

CPR Environmental Education Centre  
No. 1, Eldams Road, Alwarpet, Chennai 600018

**PRESS CONFERENCE INVITATION**

**What:** 1. Screening of “Save Our Sholas” – a 24-minute documentary on the endangered, biodiversity-rich shola forests of Western Ghats. (3 p.m. to 3.30 p.m)

2. Eminent conservationists and environmental researchers speak about the sub-standard clean-up of mercury contaminated site in Kodaikanal proposed by Hindustan Unilever.

**When:** 17 March 2010. 3 to 4 p.m.

**Where:** CPR Environmental Education Centre,  
No. 1, Eldams Road, Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018

**Who:** **Nanditha Krishna:** Honorary Director, CPR Environmental Education Centre.  
**Alphonse Roy:** Award-winning wildlife filmmaker (National Geographic, Discovery, BBC) and cinematographer  
**Shekar Dattatri:** Rolex Award-winning wildlife filmmaker and conservationist.

**Background:**

Hindustan Unilever's now-closed mercury thermometer factory in Kodaikanal sits atop the Pambar Shola Reserve Forests. Mercury contamination in the factory site is an ongoing environmental concern for the health of the shola and nearby residents. Hindustan Unilever is proposing a clean-up of the factory site. But even after clean up, more than 100 kg of toxic mercury will be left behind in the site. This mercury will function like a ticking ecological time bomb releasing slowly into the Pambar Shola and disrupting the ecosystem over decades. If the factory were located in the Netherlands or the United Kingdom, where Unilever has its headquarters, the proposed clean up in Kodaikanal would be considered sub-standard. Eminent Chennai-based conservationists and researchers will address the media about the dangers the proposed clean-up poses to the Shola ecosystem.

**For more information, contact:**

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