**CMS VATAVARAN in Association with Pondicherry University holds Panel Discussion on Climate Change & Human-wildlife Interaction**

**October 09, 2014, Puducherry:** CMS VATAVARAN hosted a panel discussion on “Climate Change and Human-Wildlife Interaction”. The discussion targeted on focusing Puducherry.

Dr N Bhaskara Rao, Chairman, CMS chaired the panel discussion. It was moderated by Dr Devi K Prasad, Professor, Department of Ecology & Environmental Science, Pondicherry University. The panelists were

Dr (Ms) Nanditha Krishna, Director, CPREEC, Chennai; Ms Lata Iyer, Regional Planner, Auroville; Ms Sunaina Mandeen, PondyCAN! And Mr Tim Wrey, Naturalist & Author from Auroville.

The speakers gave presentations on various aspects like **Regional Planning and Wildlife Preservation; Captive Elephants; How to Find Solutions to Live in Harmony with Nature; and Human wildlife interaction.** Lata Iyer emphasized on mapping of existing and restored green areas, sacred groves, plantation forests etc. to identify nodes and design connectivity for wildlife. Dr Nanditha Krishna spoke about the plight of captive domesticated elephants used in circus, temples, tourism or timber logging in India and how they are cruelly treated in the name of religion, etc. Tim Wrey spoke about how wildlife depends on healthy habitats. He also spoke about climate changes and some of the threats posed by it mentioned by him were sea level rising, loss of wetlands, change in weather timings, etc. Sunaina mentioned that the increasing population posed grave problem for everyone in this planet and how man-made interventions have led to coastal destruction. She said “we cannot support infinite growth on a finite planet”. The panel discussion was followed by an open forum interaction which reflected ideas and understanding of the participants.

Around 75 participants including college and university students; faculty; representatives from civil society, etc participated in the panel discussion.

The third day of the festival include film screenings at *Multimedia Centre/ Cinema Paradiso* and *Sri Aurobindo Auditorium*, Auroville; *Immaculate Heart of Mary's Girls Higher Secondary School*, Ariyankuppam; Earth Science Auditorium, *Pondicherry University*, Puducherry; and *La Plancha.*

The film screenings was much enjoyed by the school & college students, police officials and residents of Auroville. Total 300 people participated in the film screenings at Cinema Paradiso and Immaculate Girls Higher Secondary School and Aurobindo Auditorium, Auroville.

The films screened during the day were: *In God's Land; The Last Lion; Point Calimere - Little Kingdom by the Coast; So Shall You Reap; Greeny the Great; Gaur in My Garden; Bal Pandi – a Life for Birds; Point Calimere – Little Kingdom by the Coast* and *Platform no. 5***.** The issues discussed post film screenings were global warming, wildlife protection, pollution; BT crops and biodiversity conservation. The films were shown in Tamil, Telugu and English language.

**The highlights of tomorrow’s programme (October 10, 2014):**

* **Green Film Screening and Open Forum Discussions**

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| **Time** | **Venue** | **Audience** |
| 09:30 am – 12:30 pm | Multi Media Centre, Cinema Paradiso, Town Hall, Auroville | Schools students |
| 09:30 am – 11:00 am | Stansford International Higher Secondary School | Schools students |
| 11:30 am – 01:00 pm | Kendriya Vidyalaya No 2 | Schools students |
| 11:30 am – 01:00 pm | Kendriya Vidyalaya No 1 | Schools students |
| 02:00 pm – 03:30 pm | Dr Ambedkar Gov Law College, Puducherry | College students |
| 03:00 pm – 04:30 pm | [Lycée français de Pondichéry](http://www.lfpondichery.net/) | College students |
| 03:00 pm – 04:30 pm | Department of Civil Engineering,  Pondicherry Engineering College | College students |
| 06:00 pm – 07:30 pm | Police Community Hall, Puducherry Armed Police Complex, Gorimedu, Puducherry | Police Officials |
| 08:00 pm onwards | Artika Cafe Gallery, Puducherry | General Public |

*For more information, please contact:*

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