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Andhra Pradesh State Regional News

Andhra Pradesh's Tree Cover Loss and Forest Fire Impact

Context:

- Over a span of **approximately 22 years**, Andhra Pradesh lost **39.5 thousand hectares (Kha)** of tree cover, releasing **20.7 metric tonnes (MT)** of CO2 equivalents.
- Between **2001 and 2023**, the state lost **1.31 Kha** of tree cover to forest fires.
- In 2009, the most significant tree cover loss due to fires occurred, with **189 hectares lost—7.4% of that year's total tree cover loss**.

Forest Fire Trends and Environmental Impact:

- From May 1 to 15, Andhra Pradesh witnessed a decrease in forest fire events, with **48 large incidents recorded and none currently active, compared to 344 large fire events between April 1 and 15**.
- Tree cover loss doesn't always result in deforestation, which involves the permanent removal of natural forest cover due to human activities such as logging, fires, diseases, and storm damage.

Decline in Humid Primary Forest and Natural Forest Area:

- Between **2002 and 2023**, the state lost **6.09 Kha** of humid primary forest, accounting for **16%** of its total tree cover loss during this period.
- In 2010, Andhra Pradesh had **979 Kha of natural forest, covering approximately 6.2%** of its land, which decreased to **2.89 Kha by 2023**, leading to emissions of about **2.30 million MT of CO2**.

Tree Cover Loss within Natural Forest Areas:

- From **2013 to 2023**, **96% of tree cover loss in Andhra Pradesh** occurred within natural forest areas, resulting in emissions of **10.5 MT of CO2 equivalents**.

Regional Impact:

- Two regions in Andhra Pradesh accounted for **76%** of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2023, with **East Godavari leading with 15.3 Kha lost, compared to the average loss of 3.04 Kha**.

Tree Cover Gain:

- Between 2000 and 2020, Andhra Pradesh gained **194 Kha** of tree cover region-wide, contributing to **10%** of all tree cover gain in India during that period.



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Andhra Pradesh Government Departments to Receive e-Office Software Update

Context:

- All government departments in **Andhra Pradesh will be upgraded to e-Office 7.x software from May 17 to 25, as per the Central government's directives.**

Project Objective:

- The e-Office Project aims to improve transparency and efficiency in government processes and service delivery.

Management and Maintenance:

- The **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** manages and maintains the **e-Office**, periodically updating it to address technical limitations and enhance functionality.

VIKAS Initiative

Context:

- **VIKAS (Vasectomy Initiative - Knowledge, Access, Support)** was launched in Paderu, ASR District, by Sub-collector Dhatri Reddy to promote vasectomy as a family planning method in agency areas.

Objectives and Impact:

- **VIKAS aims to promote vasectomy as a safe family planning method in agency areas.**
- It addresses challenges like awareness, access, and cultural hesitancy surrounding vasectomy.
- **Vasectomy is presented as a safer alternative to tubectomy, especially for anaemic women,** reducing the risks associated with major surgeries and maternal deaths due to blood loss.

Government Support:

- The government supports VIKAS by equipping all Primary Health Centres (PHCs) with facilities for vasectomy operations.
- Financial incentives and insurance coverage are provided to encourage participation.

Gangamma Jatara

Context:

- The **Gangamma Jatara**, a revered festival in Tirupati, commenced grandly with traditional rituals and deep devotion.

Key points:

- Gangamma Jatara venerates **Thathayagunta Gangamma, the folk goddess of Tirupati, believed to be Lord Venkateswara's younger sister.**
- The festival spans **seven days**, from May 7 to May 15, and each day holds unique activities and significance.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Municipal Corporation of Tirupati (MCT) is ensuring comprehensive arrangements. • MCT Commissioner Aditi Singh directed departments to oversee arrangements, including setting up a medical camp, ensuring ambulance readiness, enhancing cleanliness, providing drinking water facilities, managing lighting, and ensuring overall comfort for devotees.
<p>Visakhapatnam to Host Two-Day International Biodiversity Day</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AU to host a two-day event in commemoration of International Biodiversity Day. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Biodiversity Day, observed on May 22, emphasizes the importance of biodiversity conservation and its role in addressing global challenges like climate change. • The event aims to advocate planet-friendly practices and raise awareness about biodiversity conservation. • The national-level seminar, hosted at AU Convention Centre on Beach Road, will feature experts sharing insights on biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. • Plans for establishing a biodiversity park were discussed during the event. • The seminar is a collaboration between AU and its Botany department. • Indira Gandhi Zoological Park is hosting competitions as part of the national-level celebration organized by Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board.





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