

# GOA FOREST NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GOA FOREST DEPARTMENT

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## EDITORIAL



Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to share the important and historic happenings of the Goa Forest Department through the current issue of our quarterly Newsletter - Goa Forest News. In the first quarter of this year, a few noteworthy events occurred.

The State Forest Department welcomes our new Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Shri Subhash Chandra, IFS (AGMUT : 1985) in our midst to take charge as the Head of Forest Department.

We celebrated International Day of Forests at the Forest Training School by conducting a workshop on "Forest and Education" which is the theme of the celebration this year.

The 33rd Batch of Forest Guards comprising 87 trainees completed successfully their six month training course at the Forest Training School, Valpoi on 31st December 2018. The next batch - the 34th Batch of Forest Guards training began on the 1st February 2019 in which 80 Forest Guard trainees have joined for the induction training.

The erstwhile Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Shri Ajai Saxena IFS was transferred to Mizoram and was relieved by the Government of Goa.

The North Goa Forest Division has implemented Solar Operated Power Fencing in Ibrampur in Pernem taluka recently to mitigate the human- wild animal conflict in areas peripheral to forests and villages.

A training workshop was organised at Bondla Zoo on usage of wildlife tranquilising equipment. The Forest Guards from the 33rd batch posted in the field were also instrumental in detecting and apprehending offenders in hunting cases soon after posting. Some of them were also instrumental in rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife.

Happy reading.

With best wishes

Anisha Kalkoor IFS

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#### DESIGN & LAYOUT

Amar Heblekar

## WORKSHOP AT FOREST TRAINING SCHOOL - VALPOI

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS - 2019



To mark the occasion of the International Day of Forests – 2019, a workshop was conducted on “Forest and Education” at the Forest Training School, Valpoi on the 23rd March 2019. To mark the occasion, a tree plantation drive was held in which over 100 sapplings of fruit bearing trees were planted by the trainees and all the senior Forest Officers led by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Shri Subhash Chandra, IFS.

This was followed by the workshop in which Shri Anisha Kalkoor, IFS, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Research & Utilisation Division gave the introductory speech highlighting the significance of the day. Smt Pooja Mitra of Terra Conscious, an NGO active in the conservation of marine mammals gave a presentation on the effect of coastal tourism on marine mammals with special emphasis on the Humpnosed Dolphin which is found in the coastal region of Goa.

Shri Kuldeep Sharma, IFS, Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division gave a talk on sustainable forest management and its

practical application in the field. This was followed by a talk on wildlife conservation with special emphasis on Netravali and Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuaries by Shri Sanjay Waradkar, IFS, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & Ecotourism (South).

Shri Santosh Kumar, IFS, APCCF addressed the trainees on their role in the field of protection and conservation of forests. The PCCF Shri Subhash Chandra, IFS during his keynote address to the Officers and trainees stressed on the importance of discipline and dedication to the work of conservation of our forests in the State and the country. The closing address and vote of thanks was given by Shri Amar Heblekar, Principal, Forest Training School. The workshop was followed by address by the PCCF to all the RFOs, ACFs and DCFs which was followed by an interactive session in which some of the Officers highlighted their difficulties and problems. The PCCF assured them of finding solutions to the problems and emphasised that there must be good teamwork in the field.

# WELCOME

## HEAD OF FOREST DEPARTMENT



**SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA IFS (AGMUT:1988)**

The Editorial team and the Goa Forest Department cordially welcome Shri Subhash Chandra IFS who has joined as Head of the Goa Forest Department. He holds M. Sc. degree in Chemistry from Lucknow University, LLB from University of Delhi and PG Diploma on Remote Sensing Application in Forestry from Indian Institute of Remote Sensing. He has experience of working in Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department from 1990 to 2001 in different forest types ranging from Tropical Moist Evergreen to Temperate Alpine in forestry activities of Regeneration (ANR), Afforestation, Social Forestry, Working Plan preparation, Forest conservation, Forest based Industries, etc. He has also the experience of implementing environmental laws as Member Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board. He has experience of over 10 years of working in Urban Forestry in Delhi Forest Department from 2001 to 2005 and Director of Horticulture in New Delhi Municipal Council from 2005 to 2011. He has worked extensively in urban green and tree management of the Delhi Ridge Forest.

Before his posting to Goa, he was the Dy. Inspector General of Forests (Forest Policy & Forest International Co-operation) in the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. He handled matters related to National Forest Policy, 1988, Indian Forest Act, 1927, issues related to Natural Resources Management, co-ordination with concerned Ministries on issues related to Forest Rights Act, 2006 and PESA. He also has experience in dealing with Non Legally Binding Instrument or Forestry Instrument and has provided inputs on forest related Climate Change, REDD+ implementation and biodiversity issues. He was the National Focal Point for United Nations Forum on Forests and has been involved in shaping post 2015 International Arrangement on Forests. As National Focal Point for Committee on Forestry of FAO (COFO), Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, APF Network for Invasive Species, he has co-ordinated with them on forestry matters. He was also the Nodal Officer for the USAID Forest PLUS programme, a bilateral forestry co-operation between India and USA. He was also a member of the Expert Committee on Medicinal Plants and Normally Traded Commodities of the National Biodiversity Authority of India.

## APCCF - GOA



**SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR IFS (AGMUT:1993)**

The Editorial team and members of the Goa Forest Department warmly welcome Shri Santosh Kumar IFS who has joined as Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden in the Goa Forest Department. Shri Santosh Kumar has earlier served in Goa as Deputy Conservator of Forests in the Goa Forest Department.

Prior to this posting, Shri Santosh Kumar was posted as Chief Conservator of Forests, UT Chandigarh and was also holding additional charge of Director Environment, Director (Science, Technology & Renewable Energy) and Chief Executive Officer, CREST, Chandigarh.

CREST (Chandigarh Renewable Energy, Science & Technology Promotion Society), under his able leadership was a nodal executing agency for development of Chandigarh as a Model Solar City. Under his leadership spanning 4 years, UT Chandigarh has taken a giant leap forward and has emerged as a leading Solar City in the country by installing a capacity of 21 MWp and roof top solar PV plants on 472 buildings in Chandigarh.

## TRANSFER PCCF - GOA



Shri Ajai Saxena IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests was transferred to Mizoram. Shri Saxena served as Head of the Goa Forest Department from April 2013.



## COMPLETION OF TRAINING 33RD BATCH OF FOREST GUARDS



The 33rd Batch of Forest Guards completed their six month induction training course at the Forest Training School, Valpoi. The Forest Guards were relieved on the 31st December 2018 to report to their new places of posting.

They had joined on 30th June 2018 for the training and have successfully completed their training programme which included about 23 course subjects with theory classes, practicals and assignments.

The training programme also included two local 15-day tours to Bondla and Cotigao camps respectively and one 10-day tour of neighbouring States of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

The trainees also visited Forest Academies of Maharashtra and Karnataka at Kundal, Sangli and Gungargatti, Dharwad respectively apart from other places like Dandeli Tiger Reserve, Dharwad Sandalwood and Red Sanders Depot, etc.

Various Officers of the Goa Forest Department also assisted in covering all the course subjects for the trainees. Special lectures on motivation and capacity building were also carried out.

# TRAINING BEGINS AT FOREST TRAINING SCHOOL - VALPOI

## 34TH BATCH OF FOREST GUARDS



The induction training of the 34th Batch of Forest Guards comprising 80 trainees began at the Forest Training School, Valpoi on 1st February 2019. The inaugural session was held at the Forest Training School under the auspices of Shri Santosh Kumar IFS, APCCF and holding charge of PCCF, Goa.

Shri Anisha Kalkoor, IFS, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Research & Utilisation Division and ex-officio Director of the Forest Training School also addressed the trainees and gave a brief report on the activities carried out by the Forest Training School, Valpoi.

The function was followed by a tree planting programme in which Senior Officers of the Forest Department planted medicinal plants in the campus. A nature trail was also inaugurated by Shri Santosh Kumar, IFS at the Forest Training School campus.

In the afternoon, the Officers participated in a friendly cricket match on the training school grounds. All the senior Officers of the Goa Forest Department participated in the cricket match which was played with much enthusiasm.



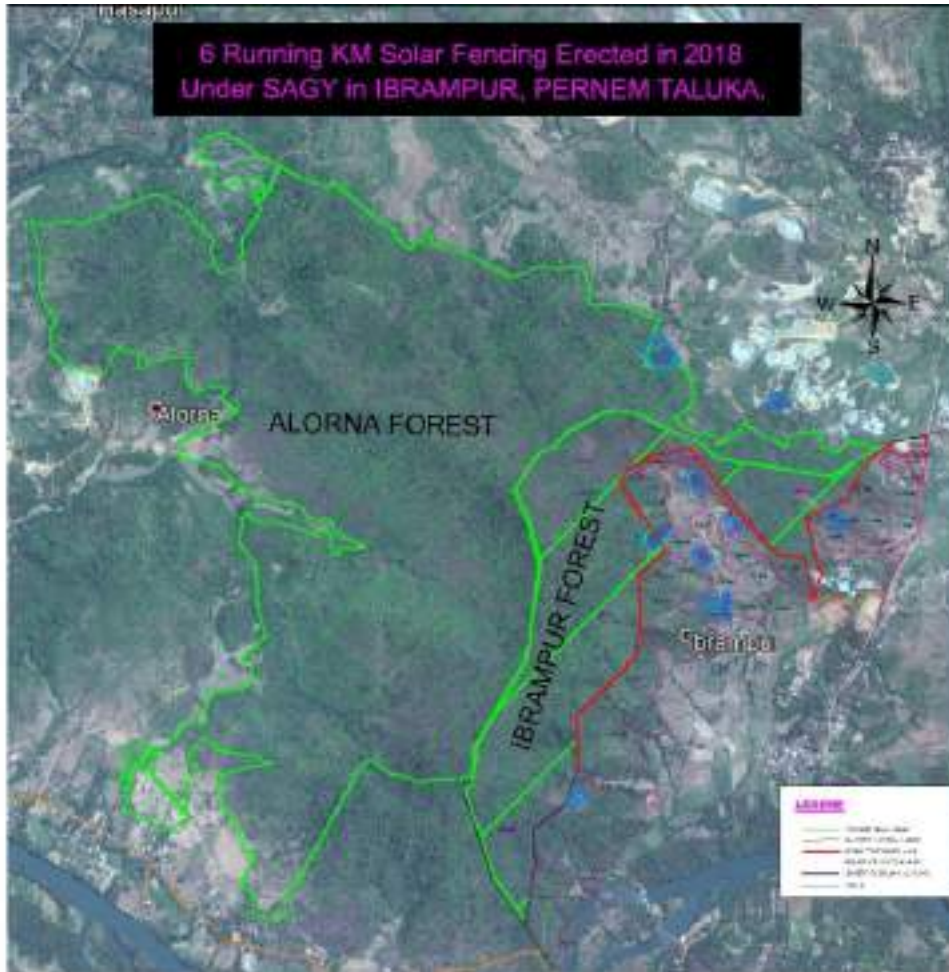
# REDUCING HUMAN - WILD ANIMAL CONFLICT IN VILLAGES

## SOLAR OPERATED POWER FENCING SYSTEM

When wild animals cause adverse impacts on human lives and property it is described as Human-wildlife conflict. Although Human-wildlife conflict is an age old phenomenon, but in recent times has increased in dimensions and scale due to anthropogenic causes. There are various adverse impacts due to Human-wildlife conflict to the humanity as well as to the wildlife. One among them is loss of property – e.g. crop damage, which affects the farmers.

There are various approaches to resolve this conflict. One among them is Preventive strategies (Physical barriers, repellants and behavioral change). Keeping in focus the same, A project for Erecting, Commencing & Maintenance of 7 strand solar operated power fencing system for 6.00 km at Ibrampur village, Pernem Taluka of North Goa District was envisaged. The





estimated cost of the project was Rs. 19, 64,470/-. Considering the importance of the project for the welfare of the wildlife and farmers of Ibrampur Village, the project was approved under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna under MPLAD Scheme 2017-18 for North Goa Lok Sabha Constituency under the able guidance of Hon'ble Member of Parliament Sh. Shripad Y. Naik. The necessary Administrative Sanction of the competent authority was conveyed vide Order No2/67/MPLADS/16th LS/SYN/15-16/114 dated 04/07/2017. The online e tender (2 bid System) was published on 15/09/2017. Two firms namely, M/s. Sun Power Sales and Services, Keri Sattari Goa & M/s. Crown Solar Power Fencing Systems, Hyderabad participated in the bid and were technically eligible for the bid. As per comparative statement M/s. Crown Solar Power Fencing Systems, Hyderabad was found to be L1 Bidder who had quoted the lowest amount of Rs.19,11,060/- (Capital Cost - Rs.17,76,060/- Lakh, Operation & Maintenance cost (5 year)- Rs.1,35,000/- Lakh) against the estimated cost of Rs. 19, 64,470/- which was 2.71% less than the estimated amount and also included operation & maintenance for 5 years of the whole system as per tender Condition.

The necessary Expenditure Sanction of the competent authority was conveyed vide Order No2/67/MPLADS/16th LS/SYN/17-18/309 dated 10/01/2018. An agreement was signed on behalf of the Governor of Goa and the executing agency stipulating the work execution and other general conditions including payment conditions. After signing of the agreement, the actual work commenced in the field w.e.f. 22-02-2018 and was completed on 02-07-2018. The testing and commissioning certificate of the SPV Module erected was received from M/s. Crown Solar Power Fencing Systems, Hyderabad on 14/01/2019. The system is working satisfactorily.



# WILDLIFE RESCUE SQUAD AT BONDLA LEOPARD RESCUED



On 07th January 2019, Office of the Range Forest Officer, Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary, was contacted for a rescue call of leopard which was trapped in a snare cable near a sugarcane plantation at Panchawadi, Shiroda-Goa.

On receiving the call, Bondla Rescue Squad team namely Shri. Arjun A. Gawas, Forest Guard, Shri. Pravesh P. Naik, Veterinary Assistant and Shri. Mohammed Afroz, Mahout along with the Range Forest Officer, Dr. Sidhesh Naik and Veterinary Officer of Bondla Zoo Dr. Loveleen Vaz reach the spot efficiently after evaluation of said trapped leopard on field conditions and carefully team planning, the leopard was tranquilised successfully and with the help of Rescue squad of North Division Ponda headed by Shri. Anand Jadhav, Assistant Conservator of Forests along with Shri. Vishwas Chodankar, Range Forest Officer Mobile Squad, Ponda and Shri. Deepak Betquikar, Range Forest Officer,

Territorial Range Ponda the said leopard was successfully freed from the snare cable and transported into a rescue cage and handed over to Bondla Rescue Centre for further evaluation, monitoring and treatment. The leopard was kept under observation and treatment for 08 days at the Rescue Centre, Bondla and after full recovery the leopard was handed over to Range Forest Officer, Ponda for its release back into the wild.

## WORKSHOP AT BONDLA ZOOLOGICAL PARK TRAINING ON TRANQUILISING EQUIPMENT HELD

A half day session of familiarization and hands on experience on tranquilization gun for Forest Protection Squad, was conducted at Bondla Canna plot on 25/02/2019 from 2.00 pm onwards. The Rescue Squad of North Goa Division consisting of around 14 rescuers attended the session along with Shri. Deepak Tandel, Dy Range Forest Officer as the team leader. Veterinary Officer of Bondla Zoo Dr. Loveleen Vaz instructed and briefed the rescue squad about the use of tranquilizing drugs/sedatives and handling of the sedated wild rescue animals. Shri. Mahanand G. Paryekar, Dy. Range Forest officer Bondla along with Shri. Arjun A. Gawas, Forest Guard briefed about the handling and working of the Tranquilizing gun at Bondla. After the theoretical session, the rescuer from the Rescue Squad were given hands on target practice training individually with tranquilizing gun at Canna plot, Bondla. Other staff of Bondla namely Shri. Lalasa M. Tumbagi, Round Forester, Shri. Xavier D' Souza Forest Guard, Shri. Pravesh P. Naik, Veterinary Assistant and Shri. Mohammed Afroz, Mahout were also present for the said session and assisted the session successfully.

# VALPOI RANGE STAFF HUNTING CASE DETECTED

Between 13.02.2019 and 14.02.2019 at around 1.00am During Routine night patrolling in Valpoi range jurisdiction, the Staff of Valpoi range along with the Range Forest Officer, Valpoi caught red handed Two persons at Shirsodem village, Sattari Taluka with fire arm and ammunition with other tools of hunting within the ecosensitive zone of Mhadae Wildlife sanctuary.

The name of the accused are:

1. Shri Deepak alias Dilip Rama Gaonkar, aged 30yrs, R/o Shirsodem, Sattari Goa
2. Shri Ramchandra Vassudev Gaonkar, aged 25yrs R/o Shelpe Khurd Sattari Goa.

The Case is booked on 14.02.2019 under Section 9, 39(1)(d), 50 r/w sec 51 of Wildlife (P) act, 1972 and following material are seized for attempt of hunting wildlife.

1. Countrymade single barrel gun 1nos
2. 9nos live cartrdages
3. Long knife 1nos
4. Headlight with battery 1nos
5. Small torch 1nos
6. Micromax mobile with sim
7. Backpack 1no.

The accused has been produced before the h'ble JMFC, Valpoi and remanded one day forest custody.

Further this office has handed over the gun to the Valpoi police station to take necessary action under Arms act and accordingly, Valpoi PS arrested above accused under Arms act and case is registered.

The names of Forest Official taken action

1. Shri Deepak E Tandel, Range Forest Officer, Valpoi range.
2. Shri Ashok Ghogle, Round Forester, Gawane round
3. Shri Sidhant Sawant, FG, Melaulim beat.
4. Shri Priyesh Recdo, FG

Shri Sureshkumar, Driver.









