

13th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species

1. Gujarat Forest Department hosted CMS COP 13 from 15-22 February, 2020 at Gandhinagar.
2. 13th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (COP CMS) was inaugurated via Video Conferencing by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 17th February 2020. Shri Vijaybhai Rupani, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat delivered key note address.
3. The event concluded on the 22nd February 2020.
4. Other dignitaries who attended the event included Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Babul Supriyo, Hon'ble MoS, MoEFCC, Ministers/ Ministerial nominations from other countries like Norway, Bangladesh, Italy, Croatia, etc., Deputy Executive Secretary – UNEP, Executive Secretary – CMS, among others
5. 7 Ministers along with over 150 Govt. officials from various Indian States and Union Territories also participated.
6. COP CMS is held triennially and India played host for the first time.
7. This COP CMS was the largest ever in the history of the Convention, with 2,550 people attending including 263 delegates representing 82 Parties, 11 delegates from 5 non-Party countries, 50 representatives from United Nations agencies, 70 representatives of international NGOs, 127 representatives of national NGOs and over 100 members of both national and international media.
8. Gandhinagar Declaration was adopted at the CMS COP 13. The Declaration calls for migratory species and the concept of 'ecological connectivity' to be integrated and prioritized in the new Framework.
9. During the Champions Night award ceremony, India was recognized as one of the CMS Champions.
10. India has assumed COP Presidency for the next three years.
11. The efforts of Forest Department, Government of Gujarat in organizing this spectacular event successfully were landed by the CMS, UNEP.