

**Report on the Inaugural Conferences of the Natural History  
Heritage Exhibitions (1<sup>st</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> October)**

## List Of Participants

Sri Ajay Narayan Jha, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEFCC)  
Gina Fullerlove, Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew  
Vinita Damodaran, Centre of World Environmental History, University of Sussex (CWEH)  
Paramjit Singh, Botanical Survey of India (BSI)  
Deepak Kumar, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)  
Antonia Moon, British Library (BL)  
Arun Bandopadhyay, University of Calcutta  
Anupama K., French Institute of Pondicherry  
Subir Dey, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)  
Rohan D'Souza, University of Kyoto  
Mahua Sarkar, Jadavpur University  
Robert Prys-Jones, Natural History Museum at Tring (NHM)  
Sutapa Sarkar, West Bengal State University  
Jenia Mukherjee, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT KGP)  
A. Pramanik, Botanical Survey of India (BSI)  
Bikramaditya Chaudhary, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)  
Henry Noltie, Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh (RBGE)  
Bipasha Raha, Visva-Bharati  
Er . Anoop Kumar Pathak, Botanical Survey of India (BSI)  
B. Veugopal, National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)  
A.C. Lakshmana, retired, formerly government of Karnataka  
Dr. Manjula, Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage  
G.N. Indresha, Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysuru (RMNH)  
B.R. Ramesh, French Institute of Pondicherry  
Subash Chandran, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (IISC)  
Anindita Kundu Saha, curator  
Nitin Rai, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)  
Shyamal Lakshminarayanan, independent scholar  
Michael Rayner, Centre of World Environmental History, University of Sussex (CWEH)

**1<sup>st</sup> October**

The exhibition in Kolkata was opened by Sri Ajay Narayan Jha, the Secretary of MOEFCC. He was given a tour of the exhibitions by Gina Fullerlove and Vinita Damodaran. This was followed by the lighting of the lamp, the welcome song and words of introduction by Paramjit Singh (director of the BSI), Gina Fullerlove, Vinita Damodaran and Ajay Narayan Jha. Finally, a number of books were released by academics involved in the collaboration.

During the tea break, the participants of spoke with Ajay Narayan Jha about various issues. Deepak Kumar stressed the need for digitising the collections of the ZSI (Zoological Survey of India) and the BSI. He spoke about the need to expand the school curriculum to increase the focus on environment and natural history. Ajay Narayan said that he planned four courses of action in response to the exhibition and



to a recent meeting with the ZSI. The four courses of action were: 1) building more formalised collaborations between UK, Indian and American governmental ministries dealing with environment; 2) continuing work on digitisation and engaging in discussions about how to speed up this process; 3) involving institutions like NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training), to bring the knowledge to the common people, particularly school children; 4) talking to various institutions about touring the exhibition.



Following the tea break, the first session was introduced, which dealt with the theme of “The Archive for South Asian Environmental History”. The first speaker was Antonia Moon, who spoke about “Resources for South Asian Environmental History at the British Library”. This was followed by Arun Bandopadhyay on “Studying the History of Indian Meteorology”. Next, Anupama K. gave a talk on “Confluence: Six Decades of Franco-Indian Collections and Ecological Studies at the French Institute of Pondicherry”. Finally, Subir Dey spoke about “BSI Archives and Collections”. This talk detailed his recent research at the BSI and the incredible collections that he was working with. The talks in this section highlighted the importance of holding institutions and the archives held at these. The speakers all stressed the need to make these archives as accessible as possible to the wider public.



The second session focused on “Colonial Science and Empire”. It was opened by Deepak Kumar on the subject of “William Roxburgh, Nathaniel Wallich and Indian Botany”. He was followed by Rohan D’Souza, who spoke about “The Roxburgh Monument and the AJC Bose Botanic Garden”. He discussed the fact that the Roxburgh House in the AJC Bose Botanic Garden had fallen into disrepair, and revealed plans to

restore the building and use it for an interdisciplinary, collaborative climate research centre. Finally Gina Fullerlove spoke on “Joseph Hooker, Kew and the Plants of India”.

This was followed by a round-table discussion on “Natural History, Environment and Climate Change”. The discussion was led by Mahua Sarkar, Robert Prys-Jones, Rohan D’Souza, Sutapa Sarkar, Jenia Mukherjee and A. Pramanik.

The final session was on “Indigenous Collections of Natural History and Environmentalism”. It featured Mahua Sarkar speaking about “Oral Narratives, Environmental History and the Jhumer Songs” and Sutapa Sarkar on “Life, Literature and Folk Deities in the Mangroves”.

The conference was concluded with a performance by a Baul Gaan group.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> October

The first session of the second day was on “Environmental History in South Asia: New Challenges”. It was opened by Rohan D’Souza on “Politics at Boiling Point: South Asian Environmental History and the Anthropocene”. This was followed by Vinita Damodaran on “Colonial Science and Post-Colonial Botany: The Life of E.K. Janaki Ammal”. Next, Deepak Kumar spoke on “Science Popularisation in Colonial and Post-Colonial India”. Finally, Bikramaditya Chaudhary spoke on “Disease and Environmental History”.



The second session focused on “Empire, Natural History and Forestry” and was opened by Henry Noltie speaking on “Hugh Cleghorn: Indian Forrester, Scottish Laird”. This was followed by Robert Prys-Jones on “Allan Octavian Hume (1829-1912): The ‘Pope’ of South Asian Ornithology”. Finally, Bipasha Raha gave a speech on “The Flora of Birbhum: Ethnomedicine and the Santals”.

The concluding discussion was on the theme of “Climate Change and History” and included Rohan D’Souza, Vinita Damodaran, Bipasha Raha, Anupama K. and Er. Anoop Kumar Pathak.





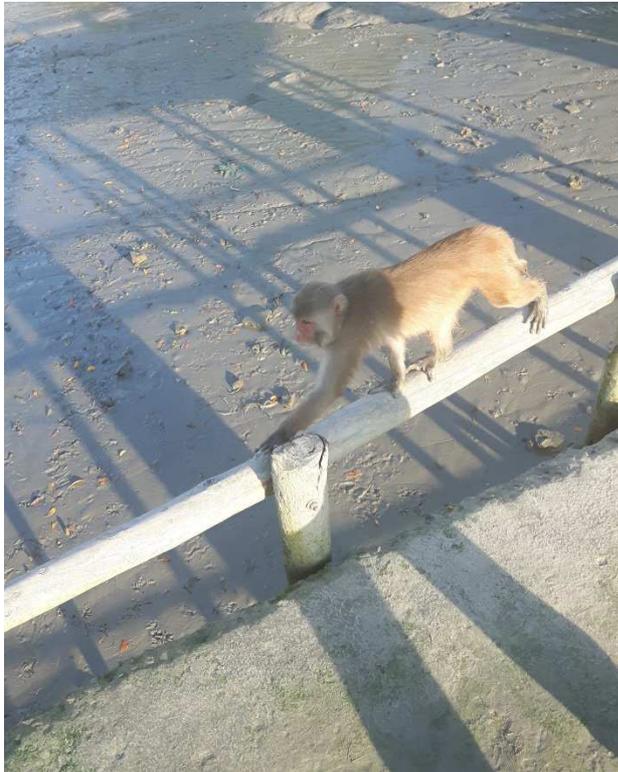
A small number of participants, including Vinita Damodaran, Gina Fullerlove, Robert Prys-Jones, Rohan D'Souza, Henry Noltie and Antonia Moon visited the AJC Bose Botanic Gardens. They were shown the gardens, the Roxburgh House and the old library. There were continued discussions on restoring the house and the library. They were then taken to the BSI archives, as described in Subir Dey's talk. The participants and the scientists from BSI discussed the

possibility of digitising the archives, with particular focus on the Nathaniel Wallich correspondence, which were severely damaged. They were shown the progress so far in digitising the Herbarium. All of the holotypes have been digitised already and the BSI are hoping to digitise as much as possible of the rest of the Herbarium when resources permit.



**3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October**

The UK participants took a field trip to the Sundarbans National Park. This involved travelling through the mangroves and a visit to the tiger reserve. The purpose was to observe the unique ecosystem, the botany and the wildlife of the area.



**6<sup>th</sup> October**

The exhibition in Mysore was opened by Shri A.C. Lakshmana, the former secretary to the Government of Karnataka in the department of Forest, Ecology and Environment. Antonia Moon gave him a tour of the British Library part of the exhibition. Following this, the conference was introduced by Dr. Venugopal, Director of the NMNH, Antonia Moon, Vinita Damodaran, A.C. Lakshmana, Dr. Manjula and G.N. Indresha.

The first session was on the theme of "Indian Natural History Collections". This was opened by Antonia Moon, who spoke about "Resources for South Asian Environmental History at the British Library". She was followed by B.R. Ramesh, who spoke on "The Forestry and Conservation Research of the French Institute in Pondicherry". Finally Subash Chandran discussed "Sunset over the Sacred Groves: Endangered Museums of Indian Cultural and Ecological Heritage".

The second and final session of the day was on "Empire, Natural History and Forestry", and was opened by Henry Noltie on "Hugh Cleghorn: Indian Forester, Scottish Laird". This was followed by Robert Prys-Jones on "Allan Octavian Hume (1829-1912): The 'Pope' of South Asian Ornithology". Finally, Gina Fullerlove spoke on "Joseph Hooker, Kew and the Plants of India".



**7<sup>th</sup> October**

The opening session was on “Indigenous Collections” and featured Anindita Kundu Saha, a curator of the Kolkata exhibition, talking on “An Endangered Archive: The Puthi Collection of the Sundarbans”.

This was followed by the first of two sessions on “New Directions for Indian Environmental History”. It was opened by Rohan D’Souza on “Difficulties with Floating: Logging, Railways and River Control in Colonial Burma”. After this Nitin Rai gave a talk on “Impact of Conservation Policy on People and Landscapes”. Finally, Shyamal Lakshminarayanan, spoke about “Values from Victorian Naturalists”.

After this, Michael Rayner gave a talk on “The AHRC Project and the Promise of the Digital”. He detailed the digital media work done for the AHRC

project so far and outlined future plans for the role of digital media in the project, including plans for a comprehensive database of online resources.

The final session resumed the theme of “New Directions for Indian Environmental History”, with Subir Dey talking on “Moving Lives and Moving Lands: The Case of Land Reclamation in Lower Brahmaputra in Colonial Assam, 1900s-1950s”. Finally Vinita Damodaran spoke on “Colonial Science and Post-Colonial Botany: The Life of E.K. Janaki Ammal”.



**Press Coverage**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/2-day-meet-sheds-light-on-heritage/articleshow/54728578.cms>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/kolkata-celebrates-botany-legend-janaki-ammal-with-exhibition/article9227048.ece>

<http://thewire.in/74911/janaki-ammal-magnolia-kobus/>



ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಪ್ರಾಕೃತಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರುವಾರ ಆರಂಭವಾದ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನದಲ್ಲಿ ಡಾ.ವಿನಿತಾ ದಾಮೋದರನ್, ಐನ್‌ಎನ್‌ಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎ.ಪಿ. ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಣ, ಡಾ.ಅಂಜನೇಶ್‌ಯ್ಯ, ಡಾ.ವೇಣುಗೋಪಾಲ್ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

**ಪರಿಷರ ಪರಂಪರೆ**      **ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂದು**

**ಸಾಮ್ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನ**

ಮೈಸೂರು: ಭಾರತೀಯ ಉಪಖಂಡಗಳ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಿಂದ ಮೂಡುವ ಪ್ರಾಚೀನವಸ್ತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿಳಿದುಬರುವ ಬಹುಮುಖ್ಯ ಅಂಶ ಪರಂಪರೆಯೇ ಆಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಅಂಶ ಗುರುವಾರ ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ನಡೆದ 'ಭಾರತೀಯ ಪರಿಷರ ಪರಂಪರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮ್ರಾಜ್ಯ' ಕುರಿತು ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾಯಿತು.

ಜೈವಿಕ ಇತಿಹಾಸದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಸ್ತುಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯ (ಎನ್‌ಎಂಎಂಎಚ್), ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷ್ ಲೈಬ್ರರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಗ್ಲೆಂಡ್‌ನ ವಿಕ್ಟೋರಿಯನ್ ಮತ್ತು ಸಹಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರದ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಪ್ರಾಕೃತಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಿರುವ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರುವಾರ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಚಯಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿದರು.

ಐನ್‌ಎನ್‌ಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಣ, ಎನ್‌ಎಂಎಂ ಎಚ್ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ವೇಣುಗೋಪಾಲ್, ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಪ್ರೆಂಟ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್‌ನ ಪಿ. ರಮೇಶ್ ಇದ್ದರು.

ಟಾಟಾ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯೋದ್ಯಮ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಕಾಲೇಜು: ಎನ್‌ಎನ್‌ಎಸ್ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ರಕ್ತ ಗುಂಪು ಕವಾಸಗಿ, ರಕ್ತದಾನ ಶಿಬಿರ, ಅತಿಥಿಗಳು ಕೆ.ಆರ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಡಾ.ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್, ಎನ್‌ಡಿಎಚ್‌ಸಿ ಡಾಂಟ್ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ ಟಾಟಾ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಎಚ್.ಎನ್.ಅಶ್ವಥ್‌ನಾರಾಯಣ್, ಸ್ಥಳ: ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಆವರಣ, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10

**ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಪ್ರಾಕೃತಿಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಸ್ತುಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯ (ಆರ್‌ಎಂಎನ್‌ಎಚ್):** 'ಭಾರತೀಯ ಪರಿಷರ ಪರಂಪರೆ ಪ್ರಾಚೀನವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಸಮಾವೇಶ, ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ, ಸ್ಥಳ: ಆರ್‌ಎಂಎನ್‌ಎಚ್, ಹೇರಿ ಎದುರು, ಸಿದ್ಧಾರ್ಥನಗರ, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10

**ಎನ್‌ಎಚ್:** ವಿಟಿಯು ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಗ್ರೋಟೋಲ್ ಚಾಂಪಿಯನ್‌ಶಿಪ್, ಉದ್ಯಾನ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಗ್ರೋಟೋಲ್ ಆಟಗಾರ ಎನ್.ಎಂ.ವಿನಯ್, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ- ಎನ್‌ಎಚ್ ಗೌರವ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

THE TIMES OF INDIA, MYSURU  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016

## 2-day meet sheds light on heritage

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: Deliberation on 'Empire and environmental heritage of India' on Thursday highlighted that the important component of environmental heritage.

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), in collaboration with British Library and Centre for World Environmental History (University of Sussex, the UK), is organizing the two-day exhibition and international conference at Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH) here from Thursday.

The exhibition is an attempt to illustrate some of the features of India's environmental heritage and significant historical developments on the environment front. Visual and textual sources from the departmental records of the British administration, Kew Garden (the UK), and French Institute at Pondicherry, Botanical Society of India, Geological Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India are collectively presenting the reconfiguration of natural history of India. The event mainly projects the changes environment of India between 1780 and 1920 with relevance to botany, forestry, irrigation, geology, health and communication.

Dr Vinitha Damodharan, director of Centre for World Environmental History, University of Sussex, said the network of climate, research and sustainable groups studies the historical elements critically to understand the climate change, Vinitha added.

**Dr Ashok Pai**

**At a glance**



Former Forest secretary A C Lakshmana delivers the inaugural address during a conference on 'Empire and Environmental Heritage of India' at Regional Museum of Natural History, in Mysuru, on Thursday. RMNH Scientist Indresha, Sussex University Centre for World Environmental History department director Vinita Damodaran, British Library curator Antonia Moon and RMNH Director Venugopal are seen. DH PHOTO