

Union Environment Minister presides over Workshop on Mangrove Conservation in Bhuj; Releases Key Mangrove Publications and Reviews MISHTI Progress

Shri Bhupender Yadav stresses Scientific, Site-Specific and Community-Led Mangrove Restoration; Launches Mangrove GIS (MGIS) Portal for Decision Support

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Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, today addressed the Workshop on Mangrove Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Management held at Bhuj, Kachchh (Gujarat). Addressing the workshop, the Minister emphasised that mangroves must be conserved as living ecosystems, given their importance for coastal biodiversity, fisheries, shoreline protection, climate resilience and livelihoods.



The workshop was also attended by and addressed by Shri Arjun Modhwadia, Cabinet Minister for Forest and Environment, Climate Change and Science & Technology, Government of Gujarat, and Shri Trikambhai Chhanga, Minister of State for Higher and Technical Education, Government of Gujarat, who

reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to mangrove conservation and coastal ecosystem restoration under MISHTI.



Reviewing Gujarat's mangrove conservation efforts under the MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) programme, the Shri Yadav noted the emphasis on restoration, scientific management, community participation and technology-enabled monitoring. He informed that under MISHTI, Gujarat has made significant progress in mangrove restoration, with 27,652 hectares covered against the 2023–27 target of 29,250 hectares, including 12,450 hectares in the ecologically challenging Kori Creek region. He added that site-specific restoration techniques suited to the conditions of Kachchh have been adopted, alongside measures for biodiversity enhancement, seaweed cultivation and sustainable livelihoods.



On the occasion, the Minister released the Coffee Table Book on Kachchh Mangroves and the Mangroves Atlas of Gujarat, and launched the Mangrove GIS (MGIS) Portal, stating that these would strengthen science-based decision-making and monitoring of mangrove habitats across the state. Shri Yadav also felicitated the Guneri Inland Mangrove Village Biodiversity Management Committee, commending its sustained community-led conservation of the Guneri inland mangroves – a rare ecosystem thriving away from the coast – which, he noted, was declared Gujarat's first Biodiversity Heritage Site in January 2025.



The workshop was attended by senior officials of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Gujarat Forest Department, along with scientists, conservationists and representatives of local communities engaged in mangrove restoration and coastal livelihood initiatives in Kachchh.

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