

# Campaign to save lakes of Malenad

**SIRSI:** "Rivers, lakes and ponds have contributed a lot for conservation of Western Ghats. Hence, a public movement is needed to save these water bodies", said Environment scientist T V Ramachandra.

Speaking after flagging off the 'Malenad lakes conservation' campaign being taken up by Vrukshalaksha Andolan and Shigehalli Village Forest Committee, at Shigehalli in Sirsi taluk on Saturday, Mr Ramachandra informed that they are planning to hold national-level lake convention in Sirsi in November to discuss ways for conservation of water bodies.

Swarnavalli Mutt Vice-president V.N Hegde Bommanalli said that the study of lakes will be helpful in creating awareness about rivers, valleys and lakes among students.

Biodiversity documentation expert Harish Bhat said that the ponds located in temples must have water round the year and must be free of pollution.

Vrukshalaksha Andolan President Ananth Hegde Ashisara presided over the programme. On the occasion, students of Shigehalli Primary School presented a street play on lake conservation. The stu-



**Scientist Subhashchandran giving information to children during biodiversity documentation held as part of 'Malenad lakes conservation' campaign at Shigehalli in Sirsi taluk. DH**

PHOTO

dents of Hegdekatta, Bhairumbe and Salkani High School studied about lakes and recorded information on lakes, hills, valleys etc.

Speaking at the valedictory programme, scientist Subhashchandran said that lakes and other water bodies must not be destroyed in the name

of development.

Assistant Conservator of Forest S G Hegde were present. "Forest committees must take up water rejuvenation projects", he said. He announced that lake-forest conservation convention will be held on July 2.

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