

State forms federation for forest products conservation in 11 dists

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Dehradun: Over 50 people from villages on the fringes of forests in Uttarakhand participated in a programme 'Development of Non-Timber Forest Products', Herbal & aroma tourism through Federation in Uttarakhand' in Dehradun on Tuesday. The project will be implemented in 11 districts.

Forest minister Subodh Uniyal said, "Over 10 years, Rs 628 crore will be invested in conserving herbal and medicinal plants, with 10,000 villagers undergoing training. There will be 11 medicinal and aroma parks featuring plant walks, herbal tea tasting." Shivani Azad

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The Supreme Court will establish a committee to determine safari conditions in tiger reserves. The CBI is investigating the Pakhro Tiger Safari case. The court criticized the former forest minister and divisional forest officer for illegal activities. The court emphasized the Public Trust doctrine, ecology and wildlife habitat restoration, money recovery, and involvement of other persons.108271257

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Delhi-based environmentalists Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana transformed Rajaji Raghati into India's first private biosphere. Other successful rewilding projects include the Usha Kiran forest, Kodagu wildlife sanctuary, and Vanvadi forest. These initiatives aim to preserve nature and pass on sustainable practices to future generations.108167873

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The acute manpower shortage in the forest department, especially in Solapur, Maharashtra, has raised concerns about handling human-wildlife conflict. Maharashtra has seen a significant increase in leopard population, particularly in tiger reserves like Bor, Tadoba-

Andhari, Navegaon-Nagzira, Pench, and Melghat. Forest officers highlight the urgent need for a good rescue team and wildlife training for forest guards.108192545