

RIL signs MOU for Mangrove forest in Marine National Park

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AHMEDABAD: Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Gujarat for the development of mangrove forest in around 3500-acre area of Marine National Park under the Central Government's MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) scheme. In the presence of Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav and Jamnagar and Dwarka Lok Sabha MP Poonamben Madam, the MoU was signed by the Minister of Tourism, Cultural Activities & Forest and Environment, Government of Gujarat Mulubhai Bera and Director of Corporate Affairs at RIL, and Rajya Sabha MP Parimal Nathwani. As per the MoU, the mangroves forest will be developed at a cost of Rs. 510 lakh in the next five years.

Bhupender Yadav and other dignitaries also visited the world's biggest elephant camp run by Radhe Krishna Temple Elephant Welfare Trust and the world's biggest leopard rescue centre and other wild animal rescue centers operated by Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Center (GZRRC).

It should be noted that in this huge campus the animals rescued from different parts of India and foreign countries are kept and they are taken care of by providing world-class rehabilitation facilities and medical treatment.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav on Thursday launched a mangrove plantation drive and said efforts were required to identify and restore historical mangrove areas, which are in degraded condition. The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change was addressing 'Haryali Mahotsav' near the renowned Rukmini Temple here.

The minister sought the participation of multi-stakeholders in conservation initiatives and asked industries to actively contribute to the recently launched 'Green Credit System' in order to conserve and grow mangroves.

"Public-Private Partnership is an effective tool in this regard and Gujarat has done work in the PPP model for the conservation of mangrove ecosystems. However, efforts are required to identify and restore historical mangrove areas, which are already in degraded condition," Yadav said.

Yadav cited the importance of core activities such as mangrove plantation target, stock of mangrove nurseries, livelihood opportunities, publicity and outreach programme as well as eco-tourism in mangrove areas through self helps groups (SHGs) to help achieve 30% increase in the mangrove sink.