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Focus on Western Ghats at biodiversity meet

Staff Reporter

The second Indian Biodiversity Congress, which has a special focus on biodiversity in the Western Ghats, will commence here on Sunday. Key sessions will host discussions that will critically analyse the findings and recommendations of the Western Ghats ecology panel and deliberate on the contentious issue of the heritage tag conferred by UNESCO to the biodiversity hot spot in July this year.

At a press conference at the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, board chairman Vaman Acharya said that the conference will discuss conservation efforts for the Western Ghats. Asked about the government's opposition to the heritage tag, he said: "There is a point of view that questions why we need an external agency here when we have so many laws and institutions to protect the forests, the resources and the heritage."

To questions on the lack of action on any recommendations of the Western Ghats Task Force, he said that though there "may not have been concrete actions, their work has created awareness on the issue".

Slated to be held at the J.N. Tata Auditorium of the Indian Institute of Science, scientists, environmentalists and academics will deliberate on the "Biodiversity of the Western Ghats - challenges and strategies for conservation and sustainable management".

The event will be inaugurated by Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Veerappa Moily.

Second Indian Biodiversity Congress from tomorrow

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