



Brief Report on the Launch of an Exhibition "Biodiversity of Western Ghats" on 23rd Sep. 2011

Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore, organized the launch of the traveling exhibition titled "**Biodiversity of Western Ghats**", in its temporary exhibition hall. The novel and state of the art exhibition is a prestigious project of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. In a glittering function conducted in the auditorium of the Museum on **23rd September 2011**, **Smt. Saalumarda Thimmakka**, Noted Environmentalist & National Awardee, who was the Chief Guest of the function, opened the exhibition to the public. **Shri. M.N. Jayakumar, IFS**, APCCF & Member Secretary, Zoo Authority of Karnataka, and a well-known photographer and Forester, presided over the function. **Shri. Vanashri Umesh**, young environmentalist awardee and **Smt. Naaz Rizvi**, Scientist-D, National Museum of Natural History were also present.

Speaking on the occasion **Smt. Saalumarda Thimmakka** an example of commitment, dedication and sacrifice for the cause of nature conservation elaborated her humble contribution and her struggle in planting trees, mainly ficus, in her neighbourhood. She was imploring all to show the same love to the trees. Later **Smt. Saalumarda Thimmakka** unveiled the 3D model of the museum to the public.

Shri M.N. Jayakumar, with his rich experience of life in the forests of Karnataka, urged the people of both urban & rural area to be triggered by the passion of **Smt. Thimmakka** in conserving the richness of the country.

Shri Vanashri Umesh, now an adopted son of **Saalumarada Thimmakka** and an young achiever in nature conservation explained the story as to how he was inspired by the works of **Smt. Thimmakka** and joined her movement in planting the saplings. He proclaimed his intention to plant one crore plants in his life.

Prizewinners of the painting competition conducted for the higher primary and high school sections as part of occasion was distributed by the dignitaries present. **Smt Naaz Rizvi**, Scientist D of National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi welcomed the gathering and **Shri B.S Yogendra**, proposed a vote of thanks.

The exhibition comprising of 40 Panels of 3 feet X 8 feet size with its colourful displays, high class images and environment friendly lighting has many interactive terminals capable of transferring all major information on the rich ecosystem of Western Ghats. It was developed as part of the **International Year of Biodiversity** (2010) and is now scheduled for travel all across South India as part of the celebrations of **UN Decade of Biodiversity** and the **International Year of Forests** (2011). The exhibition has the sole objective of showcasing the richness of the biodiversity and to kindle a love for it beauty.

The exhibition is open to the public for a period of one month between 10-5 on all working days of the museum. Later it will travel through the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Kerala, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry in its long mission of creating awareness about nature conservation.