



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

DOWN MEMORY LANE

SLOT: 11AM TO 12PM DAY 1

This session will be a special commemorative session for the marchers of Save the Western Ghats March 1987/88. Save the Western Ghats March of 1987/88 is widely considered to be one of the pioneering Environmental Movements of India and has played a crucial role in building and shaping the Ecological Consciousness in this country. Though the level of activism dwindled with time, the fervor and the zest to carry on voicing the cause of the Western Ghats survived. This zest lives on till today with a revival of the Save the Western Ghats Movement having captured the national attention. But, the way ahead should be carved with a celebration and appreciation of the past. We should make use of this opportunity to understand what the March of 1987/88 entailed, what it attained and what are the lessons we could carry forward from it. The past is essential so that we could learn to build from it. In our efforts to move ahead, this conclave is also an avenue for us to understand our present and our future from the perspective of the goalposts and vision of the past. It will only be an enabling and enriching experience to comprehend how the SWG March of 1987/88 had formulated and pitched the concerns of the Western Ghats, 25 years back and to see how deep and how far have we been able to understand and address those concerns and problematic raised.

The 100 day march brought the cause of the Western Ghats into the public gaze and the hundreds of marchers who braved the rough terrain and followed their beliefs to speak for the environment remain the unsung heroes. It is time to celebrate the spirit of these veterans and salute them for their selfless dedication



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and persistent efforts to conserve nature. It is time to listen to them and see our world through their lenses. To comprehend, how they think the Western Ghats have changed, how they believe peoples struggles have evolved, how they suggest the way ahead should be. This session will feature the veterans of the march in a very intimate and personal discussion with the gathered audience, where they shall speak about their experiences in the 100 day march and how the march of 1987/88 has affected the psyche of the common man towards issues of his environment. As many say, the present is a mere reflection of the past. This session celebrates that inspiration, that dedication and that courage which has brought us where we stand today.