Western Ghats Panel Identifies 17 Eco-sensitive Spots

by Aby S

Kochi: In view of the increasing density of eco-sensitive areas (EAs) in the Western Ghats, the Environment Protection Council (EPC), which oversees the eco-sensitive areas, identified 17 sites in Kerala. The panel will finalize its findings by the end of this month.

“The expert panel has identified 17 eco-sensitive areas in the Western Ghats. The panel will forward its report to the soon-to-be-formalized Western Ghats Board for finalization,” said P. J. Thomas, chairman of the Western Ghats Expert Panel, which is also a member of the biodiversity board, Kerala.

A panel of expert ecological scientists and land use planners, the panel will consider the existing eco-sensitive areas, the impact of tourism on the protected areas, and the role of the local population in preserving the ecosystem.

The report was submitted to the state government to inform the process of establishing a biodiversity board in Kerala. While the report has been submitted to the government, the process of establishing the board has been delayed due to COVID-19.

Eco-sensitive areas are crucial for biodiversity conservation and are designated by the government to protect the natural environment. The identification of these areas is a critical step towards the conservation of the Western Ghats.

Don’t Blame Too are Respect

Kochi: “Some basic changes in the attitude of the government officials is indeed visible,” said G. Ramakumar, a retired IAS officer.

“People were struggling with the lockdown, and now they are being told to follow COVID-19 protocols. But the government officials should also be held accountable for their actions,” he said.

“People are losing their lives due to lockdown restrictions, and the government officials should be held accountable for their actions. If they are not held accountable, it will lead to more losses,” he said.

The government needs to take more proactive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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Prasad, who is also the Information Technology Minister, said the government will introduce an amendment to the Information Technology Act to decriminalize cyberstalking.

The move comes in response to a petition filed by a woman who was harassed online.

The amendment will provide for a maximum of two years imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs. 10 lakh for cyberstalking.

The bill will be introduced in the Lok Sabha during the ongoing monsoon session.

“It is an important step towards ensuring that the internet is a safe space for all,” Prasad said.

The move has been welcomed by activists who have been advocating for a more cyber-friendly environment.

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