28, 2015 (THURSDAY- SATURDAY)

**CMS VATAVARAN International Environment and Wildlife Film Festival to be organized for the first time**

**Agra, March 24, 2015:** CMS VATAVARAN in collaboration with the Department of Social Work, Institute of Social Sciences, Dr B R Ambedkar University are organising the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the nationally acclaimed CMS VATAVARAN International Environment and Wildlife Film Festival and Forum in Agra from March 26-28, 2015. The biodiversity film festival and forum will showcase best of green films in addition to cleaning drive and slogan writing competition on the theme of biodiversity over three days.

The festival will be held across 9 prominent venues in Agra, namely, J P Sabhaghar, Khandhari Campus (Dr B R Ambedkar University), Jubilee Hall, Paliwal Park Campus (Dr B R Ambedkar University), Queen Victoria Public School and Holy Public Girls School, Sanjay Place, Department of Social Work, Institute of Social Sciences (Dr B R Ambedkar University Campus) and many more. The film festival will see participation from students, environment experts, officials from conservation organizations, faculty members, and others. Apart from school and college students and faculty, award winning films will be screened for jail inmates and defence personnel. A special film screening will be organized for the survivors of acid attacks at Café SHEROES Hangout. The theme of the Agra CMS VATAVARAN is mainstreaming biodiversity at different levels to promote living in harmony with nature.

“Agra CMS VATAVARAN is a people’s festival on biodiversity to enhance understanding, appreciation and shift in attitudes about the natural world and its conservation through films and forums” says P N Vasanti, Director General of CMS.

### INAUGURAL CEREMONY

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Thursday, March 26, 2015 at J P Sabhaghar, Khandhari Campus, Dr B R Ambedkar University, Agra**

The three day film festival is all set to open in a gala inaugural ceremony at J P Sabhaghar, Khandhari Campus of Dr B R Ambedkar on March 26 from 10:00 am onwards. The Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of Dr B R Ambedkar University, Prof. Mohd. Muzammil will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest and Shri Sharat Chandra, District Governor, Rotary District 3110, will be present as the Guest of Honour. The main highlights of the first ever biodiversity film festival and forum in Agra are:

- Felicitation of Green Ambassadors: Green Ambassadors of Uttar Pradesh will be facilitated in the inaugural programme. They will be felicitated for their outstanding work in the area of environment conservation.
- Talk by Shri Braj Khandelwal: Shri Braj Khandelwal, a conservationist from Agra will be delivering a talk on the topic, Yamuna & Taj Mahal.
- Screening of inaugural film: Pristine Water, a sixteen minute film in English by Niyati Sengar and Mr Amaresh Kumar Singh will be screened as the inaugural film of the festival. The film, “Pristine Water”, narrates the story of Yamuna through the people whose lives are organized around it.



### SCREENING OF BEST OF INDIAN AND INTERNATIONAL GREEN FILMS

It's going to be an eventful journey during the course of these fun filled three days that would take the people into the diverse geographical realms of our planet, through the lens of some of the finest environment and wildlife filmmakers. A total of 19 award winning and nominated films will be screened across prominent venues during the festival.

#### VENUES:

- J P Sabhaghar, Khandari Campus, Dr B R Ambedkar University
- Auditorium, Dr B R Ambedkar University
- Central Jail, Agra
- Army Auditorium, Agra Cantonment
- Café Sheroes Hangout

#### OTHER PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS!

- Slogan Writing Competition in English and Hindi at Department of Social Work, Institute of Social Sciences, Dr B R Ambedkar University Campus
- Cleaning Drive at Sanjay Place, Agra

#### PARTNERS

Agra CMS VATAVARAN is being organised with active support from our partners. ICICI Bank is the India Principal Partner and has been supporting CMS VATAVARAN for organizing its 6<sup>th</sup> traveling edition in 5 cities across India in 2014 - 15 i.e. Puducherry, Amritsar, Raipur, Gangtok Agra. The festival is being organized Department of Social Work, Institute of Social Institute, Dr B R Ambedkar University. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been supporting this initiative since its inception in 2002. Holy Public School, Queen Victoria Public School, Holy Public Girls School, Café Sheroes Hangout, Defence and Jail are our Environment Education Partners.

#### ABOUT CMS VATAVARAN

Initiated in the year 2002 by CMS, **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. The festival reaches out to people from all walks of life including filmmakers, civil society groups, government organizations, environmentalists, researchers, conservationists, policy makers, activists, public and private sector organisations and students of all ages and is recognised as a calendar event amongst filmmakers, environment, wildlife and conservation sector. Its unique twin track approach of organising competitive and traveling film festivals and environment forum has positioned it as one of the most prestigious film festivals across the globe. Till date 39 festivals have been organised in 30 cities of India. The travelling festivals are organised in state capitals and other important towns and cities. [www.cmsvatavarana.org](http://www.cmsvatavarana.org)

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