**Cleaning Drive carried out in Gangtok**

**Gangtok, March 15, 2015:** More than 200 youth from 6 states, who are in Gangtok for the National Integration Camp, participated in a cleaning drive held as part of the Gangtok CMS VATAVARAN today. The cleaning drive was carried out in and around Paljor Stadium. The National Integration Camp has participants from Sikkim, Bihar, Meghalaya, Assam, West Bengal and Odisha.

Cultural programmes, film screenings, competitions and various activities have been planned for the next two days. A cultural programme by the NYKS youth was also organized in the heart of the city at MG Marg. Around 300 youth watched the film, Zor Lagaa ke—Haiya by Girish Girija Joshi at Paljor Stadium in the evening. The film starring Mithun Chakraborty and Mahesh Manjrekar carries an environmental message of saving trees.

Another screening was also organized for defence personnel and their families at Black Cat Division’s Defence Auditorium. More than 300 defence personnel and their families attended the screening. Mr Sundeep C Srivastav, Head Coordination, CMS VATAVARAN who has been leading the team here at Gangtok CMS VATAVARAN said “The response has been overwhelming and it’s really encouraging to see people from all walks of life enthusiastically attending all our screenings. We are really happy that the Black Cat Division approached us for an exclusive screening and it shows people’s concern for the cause we have been striving for.” The Black Cat Division has been proactively working towards environmental conservation as an intiative.

CMS VATAVARAN has had seven screenings, a panel discussion, slogan writing competition and a filmmaking workshop at Chintan Bhawan, Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management, Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology, Black Cat Division and Paljor Stadium in the last three days. A nature trail was also organized where more than 50 school students from different districts of the state were taken to Himalayan Zoological Park, 3 km away from Gangtok.

**Highlights of Gangtok CMS VATAVARAN (March 16, 2015)**

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| **March 16** (Monday)  |
| 06:00 pm – 07:00 pm  | **Finnland (Wildes Skandinavien) |** English | 00:55:45 | Oliver Goetz **Smarty Plants |** English | 00:51:18 | Erna Buffie l  | **Small Town Film Fest** **Rachna Books** |
| 07:00 pm – 08:00 pm 08:00 pm - 09:00 pm  | The Last Lion | English | 01:27:00 | Dereck and Beverly JoubertBiodiversity Quiz | **National Integration Camp (NYKS),****Paljor Stadium Gangtok, Sikkim** |

**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.cmsvatavaran.org**](http://www.cmsvatavaran.org)

**For more information, please contact:**

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