**PRESS RELEASE**

**Raipur CMS VATAVARAN Inaugurated by Dr Sachchidanand Joshi Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Kushabhau Thakre University of Journalism & Mass Communication**

**Raipur, January 15, 2015:** The Raipur CMS VATAVARAN – International Environmental Film Festival and Forum started today with a gala inaugural ceremony in Raipur from Circuit House. The Chief Guest Dr Sachchidanand Joshi, Vice Chancellor, Kushabhau Thakre University of Journalism & Mass Communication declared the festival open and he said in his inaugural address “I am really happy that t this festival is going to be organized at various academic institutions. If this would have been limited to an elite audience and this festival would have been organized to a Five Star Hotel, it would have been a waste of time of most of the people, give something to the new generation, they have flair, zeal they have dedication and desire to do something the only point is they require proper direction. I’m sure that this festival will provide the proper direction and motivation.”

The festival began with a lamp lightning ceremony by all the eminent dignitaries present during the occasion. Chairman, CMS Dr N Bhaskara Rao welcomed the august gathering. In his welcome address he said “Our country has a natural ethos that very few countries have. We have in built customs, festivals which are good enough to take us forward to take of the environment and nature. But off-late with government taking more interest individual participation has gone down. This is where CMS VATAVARAN comes into picture… In Raipur there are eminent people who are working on their own without depending upon government in terms of forestry, in terms of climate sensitive technologies, pollution in their own neighborhood, in their own society, in their schools.”

The highlight of the inaugural ceremony included felicitation of three Green Ambassadors from Raipur. 10 nominations were received out of which 3 individuals were nominated for their remarkable contribution in the field of environmental conservation in Chhattisgarh. The awardees include:

1. **Shri Lalit Kumar Singhania,** Environmentalist and Editor – Paryavaran Urjaa Times, Raipur
2. **Ms Suniti Yadav**, Founder of Eco- feminist Movement in Central India and Humane Forestry in our country, Raipur
3. **Shri O P Agrawal,** Environmentalist, Surguja District, Chhattisgarh

Present on the occasion our India Principal Partner Shri Jaisingh Dhumal, Chief Manager, ICICI Bank, Mumbai said “If we do not sustain our environment, there is a huge amount of environmental risk associated with it. It is the time now that banks start assessing environmental risks also”.

The vote of thanks was given by Ms Shruti Sharma, D B Girls’ P G (Autonomous) College, Festival Partner of CMS VATAVARAN.

The inaugural day also saw screenings in two prestigious schools of Raipur. These schools were Gyan Ganga Educational Academy, Baloda Bazar Road, Near Vidhan Sabha and Rajkumar College, G E Road. In these schools seven films were screened in 05 slots. 1st film was Chronicles of Oblivion by Priyanjan Dutta, language of the film was Oriya, Bengali and English and duration of the film was 25 minutes 28 seconds; 2nd film was The Tiger, They’re All Dead by Reema Sengupta, film was in English, Hindi and Marathi and duration was 14 minutes 46 seconds; 3rd film was Gaur in my Garden by Rita Banerji in English and duration was 28 minutes 48 seconds; 4th was Greeny the Great by Dhananjay Bhopale, a non-verbal film with 06 minutes; 5th film was The Jungle Gang Meets the Tiger by Krishnendu Bose. Language of the film was English and the duration was 17 minutes; 6th film was Tiger Dynasty by S Nallamuthu, in English and duration was 58 minutes and 7th film was Smarty Plants by Erna Buffie in English and duration was 51 minutes 18 seconds. The screenings were focused on environmental conservation and wildlife. Total 600 students and teachers witnessed the film screenings. The open forum discussions were conducted by subject teachers of the respective schools. Dr N Bhaskar Rao, Chairman, CMS, New Delhi also visited and attended the screenings at Gyan Ganga Educational Academy.

**The highlights of tomorrow’s programme (January 16, 2015):**

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

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| **Time** | **Venue** | **Audience** |
| 09:00 am - 10:00 am | **Gyan Ganga Educational Academy**, Baloda Bazar Road, Near Vidhan Sabha**Kaanger Valley Academy**, Opp. R S U Gymnasium, Dumar Talab | Schools students |
| 10:15 am - 11:15 am |
| 11:30 am - 12:30 pm |
| 12:45 pm - 01:45 pm |
| 08:30 pm – 09:30 pm | **Rajkumar College** |  |
| 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | ***Pt Ravishankar Shukla University******Govt. D.B Girls P G (Autonomous) College******Kushabhau Thakre University of Journalism and******Mass Communication****, Kathadih* | University/ college students |
| 12:00 pm -01:00 pm |
| 12:15 pm - 01:15 pm | ***Chhattisgarh State Police Academy****, Chandkhuri, Raipur* | Police Officials |
| 01:00 pm - 02:00 pm | ***Grihini*** *– A Voluntary Organisation, Raipur* | Open for all |
| 02:00 pm – 03:00 pm |
| 03:00 pm – 04:00 pm |

* **Panel Discussion: Topic “ People and Forest of Chhattisgarh”**

Venue: Conference Hall, 1st Floor, Chhattisgarh State Forests Department

Time: 03:00 – 05:00 pm

*For more information, please contact:*

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