

## **2nd Giritra Convention: June 1, 2003**

There was a tacit realisation after the conclusion of 2002 convention that this was not going to be a one-off event; it was going to be an yearly fixture. The first convention had no single organisers. But now, in the second year, Pinnacle Club took up the responsibility of organising.

The theme this year was Learning Through Trekking. Satish Marathe, Chairman of United Western Bank, Satara, inaugurated the Convention.

Most trekkers in Maharashtra kicked off their hobby with forts. But the joy of climbing can be enhanced much more if one could gain insight into the architecture of forts. This was the subject of the address by Bhalchandra Kulkarni, Deputy Director, Archaeological Survey of India. He started with forts of Mumbai, then moved on to hill-forts, elaborating on individual features of each structure.

Then there was a speech by N U Shrote, Deputy Director, State Sports Department. He gave a few tips about how trekking clubs can avail of government grants, and how the funds could be utilised. The information he gave was very useful.

Divyesh Muni of Himalayan Club, Mumbai, spoke about how to plan expeditions in the Himalayas. He put a great stress on preparation as a key to a successful Himalayan expedition.

Environment is something that is very close to every trekker's heart. Environmentalist Milind Amdekar spoke about correlation between ecology and trekking. Mrs Vineeta Muni gave a wonderful presentation on the recently concluded all-women 'Trans Himalayan Trek'. Also, there was an exhibition of books - Marathi and English -- related to mountaineering, organised by N C Kelkar Library.

Samir Paranjpe and his team of Pinnacle Club members gave a new direction to the Convention.

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