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Special law sought to save Western Ghats in State

• [V.S. Palaniappan](#)



The Hindu

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In order to give a fillip to eco-conservation, the Save Western Ghats Federation of Tamil Nadu formed in Coimbatore recently has resolved to urge the State government to enact a legislation to save the fragile eco-system.

President of OSAI K. Kalidasan told *The Hindu* that the federation's main agenda was to demand a Tamil Nadu Western Ghats Conservation Act to conserve part of the mountain range in the State. Already, the forest area under the control of Forest Department was protected by legislation such as the Forest Conservation Act and the Wildlife Protection Act. But other parts of the areas were equally fragile and needed protection.

Underlining the importance of the initiative, Mr. Kalidasan said the Western Ghats was the lifeline of South India. In Tamil Nadu, more than 80 per cent of the water for drinking, domestic, agriculture and industrial purposes came from the rivers originating in the Western Ghats. Failure to protect the Ghats would pose a threat to water security. The movement was working on the mission in six States, he added.

After the Madhav Gadgil Committee submitted its report, many States opposed the recommendations resulting in the formation of another committee headed by Dr.Kasturirangan. Even the Kasturirangan report and recommendations were not accepted by many States.

Currently, 40 organisations have committed themselves to be part of the federation and efforts were being made to include more.

Kavnagar Sirpi Balasubramanian was elected as the federation president and N. Margandan, former Vice-Chancellor of Gandhigram University and V.Jeevanantham of Tamil Nadu Green Movement elected as vice-presidents.

A conference is proposed to be conducted by the federation in November or December. Meetings would be conducted at regional levels and the supportive committees would be formed very soon.

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