### FIRST EVER BIODIVERSITY FILM FESTIVAL AND FORUM IN GANGTOK

### MARCH 12- 17, 2015 (THURSDAY- TUESDAY)

### 4,000 participants, 24 films, 08 partners, 08 venues, 1 platform

**Gangtok, March 10, 2015:** CMS VATAVARAN and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (GoI) in collaboration with the Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology, Government of Sikkim, are organising the 6th edition of the much revered and nationally acclaimed CMS VATAVARAN International Environment and Wildlife Film Festival and Forum in Gangtok from March 12- 17, 2015. The biodiversity film festival and forum will showcase best of green films in addition to a host of activities including a filmmaking workshop, panel discussion, nature trail, cleaning drive, slogan writing competition and quiz on the theme of biodiversity.

The festival will be held across 8 venues, with Chintan Bhawan, Auditorium and Meeting Hall, Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management, Vigyan Bhawan, Himalayan Zoological Park, Rachna Books and Paljor Stadium being the prominent locations where the programmes will be held. The theme of the Gangtok CMS VATAVARAN is mainstreaming biodiversity at different levels to promote living in harmony with nature.

“Gangtok 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, CMS.

The festival has also collaborated with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan for the first time and will organize collaborative programmes as part of the National Integration Camp (NYKS) to be held at Paljor Stadium.

**INAUGURAL CEREMONY**

**11:00 am – 01:00 pm, Thursday, March 12, 2015 at Auditorium Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok**

The six day long festival is all set to open with a glittering inaugural ceremony at Auditorium Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok on March 12 from 11 am onwards. The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Pawan Chamling will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest and Hon’ble Minister of Forest,  Environment and Wildlife Management, Shri Tshering Wangdi Lepcha as Guest of Honour. The main highlights of the first ever biodiversity film festival and forum in Gangtok are:

* Felicitation of Green Ambassadors: Green Ambassadors of Sikkim will be facilitated in the inaugural programme. Green Ambassadors from Sikkim will be felicitated for their outstanding work in the area of environment conservation.
* Screening of inaugural film: Ladakh’s Artificial Glaciers an eighteen minute film in English by Rajendra Srivathsa Kondapalli will be screened as the inaugural film of the festival. It was awarded as the best in the Climate Change & Sustainable Technologies category at the 7th CMS VATAVARAN, 2014 held at New Delhi. The film is about Chewang Norphel, Ladakh's glacier man and how his artificial glaciers have transformed Ladakh's farms from drought-ridden to high yielding ones.

**INDIAN AND INTERNATIONAL FILMS**

It's going to be an eventful journey during the course of these fun filled six 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 24 award winning and nominated films will be screened across 8 prominent venues during the festival i.e Chintan Bhawan, Department of Forest Environment & Wildlife Management, Vigyan Bhawan, Rachna Books (Small Town Film Fest) and Paljor Stadium.

**VENUES:**

* Chintan Bhawan | Conference Hall (Department of Forest Environment & Wildlife Management), Vigyan Bhawan (Sikkim State Council of Science & Technology), Himalayan Zoological Park, Rachna Books (Small Town Film Fest) and Paljor Stadium.

**OTHER PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS!**

* **Panel Discussion on Biodiversity Conservation in Sikkim (March 12):** 03.00 pm – 05.00 pm | Meeting Hall, Chintan Bhawan
* **Filmmaking workshop (March 13):** 08:30 am – 05:30 pm | Conference Hall, Sikkim State Council of Science & Technology, Vigyan Bhawan, Deorali, Gangtok
* **Nature Trail (March 14):** 07:30 am onwards | Himalayan Zoological Park | Assembling Point (Vigyan Bhawan, Deorali, Gangtok)
* **Film Screening in Collaboration with Small Town Film Fest (March 16):** 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Fiction Café, Rachna Books
* **Collaborative programmes of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) & CMS VATAVARAN (March 14- 17, 2015)**

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| **Time** | | **Screenings/ Forum** | **Venue** |
| **March 14 (Saturday)** |  | | National Integration Camp  At  Paljore Stadium |
| 03:00 pm – 05:00 pm | | Opening Ceremony of NIC & Screening of  The Jungle Gang Meets the Tiger | English | 00:17:00 | Krishnendu Bose |
| 07:00 pm – 08:00 pm | | In God’s Land | Tamil | 01:10:12 | Pankaj Rishi Kumar |
| 08:00 pm - 09:00 pm | | Slogan Writing Competition |
| **March 15 (Sunday)** |  | |
| 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 |
| **March 16 (Monday)** |  | |
| 07:00 pm – 08:00 pm | | The Last Lion | English | 01:27:00 | Dereck and Beverly Joubert |
| 08:00 pm - 09:00 pm | | Biodiversity Quiz |
| **March 17 (Tuesday)** |  | |
| 03:00 pm - 05:00 pm | | Prize Distribution |

**PARTNERS**Gangtok 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 6th traveling edition in 5 cities across India in 2014 - 15 i.e. Puducherry, Amritsar, Raipur, Gangtok Agra. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan is the State Associate Partner. The festival has been organized in collaboration with State Council of Science & Technology. Department of Forest Environment & Wildlife Management is our programme partner. Abhar Innovisions is the Knowledge Partner. The festival is being supported by Sikkim Express and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt of India. Small Town Film Fest and Rotary Club, Sikkim are the 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.

*For more information, please contact:*

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