

MANGALURU

Expert urges youngsters to protect forests



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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Coordinator of Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, T.V. Ramachandra on Tuesday said that protection of forests should be the topmost priority of the younger generation as otherwise living on the planet becomes difficult.

He was speaking after inaugurating a workshop on Neighbourhood Mapping of Biodiversity for students and teachers as a curtain-raiser for the Lake Conference organised by Alva's College, Moodbidri, near here.

Dr. Ramachandra said that unabated encroachment of forests in many areas and their commercial exploitation have been resulting in landslips and scarcity of water. It is, therefore, necessary to map biodiversity of every region, he said.

India, Dr. Ramachandra said, is rich in natural resources even as every village has a variety of species. If the biodiversity is suitably managed, problems arising out of deforestation could be effectively addressed. As such, the mapping activity should be implemented on a war-footing, he said.

Alva's Managing Trustee Vivek Alva said that life on earth does not just include human beings but it encompasses the entire sphere of biodiversity. When one understands this concept, one could develop real concern for environment, he said.

The workshop would be on for two days and mapping of biodiversity would be undertaken at Shobhavana and Harishvana. On the occasion, Alva's College and EWRG-IISc signed a pact under which students could involve themselves in research activities under guidance from IISc. Over 200 students and 50 teachers from Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts attended the workshop.

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