

# GADGIL HAPPY OVER RENEWED INTEREST IN WGEEP REPORT

Relevant for: Environment | Topic: Environmental Conservation, Sustainable Development, and EIA

Noted ecologist Madhav Gadgil has expressed the hope that the renewed interest in the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report in the State would lead to a better understanding of the recommendations, prompting environment-friendly decisions which enjoy popular support.

Confusion over the WGEEP report persists because it was not presented properly before grama sabhas for finalising decisions based on their feedback, Mr. Gadgil, the panel's chairman, said in an interview with former State Biodiversity Board chairman V.S. Vijayan. The short interview was screened at the Spaces Fest organised by DC Books here on Thursday.

With smartphones and mobile apps, data at the ground level can be collected very easily today, he pointed out. "Let the report go to the grams sabhas in the Western Ghats. Let them understand it, and, within one year, I think, very good decisions supported by the people that are also environmentally positive will emerge," he said.

## Proper feedback

Being a small panel with meagre resources, the best it could do was submit "broad-based recommendations," he said. The committee had explicitly stated that as soon as the report was submitted, it should be translated into regional languages, including Malayalam, and submitted to the panchayats and grama sabhas in the Western Ghats area for obtaining their feedback.

"This was meant to ensure that our recommendations are not considered bureaucratic, rigid prescriptions," he said. If it had been sincerely attempted, the feedback could have been collected by 2012-13 and concrete steps taken over the subsequent six years. "Of course, this was not done, very deliberately and unfortunately, and so the confusion persists," he said.

The panel never advised coercion in implementing its recommendations, but called for full public participation in the exercise, Mr. Gadgil added.

Rather than blindly abiding by existing criteria for ecologically sensitive areas, the panel had taken an approach that considered different levels of ecological sensitivity, he pointed out.

Unlock 20% off all our plans – sale ends today !

Support The Hindu's Quality Journalism. Subscribe to our new online experience with zero ads.

Already a subscriber? [Sign in](#)

Find mobile-friendly version of articles from the day's newspaper in one easy-to-read list.

Enjoy reading our articles without intrusion from advertisements.

A select list of articles that match your interests and tastes.

Move smoothly between articles as our pages load instantly.

A one-stop-shop for seeing the latest updates, and managing your preferences.

We brief you on the latest and most important developments, three times a day.

\*Our Digital Subscription plans do not currently include the e-paper or Android, iPhone, iPad mobile applications and print. Our plans enhance your reading experience on the website.

Your ad blocker is blocking quality Journalism

Already a user? [Sign In](#)

**END**

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

CrackIAS.com