

GOA FOREST NEWS



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WISHING ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR (2009)

TRAINING & CONVOCATION OF XXIX BATCH OF FOREST GUARDS

The training course for the XXIX batch consisting of 31 trainees including 7 lady Forest Guards was conducted for direct recruit Forest Guards at Forest Training School, Valpoi from 02.06.2008 to 01.12.2008. The six month course included theory, practicals and field exercises. The trainees were taken on three field tours, two within Goa and one in Karnataka State. Local tours were to North Goa with a camp at Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary and to South Goa with a camp at Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary. The trainees also participated in Mega Tree Plantation Drive 2008, arms handling and firing training and first aid training, during the course. On successful completion of training, the forest guards reported to their respective postings in different Divisions.

The convocation ceremony was held in the Auditorium of Forest Training School, Valpoi on December 28, 2008. The Chief Guest for the convocation ceremony was Hon'ble Minister of Forests, Shri Filipe Neri Rodrigues.

The welcome address was delivered by Director of Forest Training School, Shri P. M. Kurdekar. The Principal, Forest Training School, Shri Vikas V.



Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Shri. Filipe Neri Rodrigues giving away the certificates to the Forests Guards at the convocation at the Forests Training School, Valpoi.

Dessai, presented the annual report of the activities and achievement of the Forest Training School. The trainees who completed the training successfully were awarded certificates. Three forest guards of this batch namely S/Shri Samarth Naik, Shri Samir Naik, and Kum. Mangal M Pandharmisal were awarded Honours certificates.

In his address, the Chief Guest, Shri Rodrigues advised the outgoing trainees to improve and set right the problems of environment and to carry out duties allotted to them with discipline and with honesty. He congratulated the trainees for successfully completing the course and wished them a bright future in the Department.

The Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr. Shashi Kuamr, I.F.S. also addressed the trainees and exhorted them to be sincere in their relations with the public. Shri A. G. Samant, Sr. Instructor, Forest Training School, proposed the vote of thanks.

S/Shri Santosh Kumar, I.F.S., Dy. C.F, Planning & Statistics, F.X. Araujo, I.F.S. Dy. C. F. Research & Utilisation, Debendra Dalai, IFS, Dy. C.F. Wildlife & Eco-tourism, Dr. G.T. Kumar, IFS, Dy.C.F., Working Plan, Shri Sanjay Waradkar, Dy. C.F., Social Forestry, Ms. Lynette Ferrao, Dy. Director of Administration, Dr. Vinayak Karpe, Health Officer, Valpoi, other officials of Forest Department, relatives of trainees and well wishers also were present.



XXIX batch of Forest Guards with Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests, and Officials of FTS, Valpoi.

STRENGTHENING OF PATROLLING

The Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Shri Filipe Neri Rodrigues handed over the keys of 15 motorcycles to forest officials at a function at Campal, Panaji. The motorcycles will be utilized for intensified patrolling, monitoring the movement of stray elephants and supervising forestry and allied works. The Forest Minister expressed the intentions of the Government to provide necessary modern equipment to the field staff to protect the forests and wildlife of Goa. In this context he informed that the Government is actively considering the provision of mobile phones to the level of Foresters and Forest Guards for effective working.



TRAINING COURSE IN JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT

A short term training course, of one week duration for frontline staff of the Forest Department & executive members of the Joint Forest

Management Committees for effective implementation of National Afforestation Programme was conducted from December 8th to December 12th 2008, in the Forest Training School, Valpoi.

15 forest officials & 5 executive members of JFM Committees attended the 5 days course. Senior officials of the Department interacted with the participants and exchanged views on various aspects of the Joint Forest Management. Forest Officials and other experts

from Maharashtra, where significant work is done in this sector were invited to guide the participants. These resource persons included S/Shri Pradeep Garole, Asst. Professor, Y. B. Chavan Admin. Training Institute, Pune, A. N. Pawar, Asst. Conservator of Forests, Pune, V.T. Abhang, Asst. Publicity Officer, Forest Department, Pune & H. K. Thanedar, A.C.F. (Retd.), Pune. An overview of the JFM activities in Karwar Division was given by Shri Mohan Kanagal, A.C.F, Karwar-Karnataka.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Goa, Dr. Shashi Kumar, IFS, lit the traditional lamp and inaugurated the course. He spoke about the importance of Joint Forest Management, in preserving our



environment, and to sustain availability of goods and services, from forests, to our people. The valedictory function of J.F.M. Course was held on December 12, 2008. Shri Paresh Sawant, IFS, (Retd) Chief Conservator of Forests, Mizoram was the Chief Guest. He distributed certificates to the participants and expressed the hope that the participants, will make a contribution to better management of our resources. The guests were welcomed by Shri Vikas V. Dessai, Principal, Forest Training School, Valpoi. Shri F.X. Araujo, IFS, Director of Forest Training School, also addressed the participants.

Shri Anant Mestri, Round Forester, Cotigao and Shri Nagu Gawas, Round Forester, Valpoi speaking on behalf of the participants, shared their experiences during the course period. The vote of thanks was proposed by Shri A.G. Samant, RFO, Forest Training School, Valpoi.

The course was sponsored by the Directorate of Forest Education, Dehradun and organized by the Research & Utilization Division, Forest Department Goa.



It is expected that this course will give a new fillip to the Joint Forest Management movement in Goa.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS) ACT 2006

A one day brainstorming session on the provisions of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and its impact was held at Forest Training School, Valpoi.

Dr. Shashi Kumar, IFS, C.C.F, inaugurated the session. He presented an overview of the Act and highlighted its significance.

Shri M. V. Karkhanis, A.C.F., Legal Cell explained the procedure involved and the role of Forest Department in identification of critical wildlife habitat areas and in defending Government interests in Forests Rights Committees.

Shri Santosh Kumar, IFS, Dy. C.F., Planning and Statistics, stressed on the need to keep ready all relevant records such as forest maps, satellite imagery, Reserved Forests notification etc. which would be of help to bring out the relevant facts, and extent of rights.

Shri C. A. Reddy, IFS, C.F., spoke of the need to have operational guidelines framed as done in Andhra Pradesh. He strongly urged that officials of the Department study the steps taken by the neighbouring states in this regard.

Shri M. K. Shambu, IFS, Dy. C.F., North Division, and Shri M.K. Bidi, Dy. C.F. South Division, spoke of their experiences in dealing with the problem of settlement of rights in their divisions.

MEGA TREE PLANTATION DRIVE 2008.

The Mega Tree plantation Drive 2008 which started in May 2008, was successfully completed by the end of July 2008. More than 16 lakh saplings were planted by individuals, educational institutions, village panchayats, private organizations, mining companies, and the Forest Department.

The Directorate of Education, Govt. of Goa had organized drawing, quiz & essay writing contests for students upto standard XII in connection with the Drive. 225 students emerged winners in drawing competition, 23 in essay writing & 75 in Quiz all over Goa. The contest winners were taken to Satpal Arboretum for a day-long excursion.

The students were taken around Satpal and explained

the characteristics of identification of plants & uses of important local tree species such as teak, shisham, matti, kindal etc. They were shown soil & water conservation measures through different types of checkdams. They were also taken around Swasthya Van, and Rashi Nakshatra Van. According to holy books, each planet & star sign is related to a particular tree, and this relationship is exhibited in the Rashi Nakshatra Van. The Swasthya Van displays the plants with relation to the parts of the body that they heal if used.

S/Shri Vilas Khandekar, Kalidas Pokhare, Glagri Rodrigues, Ankush Karapurkar, Ms. Manda Teli & Ms. Mangal Pandharmisal, all Forest Guards conducted the excursions.

INTER – DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENT

An inter-divisional lightning tournament in football and volleyball for the staff was conducted for the first time at the Forest Training School grounds at Valpoi. The Departments' officials were grouped in 7 teams, which included the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, and these teams

participated in the tournament which was spread over two consecutive days. North Goa Division teams were winners in both the events. Dr. Shashi Kumar, IFS encouraged the participants with his presence, and his participation as a member of the volleyball team from C.C.F's office.

WILDLIFE WEEK 2008



The inaugural function for the Wildlife Week was held at Campal Garden on October 2, 2008. Dr. Shashi Kumar, IFS, C.C.F., Goa was the Chief Guest & Shri C. A. Reddy, IFS, C.F. was the Guest of Honour. Shri Debendra Dalai, IFS, Dy. C.F., Wildlife & Eco-tourism welcomed the gathering. A leaflet on the Ruby-throated yellow bulbul which is the State Bird of Goa was released by Dr. Shashi Kumar. The leaflet also echoes the theme of this year's Wildlife

Week "Save Wildlife for Our Survival".

The leaflets were distributed to the general public at the time of the release. Later they were passed on to every household, through newspapers and distributed to the visitors at the Sanctuaries & National Park.

This year also several programmes were held to spread the message of wildlife conservation.



A cycle rally from Campal Children's Park to Miramar Circle & back was organised for school children. Dr. Shashi Kumar, IFS, CCF flagged off the rally at Campal. The aim of the rally was to spread the message of greater use of cycles for transport in the cities, so that the pollution due to vehicles is reduced.

Wildlife related films including a short documentary film – Resort to Wilderness were screened at Vivekananda Hall, Panaji and at Teachers Training College, Porvorim during the week, with active participation of Centre for Environment Education – Goa. Films were also screened at ten different schools in Canacona taluka. The screening of films was spread over the entire period of Wildlife Week. The response was overwhelming and some school have shown keen interest in enacting plays on wildlife conservation in the villages.

Nature camps for school children of five different schools were organized on October 4th, 2008 at Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary. Activities like talks on wildlife conservation, film

shows, and snake demonstrations were conducted during the camps.

Drawing and painting competitions for students of primary and middle level schools were organized. For the primary



schools, the topic was "Peacock" and it was "Butterflies in your Garden" for middle schools. Drawing and painting competitions were also organized for specially challenged children. The competitions drew good response from the participants.

Essay writing competitions in four languages (Hindi, Marathi, Konkani and English) were organized for students of High Schools and of Higher Secondary Schools. The topics for the essay were "People and Forestry /Wildlife" for High Schools and "Biodiversity of Western Ghats-Need For Conservation" for Higher Secondary School.

On-the-spot drawing competition was also organized for school children of primary schools and middle schools on October 2, 2008 at Campal. Twenty students in each category were selected from the schools for participation and during on the spot drawing they were required to draw a bird or animal of their choice. There was a very good response for the competition with teachers as well as parents of the competing children being present.



A poster competition was also organized for students of Higher Secondary Schools. The topic for the competition was "A poster to generate awareness on Wetland Ecosystem" A large number of entries were received. Four posters have been selected from the entries.

Wildlife/Nature photography competition was organized wherein entries from prominent wildlife enthusiasts of the State were received.

A nature awareness camp was organized for 40 ladies from 7 self-help groups from Marlem, Tirwal, Shishewal and Amona villages of Canacona Taluka.

A one-day nature education camp for Nature Guides was organized at Molem in which the local youth were trained to take on the mantle of nature guides for assisting tourists visiting Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park.



Shri Filipe Neri Rodrigues, Hon'ble Minister for Forests, inaugurated a new cottage, named "Hornbill Cottage" at Bondla which was commissioned as part of the eco-Tourism activities carried out by the Wildlife & Eco-tourism Division. Coinciding with this a one day workshop was organized, for press persons at Bondla to sensitise them on the aspects of wildlife conservation.

Speaking to the media representatives, the Hon'ble Minister urged them to play a constructive role in spreading awareness about wildlife conservation, as everybody has to chip in in this work. Dr. Shashi Kumar, CCF, informed the gathering that the Zoo development plan for Bondla is



submitted to the Central Zoo Authority for approval. Major changes have been envisaged for the Zoo, which is selected for breeding of Gaur.

Earlier the Hon'ble Minister inaugurated a ten bedded dormitory named 'Indian Bison' at Molem and an entry gate at Collem leading to the Eco-tourism destination of Goa - Dudhsagar Waterfalls.

MEET THE NEW CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS GOA



Dr. Shashi Kumar, IFS has taken charge as the 5th Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Goa on August 1, 2008. He belongs to the AGMUT cadre and his year of allotment is 1980. His qualifications include M.Sc. in Botany; AIFC diploma (2nd position in 1980-82 batch of IFS probationers); PG diploma in Forest Survey (ITC, The Netherlands); and a Ph. D. in Forestry.

During his 28 years service, this is his fourth tenure in the Goa Forest Department. His first posting in Goa was as Assistant Conservator of Forests and later as Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division (1982-90), followed by two tenures as Conservator of Forests (HoD) in 1997-98 and 2000-01. He was the first Managing Director of the Goa Forest Development Corporation Limited during 1998-2000. His other posting were as Dy. Director, Forest Survey of India (1990-91), Associate Professor, IGFA, Dehradun (1994-1997) General Manager, Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. (2001-04), and Director, ICFRE, Dehradun (2004-08).

He has received training in Remote Sensing; Wildlife Management; Forest Gender & Development (UK); Planning & Development (U.K.); and Planting Stock Improvement (USA). Dr. Shashi Kumar has travelled extensively within the country and abroad to attend national and international conferences, workshops and seminars, where he has delivered keynote addresses and chaired the technical sessions. Many research papers, articles and publications have been published under his authorship. He has also been attached to universities as visiting faculty, examiner, member of committees for post graduation and Doctorate level courses. We wish him a fruitful, fulfilling and successful tenure as CCF of Goa Forest Department.



A unusually large crocodile measuring 3.15 mt. (10.5 ft.) long was rescued on December 4, 2008 near the house of Shri Jayesh Chimulkar at Sirvoi-Quepem. The rescue operation was carried out by Damu Polaji, Julio Quadros and Rajesh Shedgulkar with assistance from local persons. The reptile was later released in the Selaulim river.



This King Cobra was rescued from residence of Shri Rupesh Salgaonkar on October 29, 2008 by Shri Sainath Shirodkar, Animal Housekeeper, Julio Quadros and Benhail Antao. The snake was released in the dense forests at Karmal Ghat.

The King Cobra is the most venomous snake & its venom can kill even an elephant. It makes its nest on the ground. It feeds on snakes – mostly rat snakes.

ALL INDIA FOREST SPORTS MEET

17th All India Forest Sports & Games Meet 2008-09 was held in Chandigarh from December 3 to December 7, 2008. The State of Goa represented by 32 members, participated in table tennis, badminton, football, volley ball, athletics shooting & carrom. Goa Forest Department led by Shri Joseph Fernandes won bronze medal in football. Ms. Lynette Ferrao who has successively brought medals for Goa in the past games that she attended, was placed fourth in the discuss throw event in veterans category.



Morjim beach is one of the first launching sites for the turtle protection programme in Goa. This year, the first hatchlings were spotted on the night of December 12, 2009. 51 hatchlings emerged from the nest and were observed making their way to their natural habitat the Arabian sea, under the watchful eye of the local staff.

ANSWER TO LAST ISSUE'S POSER

This is a branch
with flowers of
Phyllanthus emblica
'Anvallo'

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE OBJECT IN THE PICTURE?

Send your entries
to The Editor, Forest News Letter
O/o Dy. Conservator of Forests,
R & U Division, Aquem, Margao.
Tel. & Fax: 0832-2750099



WILDLIFE RESCUE DETAILS FOR THE PERIOD JULY TO DECEMBER 2009.

Sr. No.	Species of Wildlife	Wildlife Division	South Division
	Mammal	No.	No.
1	Sambhar	1	
2	Barking deer	1	
3	Spotted deer	1	
4	Leopard	2	
5	Civet cub	2	
6	Common langur	3	
7	Bonnet monkey	3	2
8	Porcupine	1	
9	Jungle cat	2	
10	Black naped hare	1	
	Birds		
11	Barn Owl	2	
12	Oriental Pied Hornbill	1	
13	Pariah kite	12	1
	Reptiles		
14	Buff striped keel back	18	
15	Wolf snake	16	
16	Bronze back	5	
17	Cat snake	1	
18	Russel's viper	38	10
19	Cobra	180	15
20	Rat snake	107	28
21	Python	98	26
22	Sand boa	11	
23	Common krait	11	
24	King cobra	1	
25	Foslein cat snake	3	
26	Bamboo pit viper	1	
27	Checkered keel back	23	
28	Hump nosed pit viper	1	
29	Kukre	1	
30	Banded racer	1	
31	Green vine snake	1	
32	Water boa	1	
33	Montane trinket snake	1	
34	Crocodile	4	
35	Turtle	1	
36	Tortoise	2	
37	Mongoose	1	
38	Monitor lizard	5	
39	Garden lizard	1	
40	Olive Ridley Turtle	4	

Appointments		
1.	Shri Ravindra Yeshwant Phadte	Appointed as Forest Guard on September 8, 2008.

Promotions		
1.	Shri Juliet Saldanha	Promoted as Range Forest Officer on July 11, 2008
2.	Shri Arjun N. S. Talwadkar	-do-
3.	Shri Mathew J. Munjanathu	-do-
4.	Shri Dnyaneshwar M. Kudalkar	-do-
5.	Shri Jose Colaco	-do-
6.	Shri Minguel A. Fernandes	Promoted as Dy. Range Forest Officer on July 25, 2008
7.	Shri Suhas D. Naik	-do-
8.	Shri Eusebio Braganza	-do-
8.	Shri Xavier Paes	Promoted as Dy. Range Forest Officer (Ad-hoc) on July 25, 2008

Retirements		
1.	Shri Narayan R. Gawde, Round Forester	Retired on July 31, 2008
2.	Smt. Ana Rodrigues, Sweeper	Retired on August 31, 2008
3.	Shri Ceciliano Fernandes, Round Forester	Retired on November 30, 2008

STATE BIRD OF GOA *(contributed by Shri Paresh Parab, RFO (WL), Canacona)*

State Bird of Goa, the Ruby Throated Yellow Bulbul (*Pycnonotus gularis*) was recommended its present status by the renowned ornithologist, Dr. Salim Ali. It is an inhabitant of the dense jungle with thick undergrowth and may be seen in forest openings or on the edge of grasslands, as clearly seen in this photograph, taken in the Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary. The bird has yellow colour with olivaceous brown back and wings. The most striking feature is its ruby coloured throat. The bird belongs to the passerine group and is longer than a sparrow but smaller than a myna. Both sexes have the same colour. They generally move in pairs and have an undulating flight similar to woodpeckers. The diet consists mainly of fruits, insects and nectar of flowers. The nest is cup-shaped, open and made of grass, small twigs, roots, lined on the inside with silk from spiders webs. The female lays 2-4 eggs. The eggs have brick red blotches on them. The call is a shrill whistle.



Photographed at Hathipaul by Paresh Parab

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