

# Goa Forest News

Quarterly News Bulletin of the Goa Forest Department

Vol. XIV No. 1

July 2015



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## Editor's Note

*Dear Readers,*

During the First week of July, the pious Vanamahotsava is celebrated across the Country. Like previous years, the Goa Forest Department made its best efforts to carry out plantations of site specific plant species during the monsoon period, to keep the state more Clean and Green.

H.E. Smt. Mridula Sinha, Hon'ble Governor of Goa and worthy Chief Minister of Goa Sh. Laxmikant Parsekar led the Clean Panjim Campaign at Bhagwan Mahavir Children Park Campal on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Senior officers of the Administration, Forest Department and Public at large also participated in this programme and showed their Commitment towards making Clean India. A brief report of the programme makes the cover story in this issue.

It's rightly said "Out of the water- I am nothing". Satpal Arboretum, the repository of our valuable biological resource, was in dire need of an alternate source of water. In the absence of sufficient amount of water, especially in summer months, the various sections of the arboretum

used to give barren look. But the situation has been changed now. The story of bringing alternate source of water to the Arboretum is covered in the current edition.

The Musical Fountain at Anna Fonte garden Margao was re-commissioned and dedicated to the public of Goa on 25<sup>th</sup> June at the hands of Smt. Alina Saldanha, Hon'ble Minister of Forests & Environment, Government of Goa in the presence of MLA Sh. Digambar Kamat. A brief write up is included in this issue.

Dear Readers, it gives me immense pleasure to share with you the latest developments in the Goa Forest Department through July edition of our Quarterly News Letter & I once again wish you Good luck for taking various *Green Initiatives* in your day to day life.

*With best wishes*

*Kuldeep Sharma*

(Kuldeep Sharma, IFS)  
Editor

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Sh. Vishal Surve, ACF (R&U)



**Cover photo :** Inflorescence of *Delonix regia* - a common avenue tree found in Goa.

**Back cover :** Inflorescence of *Erythrina blakei* - a forest tree found in Goa.



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# H.E. GOVERNOR, BRAND AMBASSADOR OF SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN, KICK STARTS “CLEAN PANAJI MISSION”

With an objective to create awareness among the public in the Panaji city to maintain cleanliness and hygiene, the “Clean Panaji Mission” was launched on 23/06/2015 in the premises of the Art Park in Bhagwan Mahavir, Childrens Park, Campal, Panaji.

Her Excellency Smt. Mridula Sinha, Hon’ble Governor of Goa launched the programme along with Hon’ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Laxmikant Parsekar, Hon’ble Minister for Forest & Environment Smt. Alina Saldanha & Hon’ble MLA, Panaji, Shri Sidharth Kunkalienkar.

The other present were Chief Conservator of Forests, Conservator of Forests, people from the media and

public at large.

During this event, the Art Park area in the children's Park, Campal, Panaji was cleaned and garbage was disposed off.

Her Excellency Smt. Mridula Sinha, Hon’ble Governor of Goa impressed upon the need of cleanliness in one’s day to day life and urged upon the fellow citizens to put in their best efforts to make Goa clean. She also advised the Forest Department to carry on this “Clean Panaji Mission” forward.

Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri Laxmikant Parsekar appreciated the Forest Department on the maintenance of the parks in the city and encouraged them to carry on the good efforts.



*Her Excellency Smt. Mridula Sinha, Hon’ble Governor of Goa launching the “Clean Panaji” mission along with the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Goa Shri Laxmikant Parsekar at Bhagwan Mahavir Children Park, Campal, Panaji.*

“There is something of the marvellous in all things of nature.” - Aristotle



# RE-COMMISSIONING OF MUSICAL FOUNTAIN AT MARGAO

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Musical fountain was built and commissioned in the year 2007 by the Forest Department at the Anna Fonte spring in the heart of Margao town. The musical fountain remained a source of entertainment and audio-visual treat to the citizens for many years and was very close to their heart. However, with the passage of time, it had developed seepage problems.

The South Goa Division of Forest Department rebuilt the water storage tank and the musical fountain was re-commissioned on 25th June 2015. The musical fountain was re-commissioned by the Hon'ble Forest Minister Ms. Alina Saldanha in the presence of Sh. Digambar Kamat, MLA Margao, Sh. S. K. Aggarwal, IFS, PCCF and special invitee Sh. Richard D'Souza, IFS (Retd.).

The function was organised by the South Goa Division of the Goa Forest Department. Sh. Digambar Kamat,



*Forest Minister along with MLA Margao while re-commissioning the Musical fountain.*

Hon'ble MLA Margao in his speech appreciated the gesture by the Hon'ble Forest Minister in getting the fountain re-commissioned and appreciated the role of the Forest Department in creating and maintaining gardens and parks in the various cities in the



*Forest Minister Smt Alina Saldanha while addressing the gathering at the event.*

State.

The Forest Minister also appreciated the work and reiterated to carry on with such public facility oriented tasks in future also.



*The re-commissioned musical fountain in all its glory*



*Group photo of the Forest officials along with the Hon'ble Forest Minister*

**"The wilderness holds answers to questions man has not yet learned to ask."— Nancy Newhall**



# FOREST DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS LDC WRITTEN EXAM

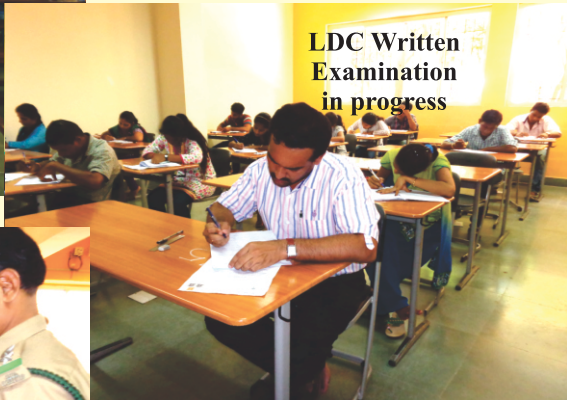
Ministerial Staff forms a critical link in day to day working of any Office; hence they are an asset to the department. To fill up the vacancy of Lower Divisional Clerks, a written examination for filling up the 6 LDC posts was conducted by the Forest Department on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.

A total of 930 candidates had applied for the written examination, out of which 600 appeared in the test.

There were two examination centres at The Don Bosco High School, Panaji for North Goa and Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts & Science, Gogol-Margao for South Goa.



◀ LDC Written Examination in progress



◀ Office staff working in the Examination control room

## DIGI LOCKER - AN INITIATIVE UNDER DIGITAL INDIA MISSION

A workshop was organised by the Directorate of Information Technology on Digi Lockers recently. Let us know more about Digital Locker. To eliminate the usage of physical documents and enable sharing of e-documents across Government agencies via a mechanism to verify authenticity of the documents online.

### What is Digi Locker?

Digi Locker provides a personal storage space in the cloud to Indian citizens. Organizations that are registered with

Digi Locker can push electronic copies of documents and certificates (e.g. driving license, Voter ID, School certificates) directly into citizens'

“The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.”— *John Muir*

lockers. Citizens can also upload scanned copies of their legacy documents in their accounts. These legacy documents can be electronically signed using the e-sign facility provided in Digi Locker. A citizen can share these electronic certificates online with various agencies while applying for the services provided by them.

Time Password” (OTP) is sent to your mobile through SMS.

2. **Biometric:** If you have a biometric device attached to your computer, you can sign up by scanning your fingerprint. After successful OTP or biometric validation, you are asked to create a username and password. This completes the sign up process.



**How does Digi Locker work?**

To sign up for a Digi Locker account, you need to have an Aadhaar number.



There are two ways to sign up:

1. **Mobile OTP:** Use this method if your Aadhaar number is linked to your mobile number. Once you enter the Aadhaar number on the Sign Up page, a “One

**Advantages of Digi Locker:**

The Digi Locker platform has the following benefits:

1. Citizens can now access their digital documents anytime, anywhere and share it online. This is convenient and time saving.
2. It reduces the administrative overhead of Government departments by minimizing the use of paper.
3. Digi Locker makes it easier to validate the authenticity of documents as they are issued directly by the registered issuers.
4. Self uploaded documents can be e-signed which is similar to the process of self-attestation.

**For more information, log on to <https://digitallocker.gov.in>**

“Trees and stones can teach that can never be learnt from masters.” - Saint Bernard de Clair Vaux

# FOREST TRAINING SCHOOL, VALPOI - THE JOURNEY SO FAR

Amar Heblekar, Principal, Forest Training School, Valpoi

The Forest Training School situated at Valpoi, Goa was established in the year 1984 in order to train the executive staff of the rank of Forest Guard and Foresters. It is situated in a picturesque and sylvan surroundings over an area of 10 hectares in Valpoi, Forest Training School has imparted training to 541 Forest Guards and 73 Foresters since inception.

The infrastructure of FTS includes the administrative block in four wings with inter-connected passages, and consists of offices, classroom, lounge, library, mess and dormitory. The other units in the campus include a spacious auditorium, playgrounds and staff quarters.

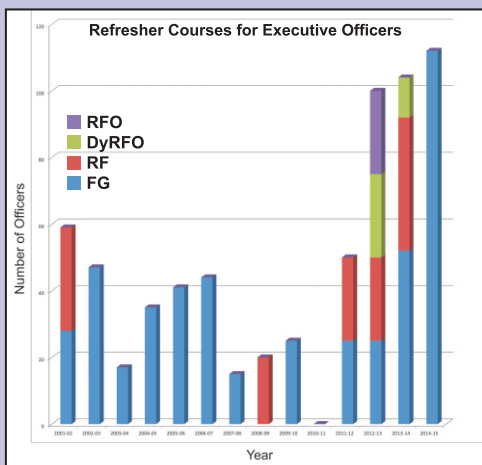
The School has trained 541 Forest Guards in 32 batches so far with a maximum of 35 trainees in a batch. 6 batches of direct recruits Forest Guards have been trained so far.

Of the 73 Foresters trained in the

Forest Training School, 49 have been direct recruits with trainings carried out between 1996 and 2014.

Refresher courses have also been organised since the year 2001 wherein training have been imparted to all levels of the executive staff.

The Forest Training School thus prepares the executive staff of Forest Department to face various challenges in professional life and to carry on the message of conservation and preservation of vast natural heritage.



“Look! Look! Look deep into nature and you will understand everything.” - Albert Einstein





Administrative Block, Forest Training School, Valpoi.



◀ Classroom Session in progress at FTS.



FTS Trainees during field excursions ▶



◀ FTS Auditorium



Workshop in progress at FTS Auditorium ▶

“I see Earth! It is so beautiful.” — *Yuri Gagarin*

# SATPAL ARBORETUM GETS A NEW LIFE LINE

Vishal Surve, ACF, Research & Utilisation Division

Satpal Arboretum is located in Satpal village at Mollem. It was established in 1972 covering an area of 24.5 ha of land. This wonderful forested area is an Educational and Environmental Center, especially for the Botanists and Plant Research workers. 60 different Plant species of indigenous and exotic origin, pulp wood, timber, medicinal and ornamental have been planted to the already rich flora in order to study the growth in this region.

A part from being a store house of Plant species, Satpal Arboretum

holds a very rich avifauna within its boundaries. But the situation was not well during the summer months. Though Water is the source of life and development on earth, but it is a finite and vulnerable resource which has quantitative limitations and qualitative vulnerability.

Since inception, Satpal arboretum was struggling to quench its thirst during the pinch period. Until recently, the water requirements of the arboretum were met from a spring located 0.5Km from the

arboretum. However water from this spring was insufficient to meet the demands of the Medicinal plants section, Rashi Nakshatra Van & Lawns established therein. Situation used to still worsen in the month of April-May.

Possibilities of alternate water sources were searched and tried upon a number of times, but were always in vain.

Project of getting the water from a perennial river flowing 1.0Km away from the arboretum boundary could not be taken up because of some superfluous demands of the nearby landlords.

Development of new sources of water besides its efficient use, together with conservation measures-was the need of the hour. Strong determination and continuous efforts of the officers and the executive staff of the Arboretum led to the identification of a perennial spring, which was located some 0.7Km from the arboretum boundary. It was assessed that this water nullah can become the source of continuous supply of water to the Arboretum during summer. But getting



Shri. S. K. Aggarwal, CCF & Smt. Deep Shikha Sharma, DCF (R&U) While inspecting alternate water source



Water Spring



Earthen Dam Constructed to Store the Spring Water

“The Earth is what we all have in common.” --Wendell Berry

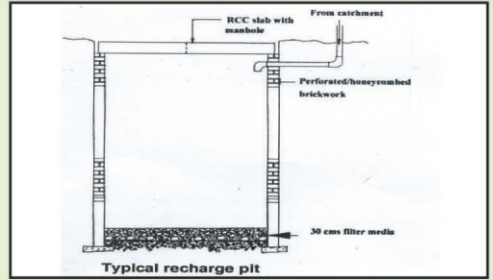
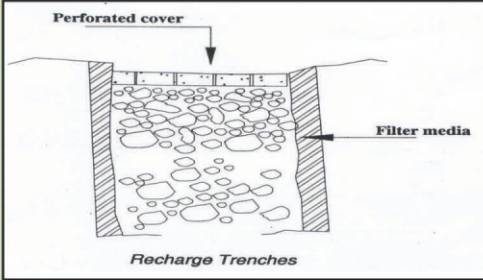


this dream of uninterrupted water supply realized into a reality was not that easy. Nevertheless, this task however, was taken up in the year 2014-15. Getting all the physical and financial requirements fulfilled, the project finally got a sanction under CAMPA scheme.

The project included tapping the spring water from the hills by constructing an earthen dam across the flow and then

“Udak ailya saiba” making the enthusiast staff feel proud & happy.

Entire project involving a Earthen dam, Pump house, High capacity rugged pump and a 1100m PVC pipeline was successfully accomplished at cost of Rs. 6.95 Lakhs only. Now the arboretum gets an additional water supply of 3000-5000 Liters/day at a water flow of 1.5 inch during the water scarcity period.



pumping the collected water to the arboretum. Bulk Storage at the arboretum was managed with the available rain water harvesting tanks. PVC pipeline was buried along the ground from the Dam site up to the Storage tanks. An advanced diesel pump set with minimum harmful environmental impacts and maximum fuel efficiency was purchased and installed. After completion of the work all the Executive staff and senior officers were very eager to see the actual lifting of water from the site to the Arboretum. After initial hiccups it was on the scorching summer day of May 23<sup>rd</sup> when the first time discharge of 1.5 inch water was received at the Storage tank and messenger came running to the pumping site shouting

In addition to this the Rain water harvesting by recharging the ground water aquifers using the structures like “Recharge Pits” and “Recharge trenches” have been introduced in Satpal. Rain water which otherwise used to flow away as surface runoff, once the water harvesting tanks get full in early monsoons, now percolates more deeper and improves the recharging capacity of ground aquifers. The existing roof top rain water harvesting structure serves the dual purpose, firstly to fill the existing storage water tank and later to provide the overflow water to newly constructed recharge pits.

These structures introduced at Satpal will surely augment to tackle the water crisis in near future.



Rain water harvesting structure



# BONDLA ZOOLOGICAL PARK: THE REPOSITORY OF WILD GENE POOL

Bondla zoo occupies a pride of place amongst the eco – tourism sites of the state. It is spread over an area of 60 hectares enveloped by the Wildlife Sanctuary, Bondla on all its sides. The origin of zoo can be traced way back to the year 1969 when an Animal Rescue Centre of Forest department was established at Bondla with the main objective of rescue, recuperation and rehabilitation of wildlife. Subsequently, the need for a scientific management of the rescued wildlife was felt and the zoo took shape. Bondla zoo was accorded the status of 'Small zoo' by the Central Zoo

Authority in the year 2006.

## Vision of the Zoo

- i) To develop the zoo as a centre for housing and display of the diverse and endangered animals and birds with emphasis on fauna belonging to the Konkan and Western ghats region considering the climatic condition suited to them.
- ii) To provide an excellent visitor experience.
- iii) To facilitate scientific management of the inmates.



Wildlife: Save it to Cherish; Don't let it perish

## STOCK POSITION OF ANIMALS IN BONDLA ZOO AS ON 31.03.2015

Sr. No.	SPECIES	STOCK POSITION			
		M	F	U	T
<b>A</b>	<b>MAMMALS</b>				
1.	Tiger ( <i>Panthera tigris</i> )	1	1	0	2
2.	Leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> )	1	2	0	3
3.	Sloth Bear ( <i>Melursus ursinus</i> )	1	1	0	2
4.	Four horned Antelope ( <i>Tetracerus quadricornis</i> )	7	4	0	11
5.	Palm Civet ( <i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i> )	1	3	2	6
6.	Gaur ( <i>Bos gaurus</i> )	5	2	0	7
7.	Jackal ( <i>Canis aureus</i> )	1	1	0	2
8.	Black Buck ( <i>Antelope cervicapra</i> )	6	6	0	12
9.	Sambar Deer ( <i>Cervus unicolor</i> )	4	8	0	12
10.	Spotted Deer ( <i>Axis axis</i> )	1	3	0	4
11.	Porcupine ( <i>Hytrix indica</i> )	3	1	0	4
12.	Wild Pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )	15	10	0	25
13.	Hippopotamus ( <i>Hippopotamus amphibious</i> )	1	1	0	2
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>BIRDS</b>				
1.	Indian Peafowl ( <i>Pavo cristatus</i> )	1	0	0	1
2.	Silver Pheasant ( <i>Lophura nycthemera</i> )	2	1	0	3
3.	Ring Necked Pheasant ( <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> )	0	1	0	1
4.	Lady Amherst's Pheasant ( <i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i> )	1	0	0	1
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>REPTILES</b>				
1.	Checkered Keelback ( <i>Xenochrophi spiscator</i> )	0	0	2	2
2.	Cobra ( <i>Naja naja</i> )	0	0	3	3
3.	King Cobra ( <i>Ophiophagus hannah</i> )	0	0	2	2
4.	Indian Python ( <i>Python molurus</i> )	0	0	2	2
5.	Rat Snake ( <i>Ptyas mucosa</i> )	0	0	1	1
6.	Indian Russell's viper ( <i>Daboia russelii</i> )	0	0	2	2
7.	Bronzeback Tree snake ( <i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i> )	0	0	2	2
8.	Common Krait ( <i>Bungarus caeruleus</i> )	0	0	1	1
9.	Flying snake ( <i>Chrysopelca ornate</i> )	0	0	2	2
10.	Forstens cat snake ( <i>Boiga forsteni</i> )	0	0	1	1
11.	Green whip snake ( <i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i> )	0	0	3	3
12.	Trinket snake ( <i>Coelognathus helena</i> )	0	0	1	1
13.	Sand Boa ( <i>Eryx conicus</i> )	0	0	5	5
14.	Mugger Crocodile ( <i>Crocodylus palustris</i> )	2	2	0	4
15.	Spectacled caiman ( <i>Caiman crocodylus</i> )	1	2	0	3
16.	Flapshell Turtle ( <i>Lissemys punctata</i> )	0	1	3	4
17.	Indian Black Turtle ( <i>Melanochelys trijuga</i> )	4	4	0	8
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>46</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>144</b>

**Our Earth is at Stake, What action will you take?**







### RETIREMENT

The following staff have retired on attaining the age of superannuation (during April - June 2015):

#### DY. RANGE FOREST OFFICER

Sh. Krishna Betodkar

#### FORESTER

Sh. Umesh Salgaonkar

Sh. Tukaram Bhogan

Sh. Vishnu G. Naik



The Goa Forest Department wishes them happy and peaceful retired life.

### APPOINTMENTS

The following staff have been appointed:

#### LOWER DIVISION CLERK

Kum. Gokul Narulkar

Smt. Poonam Parsekar

Smt. Premavati Parsekar

Sh. Prasad Kajumalkar



The Goa Forest Department welcomes them and wish them all the best.

### PROMOTIONS

The following staff has been promoted to: **CHIEF FOREST SURVEYOR**

Sh. K. M. Ramdasan

The Goa Forest Department congratulates him and wish him all the best.



## Forest Nurseries of Goa

Searching for Saplings?

**Sr.No. Location of Nursery Contact No.**

#### North Division

1	Dharbandora (Collem)	0832-2600271
2	Veluz (Valpoi)	0832-2374223
3	Keri (Sanquelim)	0832-2364931
4	Tisk (Usgao)	0832-2317822
5	Tuem (Pernem)	0832-2201367

#### South Division

1	Aquem (Margao)	0832-2750246
2	Ozrem (Canacona)	0832-2643348
3	Condimoll (Quepem)	0832-2662214

#### Social Forestry, Parks & Gardens Division

1	Pali (Usgao)	07798986168
2	Forest Colony (Ponda)	08332959917
3	Quepem	07798986129
4	Panaji (Campal)	07798986167

#### Research & Utilisation Division

1	Gotmod (Ponda)	07798986155
2	Valkini (Sanguem)	07588484428
3	Chorao (Panjim)	07798986181

#### Soil Conservation Division

1	Valkini (Sanguem)	09822139057
2	Dhawali (Ponda)	0832-2312793
3	Bhironda (Satari)	09420766216

#### Wildlife & Eco-tourism Division(North )

1	Bondla, Ponda	0832-2935800
2	Campal, Panaji	0832-2228772



In a moment the ashes are made, but a forest is a long time growing.”— Seneca

## WILDLIFE RESCUE REPORT ( Apr 2015 to Jun 2015)

The dedicated wildlife rescue squad of Goa Forest Department continued the successful wildlife rescue and rehabilitation operations. Following wildlife was rescued and rehabilitated by the Wildlife Squad in this quarter:

MAMMALS	
Leopard	2 nos.
Common Langur	4 nos.
Civet Cat	2 nos.
Bonnet Macaque	2 nos.
Mongoose	2 nos.
Jackal	1 no.
Slender Loris	1 no.
Barking Deer	1 no.
BIRDS	
Pariah Kite	2 nos.
Golden Oriole	1 no.
Sea Gull	1 no.
Swift	1 no.
Barbet	1 no.
OTHER ANIMALS	
Hard Shell Tortoise	12 nos
Olive Ridley Turtle	6 nos
Mugger	13 nos
Monitor Lizard	4 nos
Chameleon	1 no

SNAKES	
King Cobra	5 nos.
Wolf Snake	18 nos.
Bronzeback	33 nos.
Russels Viper	54 nos.
Cobra	276 nos.
Rat Snake	186 nos.
Python	108 nos.
Sand Boa	102 nos.
Checkered Keelback	22 nos.
Stripped Keelback	5 nos.
Common Krait	16 nos.
Cat Snake	2 nos.
Ornate Flying Snake	1 no.
Montane Trinket Snake	2 nos.
Common Kukri	3 nos.

**IN CASE OF WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES, CONTACT**



NORTH GOA - 2228772

SOUTH GOA - 2750246 / 2751462



*Python eggs rescued by the Wildlife Rescue Squad of South Division, Margao on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015*



*Crocodile rescued from Costi Kalay, Sanguem by the Wildlife Rescue Squad, Margao on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015*



