Jaipur CMS VATAVARAN Inaugurated by Shri Ashok Gehlot, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan

Jaipur, September 03, 2012: CMS VATAVARAN – Biodiversity Film Festival and Forum kick started in Jaipur from Rangayan Jawahar Kala Kendra. The hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Ashok Gehlot declared the festival open and in his inaugural address said **"** I am happy that CMS Environment select Jaipur for this film festival. Today environment required more attention.The films is a good medium to change the mindset of people and in this context CMS role is very important. Today if we want to save environment we have to spread awareness among society. He said that felicitation of those individual who are working in field of environment and biodiversity will sensitize the society"

The festival began with a dance drama on "Save Environment and Biodiversity" by students of Kanoria Girls College, Jaipur. The performance depicted interdependence and co-existence of mankind and nature. The message of conservation of biodiversity resources is the underlying theme of the dance drama.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman, CMS Dr N Bhaskara Rao said, "CMS VATAVARAN is India's model of mass mobilization on issues like biodiversity and other environmental issues involving national policies and behavioural changes."

The highlight of the inaugural ceremony included felicitation of the Green Ambassadors from Rajasthan. Three individuals were nominated for the award for their remarkable contribution in the field of environmental conservation in Rajasthan. The awardees include:

1. Laxman Singh, **Founder and Chairman, Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal Laporiya (GVNML), Jaipur for his** extraordinary efforts that have led to the revival of water sources and rejuvenation of the biodiversity in the rural areas of Rajasthan. Your water management "Chauka" systems for storing rainwater and recharging ground water have been of immense advantage for rural families and farmers of semi arid regions.

2. **Shri Gopal Singh Rajawat, Faunal Diversity Conservationist, Dausa for his** voluntary efforts for the development and conservation of forest and its floral & faunal diversity in Dudki. His selfless service in nursing wounded wildlife animals and saving them is also commendable.

3. **Sanju Devi Tailor,** her extraordinary efforts to preserve forest and avifaunal diversity & develop more efficient means of water purification are praiseworthy. Her green initiatives

have motivated thousands of women to come forward and take a lead in developing their own green & clean village.

During the inauguration, Shri Rajandra Singh, who is famous as "Pani wale Baba" said that Rajasthan is more progressive in field of biodiversity from other states.The role of Govt. in conservation of wildlife is very much appreciative. He emphasized on improvement of education which should be more focused on biodiversity conservation.

Another highlight of the ceremony included a release of annual report by Department of Life Long Learning, University of Rajasthan.

Prof (Dr) Sanjeev Bhanawat, Head, Centre for Mass Communication, University of Rajasthan elaborated on their department's association and the relevance of the biodiversity film festival and forum for people of Jaipur.

The highlights of tomorrow's programme include:

➢ **Media Roundtable: Reshaping the Future of Environmental Journalism: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward** | 02:30 pm – 04:00 pm | Centre for Mass Communication, University of Rajasthan
➢ **Ecotour: Healing the Forests** | 10:00 am – 05:30 pm | Jhalana Forest, Jaipur
➢ **Green Film Screenings:**
  • Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan Vidyasharam | 10:00 am – 11:00 am; 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
  • By Centre for Mass Communication screening in Conference Hall, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Rajasthan | 11:30 am – 01:00 pm

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