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The Hindu's coffee table book on exploration of the Western Ghats released



CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Authored by Vrinda Ramanan and J. Ramanan, mountaineers, writers and photographers, the book was launched by Tamil Nadu Forests Minister R.V. Ranjith Kumar. The first copies were received by Rohit Ramesh, Director, Suresh Nambath, Editor, and L.V. The book is a sequel to 'Mountains of our Destiny: An Expedition to the Indian Himalaya', also by the same authors.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister noted the importance of the forests, rivers and mountains to sustaining agriculture, livelihoods and ecological balance. He highlighted the need to ensure forest conservation, spoke of the measures taken by the government to improve upon work being done, such as AI technology to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks and in the control of forest fires, and congratulated the authors on their work.

Author J. Ramanan explained that the two mountain ranges: the Himalayas and the Western Ghats formed the bedrock of India's existence. Without them, he said, we would not have had our rivers. The 1,500 km Western Ghats in particular, recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, was one of the richest ecological resources in the country, sustaining thousands of lives.