

International Day for Biological Diversity today at KU

SRINAGAR KU :

The Department of Botany, **University** of Kashmir, Srinagar, is celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity today in collaboration with J&K Council for Science and Technology,

Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment, Shri Mian **Altah** Ahmad **would** present the inaugural address. Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Prof. (Dr.) Riyaz Punjabi would deliver a keynote address on Cultural Diversity : an important but ignored facet of Biological Diversity. **The** event is **particularly** important in view of declaration of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations General Assembly. Promoting a message, Biodiversity is life, Biodiversity is our **life**, a debate is being organized by the Department to sensitize the students and other stakeholder about the impending dangers of loss of biodiversity that threatens to increase poverty and undermine development.

Prof Z A Reshi organizer of the event and head department of botany and bio -resources said that in view of high risk of biodiversity loss and accompanying degradation of a broad range of ecosystem services if ecosystems are pushed beyond certain thresholds or tipping points, a Brainstorming session is being organized on the day wherein stocktaking of the floristic and faunistic diversity of the State would be undertaken. He asaid that a synthesis of the existing information about diversity in different groups of organisms would be attempted. The crucial knowledge gaps regarding biodiversity in the State will be identified and an action plan to bridge these gaps will be evolved after through discussion and deliberations added Dr Reshi .