

# GOA FOREST NEWS

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**VANAMAHOTSAVA 2013 CELEBRATED**

**WILDLIFE WEEK 2013 ACTIVITIES**

**PHOTO FEATURE**

# GOA FOREST NEWS

EDITORIAL

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JULY - DECEMBER 2013

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Dear Readers,

The plantation season for the year 2013 was launched with the organisation of a function of Vanamahotsava in front of the Faculty Block of the Goa University at Taleigao by our Hon'ble Forest Minister Ms. Alina Saldanha.

I am proud to say that our Forest Department has recruited a number of Officers for various posts in this quarter which will go a long way in providing protection to our forests.

With best wishes

Editor

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## VANAMAHOTSAVA 2013

Hon'ble Forest Minister launches Vanahamotsava



Right:  
Hon'ble Forest Minister  
Ms. Alina Saldanha  
planting a tree

The State Government through the Forest Department has organised the Vanamahotsava 2013, the festival of trees this year in the premises of the Faculty Building, Block E of the Goa University campus at Taleigao, Goa on 11th July 2013 in the forenoon.

The said function was organised in co-ordination and collaboration with the Goa University. The Chief Guest of the function was Ms. Alina Saldanha, the Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of Goa, who deliberated on the importance of forests and emphasized on the protection of the environment.

The function was also graced by Dr. Satish Shetye the Vice-Chancellor of Goa University who encouraged the Forest Department to organise this State level festival of trees in the University campus.

This State level function was organised at the initiation and valuable guidance of the respected Mr. Richard

D'souza, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. A number of leading papers and electronic media persons attended the function.

The function was attended by officials of the Goa University, Engineers of the Goa State Infrastructure Development Council at the site, all the senior Officers and other Officers of the Forest Department, the staff of the Goa University, senior citizens and local villagers.

The program was organised by the Social Forestry Division, Ponda. Various dignitaries including the Chief Guest Ms. Alina Saldanha, Mr. Richard D'souza, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr. Satish Shetye, Vice Chancellor, Goa University as well as Mr. Millind Karkhanis, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Ponda spoke on the occasion.

## ON-THE-SPOT DRAWING COMPETITION ORGANISED AT BHAGWAN MAHAVEER CHILDRENS' PARK

*With* the main objective of providing an opportunity to the student community to learn about life in the wild, the Wildlife & Ecotourism division has taken students on day long nature camps to Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary and Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary. Around 50 students were selected for each camp that comprised of visit to the sanctuary, a talk on forest and wildlife wealth in the State, screening of films on wildlife and an on-the-spot quiz competition.



The participants to each camp were very receptive to the outing and much better informed at the end of the day. A similar camp for taxi operators in Dudhsagar tourist circuit was also held.



Besides the nature camps, snake shows are being held on a regular basis in the schools to generate awareness on their importance. Such shows besides enabling the students to see the reptiles from close quarters also educates them on differences between poisonous and non-poisonous snakes.





## NATURE AWARENESS CAMP ORGANISED AT DR. SALIM ALI BIRD SANCTUARY



## Documentation of presence of Small Mammals species in Goa

Atul A. Sinai Borker, and Nirmal Kulkarni  
Mhadei Research Center, Goa, India.

**Research Area and Question:** The Goan region of the Western Ghats, though rich in faunal diversity; has rarely been studied for the presence of small mammals. In this study, we documented the presence of various Small Mammal species in the state of Goa, many of them being photo documented for the first time.

**Objectives and Methodology:** To photo document the presence of various species of small mammals found in Goa and share the results in the form of pocket size field guide to aid the conservation of these species and build awareness amongst the locals. Using questionnaire surveys, opportunistic surveys, camera trapping and situ photography we surveyed 4 protected areas and neighboring villages enabling us to gather primary and secondary data. GPS devices were used to map the data. Data gathered was compiled in the form of a communicative field guide.

**Results:** Presence of 25 species of small mammals was documented. Number of species in each family; Sciuridae: 4, Muridae: 4, Herpestidae: 3, Viverridae 3, Mustelidae: 2, Canidae: 1, Felidae: 1, Cercopithecidae: 1, Lorisidae: 1, Leporidae: 1, Tragulidae: 1, Hystricidae: 1, Manidae: 1, Soricidae: 1. Nineteen species were photo documented.

**Discussion:** In this study we have covered the photo documentation 19 small mammal species in Goa, many of them being nocturnal. The results have been very encouraging and throws light on this lesser studied region of Western Ghats. The field guide will have images with basic information about 25 small mammals documented; six images being sourced. Mining, irreversible habitat change can be threats to the conservation of these species; more work needs to be done to identify major threats.

**Keywords:** photo documentation, conservation, awareness

## CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS' VISIT TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - A REPORT



**S**unil Kumar Aggarwal IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests underwent Mid Career Training Programme (Phase V) from 30th June -27th July, 2013. The first module on Management commenced at IIM Bangalore on July 1, 2013. Next two weeks (7th – 19th July, 2013) were at Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, USA and explored aspects related to international forest policy and practice. Fourth week was the concluding module at IGNFA, Dehradun (22nd-27th July). Some excerpts from his impression and possible scope of implementation in India are reproduced below:

'During my visit to USA from July 8 to July 19 in the Mid Career Training Programme many interesting places in the New York State of USA were visited. Visit to Adirondack Park, Catskill Watershed management, Montezuma Wildlife Refuge, Finger Lake, Carebury Lake, Watkin's Glen and interaction with officials of US Forest Service, National Park Service invite special attention and left an indelible mark on me.

The concept of recreation, the country of law abiding people, disciplined and punctuality culture, cleanliness are the prototype associated with the United State of America. Every citizen of America

tends to enjoy the weekends to the best of utilization of resources and means available with him.

I have worked in the pristine islands of Andaman and Nicobar. These islands have more than 80% of the geographical area under forest cover. The islands have lush green forests. Most of the islands are uninhabited and are covered with virgin forests. Many spectacular sites are available with the dark blue water and dense green forest in the back drop with white sand beaches. Ross Smyth, Havelock, Long Island, Chirya tapu, Vandoor Marine National Part, Ritchi's Archipelago, Ross island, Mount Harriet and many more places are of tourist interest.

These spectacular sites may be further relaxed for the tourists and more infrastructures can be developed. The restrictions imposed may be eased out with definitely a list of do's and don'ts considering the mindset of the domestic and foreign tourists as well. The islands cannot be opened for hunting, however, fishing may be allowed to some extent as part of tourism and not on commercial basis.

The ultra modern tourist information centres with audio-video facility, awareness camps, nature trails, rest rooms can be made. The locals may be identified as



volunteers for the eco-tourism purpose with proper education and training on handling the tourists in a polite, disciplined manner.

The co-operative societies can be encouraged if the local NGOs are not available. They can be entrusted the task of managing the hot spots, generate awareness and do business of souvenirs etc. The islands have rich flora and fauna. The volunteers can be trained on part time engagement basis and should be given proper uniform indicating logos of the forest department, NGO or self help group being represented. The visitors be allowed for the day tourism only.

The speed boats with all the safety equipments, binoculars etc. may be deployed for ferrying the tourists to these islands from the major islands which are inhabited and the tourists can use these staying facilities as their base camp. At the tourists destinations the facilities for the scuba diving, snorkeling, skiing, para-sailing etc. can be provided. The islands are rich in corals and the visit to the coral rich areas can be conducted in a regulated manner as it is being done on a smaller scale at present.

The volunteers, NGOs etc. can be empowered to levy fine on the tourists for any violation done. Presently, I am working in the state of Goa. Goa is rich in forest and bio-diversity owing to the reason of being an important part of the Western Ghats.

The recreation activities in the forest areas can be developed through construction of eco-friendly

cottages, natural trails and volunteers as mentioned above. Goa has a lot of tourist influx and to the tune of 2 million per year including foreign tourists as well. Para tramping activities, boating in the lakes available in national park and sanctuaries, Dhudh sagar water falls be put on the tourist maps. The cooperatives, volunteers, civil societies can be associated for the recreation venture in the Ghats.'

*The author Shri S. K. Aggarwal, IFS is Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Goa.*



## Ethno- medico-botanical study of some Medicinal plants of Goa.

by Dr. SangramKeshari Das, Mrs. Yasodha K.

There has been struggle between man & sickness since time immemorial. Man has acquired methods for treating sickness as rendered by his bio-cultural environment. In every society, whether technologically primitive or not, there exists some sorts of curative methods for health. It is difficult to separate the megico- religious practices associated with the administration of such prescriptions.

The people in tribal areas have been practicing their own methods for relief of various ailments affecting them & also to preserve and promote their health. The old age folk claims which are being actively used by the tribes and villagers might yield a potent & safe herbal medicine.

For the searching of such herbal medicine this ethno- medico- botanical study had carried on ChandreswarParvat&Bondla area of Goa during year 2012-2013. Twenty five species of plants belonging to 19 Families used by the people of those areas & by some folklore practitioners to cure several ailments were collected & reported. These medicinal plants are:-

*Achyranthesaspera* Linn. , *Ageratum conyzoides* Linn. , *Alstoniascholaris* R. Br., *Baliospermummontanum*(wild) Muell-Arg. , *Bombaxceibalinn.* , *Calotropisprocera* Linn. , *Careyaarborea*Roxb. , *Cassia fistula* Linn. , *Cassia tora*, *Celastruspaniculatus*Willd. , *Clerodendruminfortunatum* Linn. , *Crataevanurvala* Linn. , *Cuscutareflexa*Roxb. , *Elephantopusscaber* Linn. , *Erythrinaindica* Lam. , *Euphorbia hirta* Linn. , *Hemidesmusindicus*Linn.R. Br., *Holarrhenaantidysenterica* Wall.Ex DC. , *Leucascephalotes*Spreng. , *Moringaoleifera*Lamk. , *Nyctanthesarbortristis* Linn. , *Solanumnigrum* Linn. , *Sterculiaurens*Roxb. , *Tectonagrandis* Linn. &*Thespesiapopulneasoland.*

These medicinal plants are claimed in various ailments like High blood pressure, Sinusitis, Eczema, Itching, Body pain, Acne, Abscess, Liver cirrhosis, Jaundice, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Wound , Hemicranias, Urinary stone, Diabetes, Fever, Sciatica, Alopecia , Worms, Rheumatic pain , Headache , Toothache, Mouth ulcer, Gum inflammation, Epilepsy, Infertility, Lumber spondylosis, Menorrhagia , Scorpion bites & insect bites.

## NATURE AWARENESS CAMP ORGANISED AT SHARADA MANDIR SCHOOL





## CYCLE RALLY FOR AWARENESS ORGANISED AT MAPUSA



For the period from July 2013 to September 2013 of the Goa Forest Department.

### APPOINTMENTS

Goa Forest Department extends a hearty welcome to the following new recruits:

#### Range Forest Officers:

Shri Vivek V Gaonkar  
Shri Siddesh Gawde  
Shri Girish Bailudkar  
Ms. Mariana D'Souza  
Shri Gautam Salelkar  
Shri Bipin Phaldessai  
Shri Sangam Gawas  
Shri Sidesh Naik  
Ms. Shefali Naik  
Shri Prakash Naik  
Shri Jeffrey D'Silva  
Shri Vikramaditya Mukund

#### LMV Driver:

Shri Prakash Devidas

#### Khansama:

Shri Rock Mascarenhas

#### Electrician:

Shri Nagesh Kaisurkar

The Forest Department wishes the new appointees all the best and expect sincere dedicated service to the Government of Goa.

### PROMOTIONS

The following staff were promoted:

#### Range Forest Officers:

Shri Pranoy Naik

#### Head Clerks:

Shri ulshidas Borkar  
Ms. Cotarina Fernandes

### RETIREMENT

The following staff retired on superannuation:

Shri Chandrakant Talaukar, RF  
Shri Vithoba Velip, RF  
Shri Vishwas Naik, RF  
Shri Nitin Mardolkar, HC  
Smt Champavati Zuwalkar, UDC

The Forest Department wishes them a happy retired life.

For the period from October 2013 to December 2013 of the Goa Forest Department.

### PROMOTIONS

Goa Forest Department congratulates the following on their promotion:

#### Range Forest Officers:

Shri Siddarth Tendulkar  
Shri Eusobio Braganza  
Shri Mangaldas Devsekar  
Shri John Fernandes  
Shri Narayan Prabhudessai

#### Deputy Range Forest Officers:

Shri Vishnu Shetye  
Shri Anant Velip  
Shri Deepak Mahale

#### Foresters:

Shri Uttam Bhagat  
Shri Dinesh Faldessai  
Shri Kamlakar Kalangutkar  
Shri Kalidas Pokre  
Shri Devendrappa Bonicappa  
Shri Chandrakant Korgaonkar  
Shri Ramnath Gaonkar  
Shri Shankar Naik  
Shri Narendra Haldankar  
Shri Sashidharan Nair  
Shri Mukund Naik  
Shri Chandrakant Gaonkar  
Shri Kamlakar Naik  
Shri Ranu Bhagat  
Shri Mahadev Naik  
Shri Umesh Dabolkar  
Shri Hanumant Dessai  
Shri Narayan Naik  
Shri Datta Velip  
Shri Babu Gaonkar

#### Head Clerk:

Shri Dayanand Jananaik  
Smt Smita Gadekar

#### Upper Division Clerk:

Smt Mitali Dessai  
Shri Gauresh Dessai  
Shri Ganesh Mandrekar  
Shri Rama Shirodkar

The Forest Department congratulates them.



# PHOTO GALLERY

# VANAMAHOTSAVA 2013







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**DR. SALIM ALI BIRD SANCTUARY  
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