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## Western Ghats Task Force to plant saplings in constal belt

Pavan M V, TNN Jun 23, 2012, 09:34PM IST

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**MANGALORE:** To prevent sea erosion in costal belt of Karnataka instead of installing stones, Western Ghats Task Force (WGTF) will plant tree saplings under Costal Green Shield project, said Ananth Hegde Ashisara, chairman of Western Ghats Task Force (WGTF) here in Thenkila, Puttur on Saturday.

State government is planning to open a rehabilitation center for victims of Endosulfan, a pesticide used in plantations, as this pesticide has led to various illness in Dakshina Kannada District, said Ashisara and added that victims of Endosulfan has also been identified in Bhatkal.

He disclosed that last year the revenue generated by forest produce in Sullia and Puttur is Rs 5 lakhs, earlier some agencies were looking after forest produces but in future around 4,000 village forest committees will look after forest produces in Western Ghats.

WGTF has submitted a plan to conserve rivers of Western Ghats and has directed private companies which are into hydel and irrigation projects to pay 10 percent of its profit to the government, he said and added that "Personally has an environmentalist I don't accept Nethravathi river diversion project."

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