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Frame policy to ban mineral projects in ghats: Task force

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BANGALORE: The [Western Ghats Task Force](#) on Thursday urged the state government to come out with a clear policy to ban projects involving minerals like iron ore, manganese and bauxite in the Western Ghats region.

The 14-point recommendation on 'Conservation and sustainable development of Western Ghats' was submitted to the state government by the task force on Thursday.

Major recommendations include: all taluks under the Western Ghats should be brought under the [Naxal package](#) benefits, the tribal and forest dwellers act should be implemented appropriately, providing basic facilities to forest dwelling communities, a comprehensive policy to protect river valleys, providing a fair and timely compensation to farmers facing wildlife attacks on their lives and crops, conserving declining honey bee population through appropriate schemes.

Other recommendations include medicinal plant conservation, herbal drug use in primary healthcare, launching eco-friendly [alternative energy](#) sources like gobar gas, solar light in the region, enhancing local employment opportunities of tribals and forest dwellers and not giving permission to hydroelectric projects.

"Many of these recommendations have been implemented in some form or the other. Some of the other recommendations that have already been initiated at some level are the river stream issues, de-conservation and finding alternative source of energy in the region," said Anant Hegde Ashisar, chairman, Western Ghats Task Force.

Govt to implement recommendations

Forests minister CP Yogeshwar on Thursday said: "Our government has taken the issue (conservation of Western Ghats) seriously and will implement all the 14 chief recommendations made by the Western Ghats Task Force."

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