



Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests
REGIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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Press Release

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, 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 Saalumarda 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.