

Website, app launched for easy access to green info

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New Delhi: In a bid to assist decision-making and policy formation on environmental issues, the Centre on Wednesday launched a website and mobile application for integrating its existing 69 Environment Information System centres across the country.

The Environment Information System (ENVIS) is an environment ministry initiative for integrating country-wide efforts in environment-related information collection, collation, storage and dissemination. The ENVIS portal will run parallel with Digital India Objective and aid the efforts for improving digital literacy in the environment sector. It will deliver services digitally all over the country.

“A plan for upgrading ENVIS centres should be prepared. It is a medium of reaching out to people by making them partners in progress and sustainable development. It should be made a people-centric movement,” environment minister Prakash Javadekar said while launching the website and mobile app.

He said, “The digitisation of valuable data covering the broad spectrum of subjects on environment will serve as an asset for generating a rich repository of information. By bringing all ENVIS centres under one roof, it will also facilitate convergence in data dissemination”.

The ENVIS network presently consists of 69 centres, of which 29 are hosted by environment departments of various state governments, while 40 are operated by environment-related government and non-governmental organisations. Major users of ENVIS, which has been functional since 1982, include the Centre and state governments, institutes, scientists, researchers and agencies carrying out environment-impact assessment for various projects.

Javadekar also inaugurated a two-day workshop on national interaction-cum-evaluation of all ENVIS systems. It will assess the centres' functioning to provide them with training they require.