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Greens call to protect Western Ghats

TEAM HERALD

MAYEM: Stating that the Western Ghats are the lifeline of India, noted environmentalist Prof Madhukar Bachulkar emphasised the urgent need to protect and conserve the Ghats through the active involvement of people.

He was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of a two-day national seminar on 'Western Ghats, the world heritage: Environment and development' organised by Department of Geography of College of Arts, Commerce and Science of Dodamarg.

Researchers, environmentalists from Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala took part in the seminar and presented papers on various aspects of the Western Ghats.

"There is an urgent need to undertake developmental activities by giving priority for environment protection and conservation. Locals should get the benefit of natural resources available in their vicinity. People's participation in decision-making is needed, while undertaking any developmental project," stated Vinayak Raut, the Member of Parliament.

"Since a lot of misconceptions were spread regarding the report on the status of Western Ghats submitted by Prof Madhav Gadgil, there was opposition to it from various corners. The report highlighting the present and past status of the Western Ghats was research oriented and highlighted the ecological significance and sustainable development in Western Ghats."