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## Talks on Western Ghats

Swati Shinde, TNN Mar 10, 2013, 07.09PM IST

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PUNE: Non-governmental organizations working in the field of environment, environmentalists, students and citizens will be conducting a discussion on March 11 on the Western Ghats report which has been submitted by the government appointed Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) under the chairmanship of Madhav Gadgil, a statement issued by the Academic Advisors, a city-based NGO said. The topic of the discussion is "Western Ghats report and next steps at the SM Joshi Hall at 6 pm.

The WGEEP was established to assess the current status of the ecology of the Western Ghats, to demarcate the ecologically sensitive zones under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, to make recommendations for conservation protection and rejuvenation of the Western Ghats Region and to suggest means for effective implementation of the notification by Government of India declaring specific areas in the Western Ghats as Eco-Sensitive Zones under the

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Environment (Protection) Act 1986. The panel had submitted its report to the government on August 30, 2011. The government is yet to accept the report while several groups in the city have begun discussions and talks to understand the WGEEP report.

The meeting will explore the possibilities of mounting up public pressure for preventing any watering down of the report and its implementation.

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