**PRESS RELEASE**

**Host of programmes on the third day of Gangtok CMS VATAVARAN**

**Gangtok, March 14, 2015:** As part of the activities, the Gangtok CMS VATAVARAN organized a **nature trail** for students at the Himalayan Zoological Park, Gangtok. At an altitude of 1,780 meters, the park houses a variety of fauna species found in the Himalayas. Some of them are Himalayan Monal Pheasant, Himalayan Red Panda, Snow Leopard Cat, Goral, Himalayan Palm Civet, Himalayan Black Bear and Crimson-Horned Pheasant. Officials of the Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim guided the students and teachers during the nature trail. Around 50 students were taken on this nature trail by the organizers. This trail aimed at educating the young students about the rich biodiversity that exists in the state. The trail was led by Dr Minla Lachungpa, Biologist and Mr Arun Kumar Singh, Range Officer, Himalayan Zoological Park.

Simultaneously, a film screening was also organized at the Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department for students and teachers. 11 schools from different districts of the state participated in the film screening. The films that were screened on the third day include- Tiger Dynasty and The Antartica Challenge: A Global Warming, Foresting Life, Earth Witness: Reflections on the Times and the Timeless.

Gangtok CMS VATAVARAN – international film festival and forum on environment and wildlife is being received very well. After the gala inuagral ceremony on March 12, 2015 at Chintan Bhaven by The Hon’ble Minister, Mr Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, the number of activities and film screenings across the city has received very good participation.

Larger number of children and people from various walks of life are participating in this festival initiatives, including the film screenings at Forest, Environment, Wildlife Management Department; Paljor Stadium; Rachna Books and many more.

CMS VATAVARAN has also collaborated with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan for the National Integration Camp. The opening ceremony of NIC was held at Paljore Stadium today. CMS VATAVARAN film, The Jungle Gang Meets the Tiger by Krishnendu Bose was screened at the opening ceremony, along with the film, In God’s Land by Pankaj Rishi Kumar.

A slogan writing competition was also held on the first day of the National Integration Camp’s collaborative programme with CMS VATAVARAN.

**Highlights of programmes on March 15, 2015-**

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| **March 15 (Sunday)** | **Venue** |
| 08:00 am - 09:00 am  | Cleaning Drive | Paljor Stadium |
| 07:00 pm – 09:00 pm  | Zor Lagaa ke… Haiya | Hindi | 01:58:00 | Girish Girija Joshi  |

**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.cmsvatavavaran.org**

**For more information, please contact:**

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