

# GOA FOREST NEWS



Vol. VII No. 2, June 2008

## LAUNCHING OF MEGA TREE PLANTATION DRIVE – 2008 BY H E GOVERNOR OF GOA



His Excellency S. C. Jamir, Governor of Goa releasing the Program Information Folder. L to R Dy.CF Shri. M. K. Bidi, CCF Shri. C. A. Reddy, Hon'ble Forest Minister Shri. Filipe Neri Rodrigues, MLA Curchorem Shri. Syam Satardekar,

His Excellency S. C. Jamir, Governor of Goa inaugurated the Mega Tree Plantation Drive by planting a seedling at Govt. Polytechnic, Curchorem on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2008. In his inaugural address the Governor emphasized the importance of planting seedlings for a clean environment. He advised the students to take the lead in this regard & to form a Green Brigade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He complemented the Forest Department for launching the Drive.

Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Shri Filipe Neri Rodrigues, M.L.A. Curchorem Shri Sham Satardekar, Chief Conservator of Forests, Shri C. A. Reddy & hundreds of school children from Curchorem &

Quepem planted seedlings on the occasion.

The Hon'ble Minister for Forests congratulated the Forest Department for taking all steps to plant seedlings in a big way. The Hon'ble M.L.A., Shri Sham Satardekar also spoke on the occasion.

The Chief Conservator of Forests, Shri C. A. Reddy welcomed the gathering & the Principal of the Polytechnic, Shri Vivek Gaonkar proposed the vote of thanks.

The function was attended by senior Officials of the Department students & teachers from nearby schools and members of the public.

## CONTENTS

- HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER'S FUNCTION DURING MEGA TREE PLANTATION DRIVE - 2008
- MEGA TREE PLANTATION DRIVE - 2008
- ENACTMENT TO DISTRIBUTE NATIONAL FORESTS AMONG TRIBALS
- THE RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS ACT CHALLENGED
- NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MANGROVES AND CORAL REEFS
- AMENDMENT OF PRESERVATION OF TREES ACT, 1984
- ACHIEVEMENTS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GOA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
- SHRI MOHAMMAD AGA, R.F.O. AWARDED STATE AWARD
- TRAINING OF XXVIII BATCH OF FOREST GUARDS
- HON'BLE MINISTER FOR FORESTS VISITS CAMP
- ALL INDIA FOREST SPORTS MEET
- CONVOCATION OF XXVII & XXVIII BATCHES OF FOREST GUARDS
- ELEPHANT MIGRATION INTO GOA.
- SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT FOREST TRAINING SCHOOL, VALPOI
- VRIKSHA MELA - 2008
- BHAGWAN MAHAVEER JAYANTI CELEBRATED
- BIRD CENSUS AT DR. SALIM ALI BIRD SANCTUARY, CHORAO
- RESCUE OF WILD ANIMALS
- MEMBER SECRETARY CZA VISITS BONDLA ZOO
- DEMARICATION OF PRIVATE FORESTS IN THE STATE
- OBITUARY

## HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER'S FUNCTION DURING MEGA TREE PLANTATION DRIVE - 2008

The conclusion of the Mega Tree Plantation Drive week 2008 was marked by a planting ceremony organized by the Goa Mineral Ore Exporters Association at Pale Mines of M/s. Chowgule & Company Private Limited on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2008. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Digamber Kamat, the Chief Guest on the occasion, planted a sapling. A large number of trees were planted by the officials of the Forest Department and the GMOEA and representatives of the mining industry and the general public.

During the valedictory function, the Chief Guest emphasized the role played by the mining industry in the economy of the State right from Portuguese times. The natural resources have to be exploited, at the same time maintaining the environmental safeguards. The Hon'ble CM lauded the efforts of the Hon'ble Forest Minister, Secretary (Forests) and the officers of the Forest Department in taking up this unique drive to plant maximum number of trees. The GMOEA has taken up a target of planting 5 lakh saplings in a period of one month.

The Hon'ble Minister for Forests Shri Filipe Neri Rodrigues, Secretary (Forests) Shri Rajeev Yaduvanshi, Chief Conservator of Forests Shri C. A. Reddy, President GMOEA Shri Shivanand Salgaonker



Hon'ble C.M. planting a sapling.

were among the dignitaries present who addressed the gathering.

The function was well attended by the government officials, officials of the GMOEA, representatives of the mining industry, panchayat members, school students and public.

## MEGA TREE PLANTATION DRIVE - 2008



The Forest Department, launched the Mega Tree Plantation Drive 2008 during this monsoon season. The aim is to plant 5 lakh seedlings in 5 days, from June 16<sup>th</sup> to June 20<sup>th</sup>; and 10 lakh seedlings during the remaining monsoon period. The total target is 15 lakh seedlings. Other Departments and institutions are involved in the plantation drive, and the targets set out are, 10 lakh seedlings are to be planted by Forest Department, 1.5 lakh seedlings by the Panchayats, 0.5 lakh seedlings by Schools, and the rest by other Government Departments, the NGOs, Mining Companies etc.

The Forest Department raised about 15 lakhs seedlings in its 28 Forest Nurseries spread over the entire State of Goa. The seedlings



are mostly of forestry species, but also include 3 lakh seedlings of edible-fruit bearing species like Jamun, Avala, Jackfruit, Cocum etc. The seedlings required for planting in the Mega Tree plantation drive by the Government Departments, Panchayats, Schools and NGOs, shall be provided free of cost by the Forest Department.

Each Forest Division has been designated as Nodal Forest Division for the Talukas and they shall transport seedlings from the forest nurseries to plantation sites identified by the Panchayats, Schools.

The Mega Plantation Drive was kicked off on June 16<sup>th</sup> at a function at Government Polytechnic, Curcholem. Ceremonial planting was done by H.E. the Governor, Hon'ble Minister for Forests, M.L.A. Curcholem, officials and school children. The closing function for the week was conducted at Pale mines of M/s. Chowgule & Co. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa was the Chief Guest on the occasion.



## ENACTMENT OF RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS ACT

In the year 2007, Government of India enacted "THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS) ACT 2006 (No. 2/2007)" and also passed the "The SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS)

RULES, 2007 under the said Act.

The act provides 13 kinds of forest rights, to the tribals living therein.

In Goa, the Directorate of Social Welfare Department has been designated as the Nodal Agency for implementation of the Act.

## THE RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS ACT CHALLENGED

Now that the implementation proceedings of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 have just been initiated in the country, a Public Interest Litigation under Writ Petition (C) No. 50/2008 has come to be filed in the Supreme Court of India by Bombay

Natural History Society and Others against the Union of India and others. The Writ Petition seeks to declare the enactment to be beyond the legislative competence of the Parliament and the Act's provisions ultra-vires Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MANGROVES AND CORAL REEFS



The National Committee on Mangroves & Coral Reefs met in Goa on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> of March, 2008 at the International Centre, Dona Paula. Shri B. S. Parsheera, Addl. Secretary, MoEF chaired the meeting which was attended by several Heads of Department and Scientists. In all, 20 members attended the meeting. Dr. B. P. Nilaratna, Jt. Secretary (MoEF) and Dr. J. R. Bhatt, Director, were present. A presentation on behalf of the State of Goa was made by the Dy. Conservator of Forests, Research & Utilisation Division, Shri F. X. Araujo. The Committee visited the local mangrove plantation sites along the Mandovi River. The dignitaries were accompanied by Shri Anil Shetgaonker, ACF and Shri D. N. Chodanker, ACF (Retd) during the field visit.

## AMENDMENT OF PRESERVATION OF TREES ACT, 1984

Recently, the State legislature has passed a bill to amend The Goa, Daman and Diu Preservation of Trees Act, 1984. The amendment empowers the Dy. Collectors and Tree Officers to cut and remove those trees, including coconut palms, which are posing imminent danger to life and property. The amendment

also provides for raising of a fund called Tree Protection Fund (TPF) for enabling the Dy. Collector and the Tree Officer to incur expenditure while implementing the provisions of this amendment, whenever the need arises. The bill has been enacted into a law and has been published in the Official Gazette.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GOA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

During the last 3 years, replanting of refractory areas have been taken up under the schemes of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) by planting high yielding variety of cashew grafts Vengurla 4 (V4), Vengurla 7 (V7) which will shortly go into production. Also during the year, the implementation of Frontline Technology of NHM as demonstration plots with high yielding variety of cashew grafts was taken up.

The Goa Forest Development Corporation Ltd. has been implementing the Govt. of India Scheme under the Joint Forest Management, on Care and Share basis by registering the local Self Help Groups with the Corporation for management, maintenance and fresh planting in areas under the Goa Forest Development Corporation. The aim is to involve rural people in protection, management and development of Cashew plantations, and to provide job avenues for them to supplement their family income, thereby lifting their socio-economic status, and allowing them a lead role in the protection and conservation of our resources with due regards to the environment and ecology.

The pilot project on Apiary has been implemented during the current year. To supplement the income of the corporation, bee-keeping activities in the rubber plantations at Shisheval in Canacona and Veluz in Valpoi have been started. There are also plans for commercial production and registration under AGMARK is in the process.

The Goa Forest Development Corporation has also taken up the establishment of the prestigious "Botanical Garden cum Eco-Recreational Park" on the downstream side of The Selaulim Dam. The objective of this project is to promote tourism in the hinterland and ensure a balanced development for the State of Goa. The project consists of 3 phases. The first phase is the formal gardens, which is almost complete. The second phase is the Botanical Garden which will showcase the species endemic to the Western Ghats. The third phase consists of the water park. When completed, this will be a unique feature on the tourist map of Goa.

## SHRI MOHAMMAD AGA, R.F.O. AWARDED STATE AWARD



Hon'ble CM Shri. Digambar Kamat, honouring Shri. Mohammad Aga, Range Forest Officer, GFDC, with the State Award.

Shri Mohammad Aga, Range Forest Officer, presently working in the Goa Forest Development Corporation at Canacona was awarded the Goa State Award for best tree plantation in 2006-07. The award was presented to Shri Mohammad Aga at the Goa Liberation Day parade at Campal on 19/12/2007 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Digambar Kamat. The award consists of a Brass Samai, a Certificate of merit and cash amounting to 10,000/-.

Shri Mohammad Aga was nominated for the award for outstanding and excellent plantation raised by him in Tirwal beat of Fondsolem Round in Canacona. Cashew grafts were planted over an area of 22.00 ha. at an escapement of 4m x 4m. The area is under biotic pressure and the soil is of poor quality. In spite of these adverse conditions, the survival is 99% and the growth is vigorous and healthy. The area is likely to go into production in 2008-09.

The plantation was inspected by the officials of the Directorate of Cashew nut and Cocoa Development, Cochin, on behalf of the National Horticulture Mission,. The experts of the evaluation team were highly appreciative of the plantation and complimented the Range Forest Officer for his dedication & hard work.

Shri Mohammad Aga was recruited as a direct Round Forester in 1980. After undergoing training at the Forester's School at Dandeli, Karnataka, he has shown great zeal and has always been outstanding in his field duties throughout his service. The Department takes pride in his achievement and wishes him all success in future.

## TRAINING OF XXVIII BATCH OF FOREST GUARDS

The XXVIII batch of Forest Guards was imparted training at the Forest Training School, Valpoi from 12/11/2007 to 12/05/2008. The batch consisted of 32 trainees, including 6 ladies. As part of the training the Forest Guards were taken on 3 study tours. Two tours were within Goa, and the third to neighbouring Karnataka State. For the local tours the camps were held at Hathipaul, Canacona, South Goa and the at

Bondla Wild Life Sanctuary in North Goa. Each camp was of one week duration. The third tour of 10 days duration was to the adjoining State of Karnataka. Here the Forest Guards were exposed to the different Forest Types and acquainted with the forestry management practices in that State. After successful completion of the training, the Forest Guards were posted in different Divisions.



Conservator of Forest, Shimoga Circle addressing the Forest Guard Trainees

## HON'BLE MINISTER FOR FORESTS VISITS CAMP



The Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Govt. of Goa, Shri Filipe Neri Rodrigues visited the camp of the XXVIII batch of Forest Guards at Hathipaul, Canacona on 13/12/2007. The Hon'ble Minister was received with a Guard of Honour. The Principal, Shri Vikas Dessai briefed the Minister on the activities of the batch. The Minister showed keen interest in the training, and exhorted the trainees to acquire all knowledge, which will help them in executing their duties properly.

Dr. F.L. Coelho, GM, GFDC accompanied the Hon'ble Minister. Shri Prakash N. Kamu, ACF Wildlife and Ecotourism and Shri Paresh Parab, RFO Wildlife & Ecotourism Division were also present.

## ALL INDIA FOREST SPORTS MEET

The All India Forest Sports Meet, 2008 was held at Gandhinagar in Gujarat on February 2-6, 2008. The Forest Department of Goa was represented by a contingent of 31 participants in football, badminton, volleyball, carom, table tennis and athletics. The State bagged two bronze medals. The Football team was placed third and Ms. Lynette Ferrao, DDA, secured third place in the Discus throw in the women's (veterans) category.



## CONVOCAATION OF XXVII & XXVIII BATCHES OF FOREST GUARDS



The Convocation ceremony of the XXVII & XXVIII batches of Forest Guards was held at the auditorium of the Forest Training School at Valpoi on 12/05/2008. The XXVII batch, consisting of 35 recruits, underwent training from 30/03/2007 to 30/09/2007, while the XXVIII batch, consisting of 32 recruits, underwent training from 12/11/2007 to 12/05/2008 at the FTS, Valpoi. The Chief Guest for the Convocation ceremony was Shri C. A. Reddy, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Goa Forest Department. Shri Debendra Dalai, IFS, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & Ecotourism and Shri M.K. Shambu, IFS, Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division were also present.

After the traditional lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries, the Welcome Address was delivered by the Director of Forest Training School, Shri F.X. Araujo, IFS. The Principal of FTS, Shri Vikas Dessai presented the Annual Report of the activities and achievements of the Forest Training School. All the Forest Guards, who completed the training successfully, were awarded Certificates of Merit. 3 Forest Guards of XXVII batch, namely Kum. Anupama Jadhav, Shri Dharma Gaonker and Shri Reshmin Mulgaonker, were awarded "Honours" Certificates. In the XXVIII batch also, 3 Forest Guards namely Kum. Ashveta Gauns Dessai, Shri Rajesh Naik and Shri Anil Fernandes were awarded "Honours" Certificates.

In his address, the Chief Guest explained to the Forest Guards, the importance and relevance of the training during their service in the Department. He congratulated all of them for successfully completing the course and wished them a successful future in the Department.

The ceremony was well attended by officials of the Forest Department, parents and relatives of the trainees and well wishers. Shri A. G. Samant, Sr. Instructor, FTS, proposed the Vote of Thanks. The convocation was followed by a farewell lunch hosted by the trainees.



## ELEPHANT MIGRATION INTO GOA.

(by Shri. M. K. Shambhu, Dy. C.F., North)

Elephants have been migrating out of their natural habitats in Karnataka during last few years. This steady and regular movement of elephants into the State of Maharashtra and then into Goa, has given rise to new problems for the people, in these States, which do not have experience in dealing with elephants. This year a herd of four elephants (one tusker included) made their way into Goa in mid-May. They stayed in the forests of the eastern part of Pernem Taluka and regularly raided the nearby agricultural (Paddy) and Horticultural crops (Banana, Coconut, Arecanut, etc), thereby causing losses to the farmers. Ibrampur, Alorna, Assapur, Khutwal, Sal, Wadaval etc. are some of the affected villages. While the experience was new and scary for the people, it was a testing time for the Officers and staff of the Forest Department as well. Their efforts in driving the pachyderms to safer areas of Maharashtra did yield results after a months' hard work. The elephants moved into Maharashtra during the first week of the July. But it came at a cost, Shri Rajendra K. Bhagat, Forest Guard sacrificed his life protecting the life and the property of the villagers on the night of 22.06.2008 near Alorna.

The Government released an immediate compensation of Rs. 2,00,000/- (Raising it from Rs. 40,000/- which is the notified amount paid in such cases) to the family of the deceased. A proposal to increase the rates of compensation for damage to life and property by wild animals, has been moved as decided in a meeting attended by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Forest Minister, Chief Secretary and Chief Conservator of Forests among others.

The immediate strategy in tackling the problems

arising out of human-elephant conflict by the affected States has been to drive/scare the elephants out of their territory, though it is not a long term solution. The State of Goa has inherent constraints in letting the elephants stay in Goa. Its small geographical area and high degree of urbanisation are a couple of them. The fact that elephants require a large tract of forested land as habitat makes the State of Goa unviable. The apprehensions of the people affected by this conflict and their opposition may also be considered here.

The Governments of Maharashtra & Karnataka have been made aware of these constraints at the highest level. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Forest Minister of Goa, along with the Secretary and the Chief Conservator of Forests have briefed their counter parts and solicited their help in dealing with the issue.

A long term action plan is being drawn up in consultation with the neighboring States of Karnataka & Maharashtra, but it might take time given the necessity that one of the bigger States has to accommodate the elephants.

Expert opinion in dealing with such human-elephant conflict mainly emphasize on long term measures (Changing crop patterns, learning to live with elephants, etc) Generally speaking they do not agree with capturing and domesticating wild elephants.

While the Department is making all efforts to minimize problems to the people due to the elephants, it is imperative that the people also realize the inherent constraints and difficulties involved in dealing with the large and endangered animals like elephants and they co-operate with the Government in handling the issue in a more sensitive way.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT FOREST TRAINING SCHOOL, VALPOI

During the first half of this year, important International Days were celebrated at the Forest Training School, Valpoi.

**International Biodiversity Day 2008** (May 22, 2008): A ceremony to mark the occasion was held in the Auditorium of the FTS, Valpoi. Shri Kanta Gaonker, agriculturist of Valpoi was the Chief Guest and Shri G.T. Kumar, IFS, Dy. Conservator of Forests was the Guest of Honour. Shri Anil Shetgaonker, ACF welcomed the gathering. The Director, FTS, Shri F.X. Araujo, IFS spoke on the relevance and importance of preserving and conserving biodiversity. The function was attended by officials of the Department and general public.

**World Environment Day 2008** (June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008): The Forest Guards undergoing training and officials of the Research Division celebrated World Environment Day by planting of medicinal plants on the campus of FTS. A valedictory function was conducted wherein Shri Anil Shetgaonker, ACF; Shri D.N. Chodanker, ACF (Retd);

Shri A.G. Samant, Sr. Instructor and Shri Pranoy Naik, Asst. Instructor addressed the gathering.

**Vanamohotsava at Sacred Grove "Devrai Honda"** (June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008): Environmentalists and local people from Honda, Sattari celebrated Vanamohotsava on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 at "Devrai" at Honda. Tree saplings of Ottamb, Phanas, Bhirand, Dhup, Kadam were planted on the occasion. The Principal FTS, Shri. Vikas Dessai who was the Chief Guest, detailed the benefits to society from the Sacred Groves and impressed the duty of society to protect and preserve such vegetation.

**Visit of Secretary (Forests) to Forest Training School, Valpoi**: Shri Raajiv Yaduvanshi, Secretary (Forests), paid a visit to the Forest Training School at Valpoi on 30/01/08. He was taken around the campus and briefed about the training programmes conducted in the school. He was also taken around the nursery of medicinal plants in the campus, and briefed about the 45 species of medicinal plants raised at Valpoi and Copardem Research Nursery.

## VRIKSHA MELA – 2008



Shri Tengse, Sr. Citizen distributing seedlings at Poinguinim Vriksha Mela.

The Wildlife & Ecotourism Division is declared as the nodal division for FDA activities in Goa. As part of the FDA activities, Vriksha Melas were held in various parts of the State. The main aim of the Melas is to educate the general public on the need and importance of planting more trees on private lands to achieve environmental and ecological stability. The aim is to achieve the target of bringing at least 33% of the geographical area under tree cover.

## BHAGWAN MAHAVEER JAYANTI CELEBRATED

Bhagwan Mahaveer Jayanti was celebrated at Bhagwan Mahaveer Bal Vihar (Children's Park), Campal on 20/04/2008 jointly by the Forest Department and Goa Jain Mandal. The message of wildlife conservation and respect for all forms of life was highlighted on the occasion. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Digamber Kamat was the Chief Guest on the occasion.



Hon'ble CM of Goa, Shri Digamber Kamat giving floral offering at statue of Lord Mahaveer at Campal.

## BIRD CENSUS AT DR. SALIM ALI BIRD SANCTUARY, CHORAO



Volunteers and forest officials during the census

A census to estimate the bird population at Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, Chorao, was carried out by the Wildlife & Ecotourism Division on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2008. The Sanctuary is visited by a large number of migratory birds during the winter months. It also boasts of a sizable population of many species of resident birds, some of which are rarely sighted elsewhere. Shri Paresh Parab, who has attended a workshop which included waterfowl census methods guided the volunteers and officials during the census.



## RESCUE OF WILD ANIMALS

The Wildlife & Eco-tourism Division rescues stranded, ensnared or captured wild animals & birds from time to time.

The Animals rescued during the period January to June 2008 are as follows.

Sr. No	Species of wild animals	No. of animals
<b>Mammals</b>		
1	Bonnet Macaque	2
2	Common Langur	2
3	Rhesus Macaque	3
4	Leopard	2
5	Barking Deer	1
6	Palm Civet Cat	1
7	Common Mongoose	1
8	Jackal	1
9	Sambhar	1
10	Black Napped Hare	1
<b>Birds</b>		
11	Peacock	3
12	Owl	2
13	Brown Fish Owl	1
14	Parakeet	1
15	Green Pigeon	1
16	Stone Curlew	1
17	Scarlet Minivet	1
18	White Bellied Sea Eagle	2

<b>Reptiles</b>		
19	Rat Snake	111
20	Sand Boa	64
21	Indian Rock Python	56
22	Wolf Snake	8
23	Checkered Keel Back	29
24	Green Whip Snake	3
25	Common Cobra	146
26	King Cobra	5
27	Russels Viper	82
28	Saw Scaled Viper	6
29	Common Krait	6
30	Bronze Backed Tree Snake	31
31	Buff Striped Keel Back	3
32	Cat Snake	2
33	Water Snake	2
34	Marsh Crocodile	8
35	Olive Ridley Turtle	1

### POSER

Identify the plant from the picture alongside:



Answer to the last issue's poser.  
The picture is of a Bronze Winged Jacana.  
There were no responses.

## MEMBER SECRETARY CZA VISITS BONDLA ZOO



Dr. B. R. Sharma and C.C.F., at Bondla Zoo

Bondla Zoo was upgraded from a mini zoo to a small zoo and provisional recognition was accorded by the Central Zoo Authority in 2006. Dr. B. R. Sharma, the Member Secretary of Central Zoo Authority visited Bondla Zoo on September 16th & 17th, 2007 to ascertain the progress of the conditions laid down in the provisional recognition. He was impressed with the general hygiene, ambience and health of the animals. His valuable advise and guidance on the further improvements to the zoo were forthcoming.

## DEMARCATON OF PRIVATE FORESTS IN THE STATE

The Sawant Committee, and the Karapurkar Committee appointed by the State Government, in pursuance of the Order passed by the Hon. Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95, in their reports, had identified potential areas as Private Forests, subject to their ground verification and demarcation.

Subsequently the Hon. High Court of Bombay at Panaji, passed an Order in M.C.A. No. 350/2003 in Writ Petition (C) No. 286/2003 directing the State Government to demarcate the forest areas from the non-forest areas in the State. The Forest Department was entrusted with this job. The survey work which was

fraught with difficulties, is nearing completion. The latest report of the survey has been filed before the Hon. High Court towards the end of June 2008.

Out of the 640 holdings identified by the Sawant and Karapurkar Committees, demarcation of private forests has been completed in 612 holdings. The work is in progress in 12 holdings and will be completed at the earliest. In the remaining 18 holdings, work was stopped in 6 cases due to objections/obstruction by the owners and local people. In 10 holdings, the Committees have not given any specific location i.e. no survey numbers have been given.

## OBITUARY



Fate dealt a terrible blow to the Forest Department, and Pernem Range of the North Goa Division in particular, when within the span of a few days, two of our staff, Shri Kashinath P. Shetye, RF, and Shri Rajendra K. Bhagat, FG, were snatched away from us under tragic circumstances.

Shri Kashinath P. Shetye, RF, 49 years of age, was zealously involved in the works connected with the Mega Tree Plantation Drive 2008. June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008, he was on his way to Panaji, from Pernem, to collect tree guards required for this activity. The hired vehicle in which he was traveling, along with others, met with an accident at Dhargal, Pernem. Besides him, two other occupants of the vehicle died on the spot. Shri Shetye had a pleasant and always smiling nature. He was obedient and maintained cordial relations with his superiors, colleagues and public. He joined the Department as a Forest Guard in 1981, and was promoted to Round Forester in 2003. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Shri Rajendra K. Bhagat, FG, 48 years of age, was posted in Pernem Range. Alorna area of Pernem Taluka, was recently in the news because of the herd of 4 elephants that had taken refuge in that area.



Shri Bhagat was one of the staff posted in that area to protect the agricultural and horticultural crops from destruction by the elephants. On the fateful night of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, while discharging his duties, Shri Bhagat was trampled by one elephant. He was a portly person with a mild disposition. Always respectful and humble.

Shri Bhagat joined the Forest Department in 1981. He is survived by his wife and two children a son and a daughter.

The Forest Department is deeply grieved by this untimely and tragic loss. Deepest sympathy and sorrow is shared with the bereaved families.

**May their souls rest in peace.**

RETIREMENT			
1	Shri Agnel Fernandes Round Forester		31-03-2008
2	Shri Damodar R. Naik Round Forester		30-04-2008
3	Shri Vishnu A. Gawas, Round Forester	Retired on superannuation	29-02-2008
4	Shri Shantaram Y. Tari Forest Guard		30-04-2008
5	Shri Harischandra B. Naik Forest Guard		31-05-2008

DEATH			
1	Shri Babai A. Massordekar Forest Guard	Expired	25-11-2007
2	Shri Anthony Andrew Fernandes, Forest Guard	Expired	14-05-2008
3	Shri Kashinath P. Shetye Round Forester	Expired	17-06-2008
4	Shri Rajendra K. Bhagat, Forest Guard	Expired	23-06-2008

PROMOTION			
1	Shri Sanjay Waradkar	Promoted as Dy. C. F.	5/11/2007
2	Shri Suresh K. Khanolkar	-do-	-do-
3	Shri Ramesh N. Dessai, RFO	Promoted as A.C.F. (Ad hoc)	5/1/2007
4	Shri Prakash N. Kamu, RFO	-do-	-do-
5	Shri N. D. Naik, RFO	-do-	-do-
6	Shri Anil Shetgaonkar, RFO	-do-	-do-
7	Shri Vikas V. Dessai, RFO	-do-	8/3/2007
8	Shri Pradeep B. Verenkar, RFO	-do-	30/4/2008
9	Shri Luis Fernandes, Dy. RFO	Promoted as Range Forest Officer	6/11/2007
10	Shri Mohamad Aga, Dy. RFO	-do-	-do-
11	Shri Lawrence S. Dias, Dy. RFO	-do-	-do-
12	Shri Vishwanath Bugde, RF	Promoted as Dy. Range Forest Officer	
13	Shri Deepak K. N. Betquekar, RF	-do-	
14	Shri Mohanlal G. Phadte, RF	-do-	

15	Shri Jose Colaco, RF	-do-	
16	Shri Vilas Pandurang Gawas, RF	-do-	
17	Shri Shamsundar L. Gawas, RF	-do-	
18	Shri Rajendra S. Faterpekar, RF	-do-	
19	Shri Devidas K. Halarnkar, RF	-do-	
20	Shri Babani L. Parwar, RF	-do-	
21	Smt. Movitra Kudalkar, RF	-do-	
22	Shri Rudyard A. D'Silva, RF	-do-	
23	Shri Pronoy Api Naik, RF	-do-	
24	Shri Siddharth Sonu Tendulkar, RF	-do-	
25	Shri Mangaldas P. Divsekar, RF	-do-	
26	Shri Ceciliano P. Fernandes, FG	Promoted as Round Forester	29-01-2008
27	Shri Agnel J. Fernandes, FG	-do-	-do-
28	Shri Molu M. Velip, FG	-do-	-do-
29	Shri Vishnu A. Gawas, FG	-do-	-do-
30	Shri Anant A. Gawas, FG	-do-	-do-
31	Shri Subhash B. Naik, FG	-do-	-do-
32	Shri Suresh V. Pednekar, FG	-do-	-do-
33	Shri Shaikh Amrudin, FG	-do-	-do-
34	Shri Ramesh H. Fadte, FG	-do-	-do-
35	Shri Damodar R. Naik, FG	-do-	-do-
36	Shri Madhusudan R. Jadav, FG	-do-	-do-
37	Shri Krishna P. Betodkar, FG	-do-	-do-
38	Shri Antonio S. F. Pereira, FG	-do-	-do-
39	Shri Vassu S. Sawant, FG	-do-	4/2/2008
40	Shri Krishna B. Gawas, FG	-do-	4/2/2008
41	Shri Vithal L. Porob, FG	-do-	4/2/2008
42	Shri Ramakant B. Deuli, FG	-do-	
43	Shri Kushali M. Gaonkar, FG	-do-	
44	Shri Pundalik M. Gawde, FG	-do-	
45	Shri Modso L. Sawant, FG	-do-	
46	Shri Dinesh B. Bandekar, FG	-do-	
47	Shri Sitaram Redkar, FG	-do-	
48	Shri Narayan R. Gawade, FG	-do-	

**Transferred**

1	Shri Omkar Singh Chief Conservator of Forests	Transferred on deputation to ICFRE, Dehradun on 06-06- 2008	
---	--	---	--