

## Celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2016 in Tirupati

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# Minister lays stress on protecting biodiversity

STAFF REPORTER

**TIRUPATI:** Minister for Environment and Forests, Science and Technology Bojjala Gopalakrishna Reddy on Sunday renewed his call to empower all the stakeholders associated with the protection and preservation of biodiversity. He was speaking on the theme 'Mainstreaming biodiversity, sustaining people and their livelihood' at the inaugural of the 'International Day for Biological Diversity 2016' conducted by Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board at Mahati Auditorium here on Sunday. Mr. Reddy underscored the need to protect biodiversity. He suggested strengthening of the village-level biodiversity management committees headed by the respective sarpanches. The committees have been formed to protect the local biodiversity, which have a considerable say in the protection and utility of the local biodiversity assets.

It may be recalled that a firm has recently procured fungus



**ON A MISSION:** Minister for Environment and Forests B. Gopalakrishna Reddy at a stall of the exhibition organised by Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board in Tirupati on Sunday.

— PHOTO: K.V. POORNACHANDRA KUMAR

from Gurazala area of Guntur district for making bio-pesticide by duly paying royalty to the local committee. Though ignoring the committee is a cognisable and non-bailable offence, the message is yet to percolate to the grassroots.

The Minister later visited the stalls and watched the pro-

jects and products on display. Board Chairman A.V. Joseph, member-secretary M.S. Padmakumari, biodiversity coordinators V.V. Hariprasad and Srinivasa Rao took part in the programme.

Some 600 delegates from across the State attended the State-level meeting.