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## Panel formed to protect the Western Ghats

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Bangalore: Environmentalist Ananth Hegde Ashisara will be chairman of the newly formed task force for protecting the Western Ghats.

Ex-officio members of the force will be Suresh Heblkar, T V Ramachandra, H N A Prasad, Gajendra Gorasukudiga , B M Kumaraswamy, Vasudev , Keshav Korse, Ellanna Malekudiya, Shantaram Siddhi and Ranjan Rao.

Official members will be principal secretaries of forest, revenue, rural development and panchayat raj, commerce and industries, and mines and geology departments. Commissioner and principal chief conservator of forests will be convener of the task force.

### Panel to look into encroachment

The government has constituted a committee to look into encroachment of wakf properties in the state.

Minority welfare minister Mumtaz Ali Khan will head the committee. The members are M K S Tayyab, Justice Farooq, Anwar Pasha, Khader Mohiddeen , Tahsin Ahmed, Tayyab Ali, Anwar Manappadi, former IFS officer Sheikh, and principal secretary, revenue. The principal secretary, minority welfare, will be its convener, a release said.