

## ALMANAC TODAY

• Wednesday 11/01/17 • Year: Dummukhi • Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Pausa  
 • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Chaturdasi 02:31 pm • Nakshatra (Star):  
 Ardra 03:40 am • Moon in Vrishchika Rasi. • Rahukala: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm  
 • Gulikakala: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm • Yamaganda: 07:30 am to 09:00 am



WEATHER WATCH

MIN	MAX
14°C	29°C

## FORECAST

Afternoon clouds.

Sunrise 6.45 am

Sunset 6.10 pm

Moonrise 5.11 pm

Moonset 5.17 am

newindianexpress.com

# Lake 2016 working group recommends Paryavaran Ayog

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THE working group on Lake 2016 - international biennial conference held in December 2016 near Moodbidri - has recommended the government to constitute a Paryavaran Ayog (Environment and ecology commission) akin to NITI Ayog.

The recommendation document available with Express noted that the new body will foster involvement and participation of environmental stakeholders in ensuring sustainable management and conservation of ecologically fragile regions in India.

Analysing the recommendations of Dr T V Ramachandran from the Centre for Environmental Sciences (Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru) who headed the organising committee of the international conference 'Lake 2016' said identification of ecological units (at Panchayath levels) that are ecologically sensitive as per Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act

1986 (EPA) is vital to improve the ecosystem health through appropriate location specific conservation practices.

The charter has also recommended constitution of the Western Ghats Task force with the mandate of facilitating good governance process in the Western Ghats towards achieving conservation and sustainable development.

This will also help in synthesising right policy measures and implementation plans in the entire Western Ghats region to ensure water and food security of the dependent population.

A series of recommendations featuring locality-wise documentation and protection of water bodies and their sources, their current status, with estimates of hydrological services with different levels of rejuvenation of water bodies has also been mentioned in the charter.

"This step will provide the water bodies to attain their potential ecological services," the

document stated. The role of Biodiversity Management Committees, being formed nationwide, under the mandate of the Biodiversity Act 2002 will be the most appropriate statutory body to identify and map water bodies in their respective jurisdiction, and to prepare annual reports on their prevailing status the document adds.

Expressing concern on the cultivation of water intensive cereal crops the working group has cited the objectives and spirit of the United Nation's declaration of 2016 as Year of Pulses, we propose a much needed 'de-cerealisation drive' to overcome impending water crisis

In addition, uncertain climate is setting over the planet, leaving behind prominent carbon footprints, developing increased reliance on chemical fertilizers, overlooking the fact that crop rotation with pulses can add on an average 100 kg of nitrates to the soil and spare the usage of several fertilizers.



## BURDEN LIVES ON

Despite advancements in the micro commercial vehicles, the evergreen handcart still rules in Mangaluru. These two scrap dealers transport their ware through the roads of Mangaluru to their trading place. | RAJESH SHETTY BALLALBAGH