

DECCAN Chronicle

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SAVE ECOLOGY ■ 2-day conference to deliberate issues like biological environment and policies

National meet on Eastern Ghats begins

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, DEC. 4

The two-day national conference on "Conservation of Eastern Ghats" organised by Sri Venkateswara University (SVU) in collaboration with Greens Alliance for Conservation of Eastern Ghats (GrACE) got off to a colourful start at the Srinivasa Auditorium at SVU campus in Tirupati on Thursday. The two-day national conference was launched by Andhra Pradesh

Legislative Council (APLC) chairman A. Chakrapani earlier in the day.

Delivering his inaugural address, Mr Chakrapani noted that though there are ongoing committed efforts and institutional framework from governments, population pressure, indiscriminate development plans, greed and apathy are exerting constant pressure on the unique biosphere of the mountain ranges across the globe.

Mr Chakrapani appreciated the initiative of the

SVU VC Prof Rajendra, pointed out that the Eastern Ghats are discontinuous mountain ranges, one of the important physiographic units with bio-geographic, environmental, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual significance, located along the eastern coastline.

organisers to bring environmentalists, law makers, scientists, students and all other stake holders onto a common platform to discuss at length on the issues

and measures to conserve the Eastern Ghats.

Meanwhile, SV University vice-chancellor Prof W. Rajendra, pointed out that the Eastern Ghats are discontinuous mountain ranges of India, one of the important physiographic units with bio-geographic, environmental, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual significance, located along the eastern coastline bordering Bay of Bengal.

"These mountains extend over a length of 1,700 km in a north-east, south-west

strike in the Indian peninsula covering an area of about 2.5 lakh square km," he added.

Later, technical sessions and presentations were held as part of the two-day meet with focus on the thrust areas including biological environment of the Eastern Ghats and associated plains (Biodiversity, ecology, conservation, climate change & carbon sequestration), information systems (remote sensing, GIS techniques & monitoring), physical environ-

ment, socio-economic environment and programmes and policies.

Noted environmentalist and Ramon Magsaysay awardee M.C. Mehta who took part in the meet as a special guest urged the policy makers to enforce stringent laws in place to protect the environment in totality. The conference also featured talks by other eminent speakers and environmentalists including K. Purushotham Reddy, CCR president Leela Laxma Reddy and others.