



**SAVE THE WESTERN GHATS
CONCLAVE 2012
'PRACTITIONERS'
CONCLAVE'**

A LITERARY TAKE

SLOT: 6 PM TO 7.30PM DAY 2

FORMAT: IN CONVERSATION WITH

Literature goes a long way in throwing light, creating awareness and bringing environmental concerns into the public focus. Though such endeavors might not be academic or activist in orientation, the lucidity of the written word can make an impact across the cross-section of society. This session will give us a different perspective into issues of the environment from the lenses of a writer. The session shall proceed as a conversation which the writers will have with each other on various issues which have been expressed in literary terms or things which could be best expressed by literature. The power of the pen can change the course of history. It is time to acknowledge that power, to step into the shoes of the writer and see the world through her eyes.

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SESSION BRIEF

'Literature adds to Reality, it does not simply describe it.' – C. S Lewis

From encapsulating its rapturous beauty, to narrating stories about its magnanimity and introducing children to the world around them, the journey of Nature and Literature is perhaps the oldest and the strongest. At times it has just been an attempt to show ones gratitude and appreciation to the world that they see around themselves, sometimes to give a voice to the people, the lives and the relationships which cannot speak for themselves or whose voices are not deemed important enough to be heard. Sometimes it is the apathy towards nature which spurs a writer on, sometimes it is the power of the natural world and sometimes it is the spirit of the people and their unshakeable faith and belief in their bond with nature which inspires stories. At times the writer may feel like a speck lost within the vastness of the world she sees around her and at another times may feel one with all the powers that make her. But what ultimately spurs each and every writer who writes about nature is the love of Nature. A writer brings to the paper and shares the story of respect and admiration towards nature that she feels and believes in, in her own personal capacity. And in narrating that story and presenting it to the world, she hopes that she can inspire many other such stories from her readers, her listeners, her believers.

And this is why literature based on Nature has transcended the barriers of fiction, non-fiction, memoirs and has become an activism of its kind. Such writings not only report reality based on repeated observations and experiences but also add to it by subtly posing questions and raising the concerns of nature. Each story is a



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critique on the way nature is perceived and treated and is a tool in the hands of the writer to wage a battle to conserve the Ecological Heritage.

Therefore a Conclave on Conservation Practitioners' is incomplete without hearing the perspective of Writers and Authors who in their own significant way have also been in the middle of a fight to fight for the rights of Nature and for the rights of the people who depend on it. There has been a lot written on the Western Ghats: its beauty, its people, its problems and its time we sit up and understand the motivation, the experiences and the real stories behind popular fiction.

R.L Stevenson said, *'The difficulty of Literature is not what to write but to write what you mean. Not to affect your reader but to affect him precisely as you wish'*. This session is a forum for an interactive exchange between various writers and the audience to understand how Literature voices the concerns of Nature, its efficacy in disseminating messages and its potency as a tool for resistance, revolt and reformation. All this will be primarily contextualized to encapsulate the story of the Western Ghats.

Each speaker will be given a slot of 20 minutes to speak and can choose to speak about their work in particular and discuss their understanding, relationship with nature, their motivations and observations which have inspired them to write about nature and the position and role of a writer in helping address Environmental concerns.