



## *21st All India Forest Sports Meet 2014* *Goa*

### **PREFACE**

The 21st All India Forest Sports Meet 2014 was held in the picturesque and attractive sports arena of Goa from 4th to 8th November, 2014. The mega forest sports event was held with the blessings of Shri Manohar Parrikar, the then Chief Minister of Goa (now Hon'ble Defence Minister, Government of India) and Ms. Alina Saldanha, Hon'ble Minister for Forests & Environment. The event would not have been held if the proposal was not initiated by us to utilize the beautiful infrastructure created during the Lusofonia games.

The forest games were inaugurated on 4th of November by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Athletics Stadium, Bambolim, Goa in the presence of Hon'ble Forest and Environment Minister, Govt. of Goa, Sh. R.K. Srivastava IAS, Chief Secretary, Goa, senior officials of the administration and forest chiefs of many participating states. More than 2000 participants from 35 teams in their colourful sports attire and guests filled the stadium with a dazzling show of solidarity amongst the Foresters fraternity. The solemn opening ceremony went in true tradition of a mega sports event with passing of the torch and lighting of the light followed by a march past and oath taking in the presence of the Chief Guest with applauding and cheering crowd. The cultural program following the opening ceremony lightened up the atmosphere with the DJ inviting the spectators to participate, and the spectators on their part needed little encouragement.



The next four days were hectic with enthusiastic sports men and women putting in their best to gain laurels for their respective teams and state. The main venue of the events was at Peddem Sports complex near Mapusa while all athletic track and field events were held in Bambolim. Basketball and volleyball events were held in the Shama Prasad Stadium at Taleigao while cricket was played at the Goa Cricket Association Stadium at Porvorim. Football was played at Dhuler Football Stadium in Mapusa. Lawn tennis was played at three different venues around Panaji.

Stay arrangement of all the participants was made in hotels around the stadiums and vehicular transport was provided for all with. All the participants showed a high degree of satisfaction with the arrangement including the quality of food. No incident of any kind deterred any spirit of the games with the blend of their leisure time spending in the sight-seeing places of Goa.



The closing ceremony was again held at the Athletics Stadium at Bambolim. Director General and Special Secretary Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Dr. S.S. Garbyal IFS was the chief guest.

At the end of the day, this was one excellent event that will be remembered by us in perpetuity. It is hoped that the standards set by this event shall remain the standard of future events of the Forest games. That the State of Goa with its limited forest staff strength and infrastructure could bring about this event without hitches has been appreciated by our Forest fraternity and credit for this must be shared by the participants as well because if not for their whole hearted co-operation and tolerance of our limitations, the games would not have got the success that it did.

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