

Andhra Pradesh to boost biodiversity conservation

TNN | Mar 23, 2023, 09.10 AM IST



AMARAVATI: The Konaseema district administration, in association with the forest department, has roped in Cairn Oil & Gas to improve mangrove forest cover as part of biodiversity conservation in the state. The company operates Ravva terminal in the district.

District collector Himanshu Shukla said the forest department will set up a 'marine and coastal biodiversity conservation/development foundation' to take up the project. A memorandum of understanding has been executed between the district administration, Cairn, Ravva terminal (on behalf of Ravva joint venture), and the principal chief conservator of forests at

Amalapuram.

Shukla said mangroves grow in wetlands where rivers meet the sea. Acting as a natural protective wall for coastal areas, mangroves are a collection of trees and shrubs that grow in salt water in tropical and temperate coastal areas. It is said that mangrove forests are a source of life for many living things and act as a protective shield in the coastal areas. The forests also protect the area from soil erosion during floods and cyclones.

He said the biodiversity foundation will work towards conserving marine and coastal biodiversity and improving the livelihood of coastal communities through conservation-linked and ecofriendly interventions. The forest department will plant three lakh mangrove species in a phased manner by 2030, he said.