

## Movement must to protect Western Ghats: Dr. Bachulkar

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“Environmentalists should make sincere efforts and launch a vigorous movement to save the Western Ghats which has gained great importance due to its biodiversity,” said botanist Dr. Madhukar Bachulkar.

He was speaking during the inauguration of 4th Vasundhara International Film Festival, here.

The dais was also graced by director of the festival Suchitra Chitrav, local organiser Suhas Vaidya, Dr. Vijay Diwan, Dilip Yardi, Kishore Gathadi, Anant Rakshasbhuvankar and Sachin Mule. Speaking further, Dr. Bachulkar said, “58% of the Western Ghats is in Maharashtra. All the

places having natural heritage status are in Western Ghats in Maharashtra. This is a matter of pride but at the same time the biodiversity in these ghats is in endangered state. A massive movement was initiated 25 years ago to save the Western Ghats. Thereafter due to lack of attention, the biodiversity has

been adversely affected. Similar movement is the need of the hour,” he said.

Suchitra Chitrav made the introductory speech, while Dr. Diwan took a vow to protect the environment.

The Vasundhara Mitra award was given to Kavadchi's (Jalna district) Panlot Samiti in the team category and Suhas Ajsaonkar of Savitribai Phule Mahila Ekatma Mandal in the individual category. A short film 'My Home is Green' was screened on the occasion. A nature walk has been organised at Salim Ali Lake from 7 am to 9 am on Tuesday. Thereafter, 11 short films will be screened between 10 am to 1 pm at the Einstein Hall at the MGM.