

Each one of us must adopt 'green lifestyle': Ananthkumar

SIRSI (UTTARA KANNADA DIST), DHNS: Union Chemicals & Fertilisers Minister Ananthkumar called upon people adopt to a 'green lifestyle' to save previous water sources and the environment.

Speaking after inaugurating the three-day State-level 'Lake-2014' conference organised by Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Science and other organisations at Swarnavalli Mutt in Sirsi taluk on Thursday, Mr Ananthkumar lamented that a culture against the Indian lifestyle is growing fast. Greedily enjoying natural resources without any limitation not only affects our culture but also the environment. To check such a negative culture, there is need to develop a 'green lifestyle' by taking up measures like use of solar energy, limited use of plastic and conservation of water sources. The ground water-level must be maintained by protecting lakes, he said.

Environmentalist B M Kumaraswamy opined that the Union government must put a full stop to the proposed river-linking project as such a project will be a national disaster. He suggested, instead of allowing the river water to flow into another river, it must be

directed to nearby lakes and tanks.

Gangadharendra Saraswati Swamiji of Swarnavalli Mutt graced the occasion. He said that there is a holy relationship between temple and lakes. Conserving and constructing lakes is as holy as constructing a temple, he opined.

On the occasion, Village Forest Committee of Jigalemane in Shivamogga district who worked for conservation of lake was honoured. Mr Ananthkumar released the report on carrying capacity of Uttara Kannada district. Vagdevi Vilas organisation President Harish, scientist R S Nayak, Vrukshalaksha Andolan President Ananth Hegde Ashisara and others were present.

'Vanishing forests have affected rainfall'

SIRSI, DHNS: "So-called developmental programmes have gulped a large area of forest in Uttara Kannada district. In spite of being the land of forests, Uttara Kannada is left with just 32 per cent forests", lamented Indian Institute of Science scientist T V Ramachandra.

Speaking at 'Lake-2014', he said that 65 per cent of the dis-



Union Chemicals & Fertilisers Minister Ananthkumar inaugurating the three-day State-level 'Lake-2014' conference organised by Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Science and other organisations at Swarnavalli Mutt in Sirsi taluk on Thursday. Scientist R S Nayak, B M Kumaraswamy, Ananth Ashisara, Swarnavalli Swamiji, MLA Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, T V Ramchandra and others were present. DH PHOTO

trict was covered with forest nearly four decades back. But the lush green forest went on vanishing. Even today, 85 per cent of people in the district use firewood. This use can be limited by introducing people to improvised wooden ovens which consume 40 per cent to 50 per cent less wood. Except for the peak rainy season, solar energy can be used in the re-

maining seven to eight months. Use of wind power can also reduce the burden on the forests.

"The areas which have natural forests get water throughout the year, states a study conducted in the district. In the areas where there are plantation, water is available for six to nine months. In dry land, water is available only for four

months. The rain in Linganamakki dam area was affected after the dam was built across Sharavathi river. Nearly a hundred years back i.e., before the construction of the dam, the amount of rainfall in the area was 2,500 mm to 3,500 mm. Today, it is 1,500 mm to 2,000 mm. This itself tells the relationship between forests and rain", he said.