

Shri. Pachauri's visit to RVCE

BENGALURU

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Pachauri for public debate on Western Ghats reports

Staff Reporter

BENGALURU: An informed, transparent debate involving the public should be imperative in the implementation of either the Madhav Gadgil committee report or the Kasturirangan committee report on the Western Ghats, said R.K. Pachauri, Nobel laureate and Chairperson of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, here on Friday.



“We cannot lose the biodiversity present, because if we lose it, we will not get it back. We are a democracy, and it is up to the people to decide its implementation. We have to look at the entirety of the issue,” he said.

However, Prashant Bhushan, senior Supreme Court advocate, was equivocal in his support for the Gadgil report (which suggests 64 per cent area in the Western Ghats to be protected under stringent terms) instead of the Kasturirangan report (which recommends keeping 37 per cent of the Western Ghats area out of bounds for polluting industries only). “Just as the opposition to environmental regulations, the protests against the Gadgil report have been instigated politically ... the judiciary should step in,” he said.

He believed the dilution of Western Ghats protection and the proposed amendments to the environmental laws under

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the 7th International Congress of Environmental Research, at R.V. College of Engineering here, Mr. Pachauri said it was left entirely to the public and those affected to decide on the implementation of the report. There has been opposition from those staying along the Western Ghats for both the Gadgil report and the Kasturirangan report that had suggested identification of ‘eco-sensitive areas’ along the forests where there would be restrictions on certain development and industrial activities.