

'Save resources co-ordinately'

Religious heads, society asked to join hands with govt to check pollution

SIRS: "Religious leaders and the society must join hands with the government for checking pollution. Only co-ordinated efforts will help in saving our natural resources", said Vishweshwara Swamiji of Pejwar Mutt, Udipi.

Speaking at the valedictory programme of the three-day State-level 'Lake-2014' convention organised at Swarnavalli in Siroli taluk on Saturday.

"Assault on man, animal and environment has been rising at an alarming rate. Illegal land acquisition, pollution, forest destruction, child abuse etc are spoiling the health of the society", he lamented and questioned what was the use of purifying river water when industrial effluents were indiscriminately joining the rivers.

"River divergence scheme must not be taken up from scientific point of view. The gov-

ernment must take up projects which ensure water in river all the year round", he said.

State Pollution Control Board chief Vaman Acharya, Indian Institute of Science scientist T.V Ramachandra, environmentalist Suresh Heblikar, Y.B Ramakrishna, Ananth Hegde Ashram of Vrukshala Asha Andolan, V.N Hegde of Swarnavalli Mutt and others were present.

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Award presentation

SIRS, DHNS: On the occasion, Gangadharendra Saraswati Swamiji of Swarnavalli Mutt and Pejwar Mutt seer presented 'Vrukshala Ashya' award to Swami Vishnumayanand of Ramakrishna Mission Ashram for developing forest on 300 acre barren land at Anikal near Bengaluru.



Gangadharendra Saraswati Swamiji of Swarnavalli Mutt and Pejwar Mutt seer presenting 'Vrukshala Ashya' award to Swami Vishnumayanand of Ramakrishna Mission Ashram during the valedictory programme of the three-day State-level 'Lake-2014' convention at Swarnavalli in Siroli taluk on Saturday. **DHNS**

Resolutions passed at Lake-2014

Govt suggested to plan special project to save lakes

SIRS: The three-day State-level 'Lake-2014' convention which concluded in Siroli taluk on Saturday resolved to suggest the State government to come up with a special project for conservation of water sources in Western Ghats.

The convention organised by Environment Science Centre, Indian Institute of Sciences, Swarnavalli Mahanathan, Sharadamba Education Society and Shigehalli Village Forest Committee passed many resolutions.

The resolutions are as fol-

lows: Education Department must launch special programmes for facilitating school and college students to hold a survey and study of lakes and other water sources as part of co-curricular activities. Forest Department must frame special projects to conserve forests and afforestation in command areas of lakes in Western Ghats. The Union government must give priority to lake cleanliness as part of its 'Clean India Mission'. Local social and environment organisations must hold creative public movements like 'Lake

cleanliness drive', 'Lakefest' etc to conserve these water sources.

Lake encroachments

Steps must be taken to clear the encroachments on lakes. Efforts must be made to desilt the lakes locally. Temple management boards must take a step forward to maintain the lakes and water tanks in temples and other holy places. The government must not give permission to hold mining in areas like Kappagadda, Hogrekanigiri, Kodachadri etc. Village-level Lake Development bodies

must be strengthened. Forest Department must come up with projects for conservation of lakes through Village Forest Committee. Sacred groves and swamps must be identified as sensitive areas and protected.

Co-ordination stressed

Lake Development Authority, Watershed Department, Zilla Panchayat and other organisations must work in co-ordination for lake development.

A co-ordinative plan must be prepared for this.

Steps must be taken to check

solid waste joining the lakes. Many mega irrigation and hydroelectricity projects are dependent on rivers in the Western Ghats. Hence, the maintenance of these projects must be efficient.

River divergence schemes and hydroelectricity projects must be reconsidered.

Many lakes and water tanks of Western Ghats are getting polluted by excess use of pesticides and insecticides. Hence, the government must check excess use of chemicals and insecticides in fields.

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