

REGION

Free coaching camp

A free summer coaching camp in spoken English, communication skills, soft skills, presentation and goal setting for the children of constables (2002 batch) was inaugurated at Sangareddy by Medak SP Avinash Mohanty.

**Six killed in road accident**

A family of five and the driver were killed in a gruesome road accident between Settipalle and Mamandur on the Tirupati-Kadapa highway - Page 4

Biodiversity meet: key role for local groups

Need to liberate biodiversity from science marked by sponsored research emphasised

Staff Reporter

HYDERABAD: The National Consultation on People's Agro-Biodiversity, a forum of NGOs working for conservation of biodiversity, has sought a larger role for traditional community groups and local organisations in the deliberations at the forthcoming Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Addressing a press confer-

ence here on Thursday, P.V. Sathesh of Deccan Development Society (DDS) and Shalini Bhutani of Campaign for Conservation and Community Control over Biodiversity, said there was an immediate need to liberate biodiversity from science marked by sponsored research, national laws and global conventions which had defined biodiversity to suit their agenda.

"It's the only way to realise

- "People's knowledge and their farming should get priority over policymakers at summit"
- AP Biodiversity Board flayed for not recognising a group of communities in Zaheerabad

the original objectives of the CBD -- community control over local biodiversity resources," they said.

People's knowledge, people's farming and people's

biodiversity should get priority over policymakers, scientists and treaty negotiators at the summit, they suggested.

The 'business of biodiversity' has become one of control

and extraction outside the local communities, they cautioned and pointed out instances where biological resources, from local seeds or native breeds, and their genetic material was being taken outside the country and away from where they were developed and nurtured.

Regimes for access to biological materials were being taken out of the communities, they noted.

Mr. Sateesh criticised the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board for not according biodiversity heritage site recognition to a group of communities in Zaheerabad.

Recognition

Only vultures and Thimamma Marrimanu in Anantapur district were recognised by the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board so far, explained.