



## *Goa State Biodiversity Board*

### **Report of Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards – 2020**



The Government of Goa's "Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards-2020" in appreciation of exemplary contribution in the field of conservation of biodiversity, ecology and environment were presented at an awards presentation ceremony held on **02<sup>nd</sup> October 2020** at **Conference hall, Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB), Saligao, Goa.**

The dignitaries present included the Chief Guest, Shri. Kunal, IAS, Secretary Environment, Government of Goa; Shri Subhash Chandra, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF), Government of Goa, and Shri. Sanjith Rodrigues, Commissioner, Corporation of the City of Panaji and Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board.



**Dignitaries on the dais**

The award ceremony commenced with the National Anthem, followed by the lightening of traditional lamp at the hands of the dignitaries.



Shri. Kunal, IAS, Secretary Environment lighting the traditional lamp during the award ceremony.

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, in his welcome address introduced the award winners and briefly apprised about the Awards selection procedure followed by the Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards Selection Committee, which is headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. He explained different activities carried out by GSBB.



Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB, addressing the gathering

Thereafter official website of the Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) was launched.

The Awards were presented to the awardees at the hands of the Chief Guest, Shri. Kunal, IAS, Secretary Environment and Shri Subhash Chandra, IFS, PCCF.

GSBB felicitated outstanding Secretaries of selective Biodiversity Management Committees, who received appreciation certificate, Memento and a sum of Rupees Five thousand each.

#### **List of Secretaries of BMCs:**

- ❖ Shri. Sandeep Desai (Shristhal BMC)
- ❖ Shri. Vinod Shinde (Barcem Quedem BMC)
- ❖ Shri. Gokuldas Kudalkar (Curti Khandepar)
- ❖ Shri. Ravindra Wadikar (Xeldem BMC)
- ❖ Smt. Asha Mesta (Chicolna Bogmalo BMC)
- ❖ Shri. Alvito D' Silva (Pomburpa Olaulim BMC)



- ❖ Shri. Ganpat Sidhaye (PDF BMC)
- ❖ Shri. Sushant Naik (Tivrem Orgao BMC)
- ❖ Shri. Prajanan Naik (Surla BMC)
- ❖ Shri. Mukund Ukshekar (Warkhand Nagzar BMC)
- ❖ Shri. Sanjith Rodrigues (CCP BMC)
- ❖ Shri. Lancy Dias (Curca Bambolim)



Shri. Sanjith Rodrigues, Commissioner, Corporation of the City of Panaji, receiving outstanding Secretary award

Special appreciation awards in Individual category were awarded to Shri. Ankush Uttam Bagli & Shri. Agnel Fernandes from North Goa and to Shri. Shirish Gopal Krishna Pai & Shri. Omkar Dharwadkar from South Goa. This award included appreciation certificate, Memento and a sum of Rupees Five thousand each.

#### **Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards -2020 Individual Category:**

In individual category, **Shri. Suryakant Shankar Gaonkar, from North Goa & Shri. Janu Ghurkho Gaonkar, from South Goa** were awarded the State Biodiversity Award for their contributions in the field of Biodiversity & Environment. Both the Awardees were felicitated at the hands of Chief Guest Shri. Kunal, IAS, Secretary Environment and Shri Subhash Chandra, IFS, PCCF, with Shawl and Shriphal, Memento, Citation and a sum of Rupees Twenty-Five thousand each.

**Shri. Suryakant Shankar Gaonkar** has been awarded for involvement in biodiversity conservation activities, excellent biodiversity documentation. He has produced natural colours and is educating and advocating its use during holi instead of chemical colours. He is actively involved in PBR preparation of his own and neighboring villages. He has been felicitated by different organizations for his selfless service, and ecofriendly decorations, organizing educational activities for students and adults on environment and biodiversity.



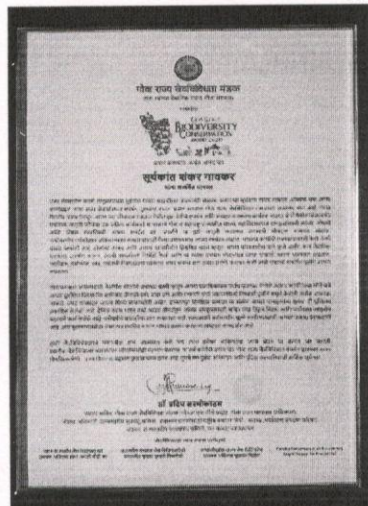


**Shri. Suryakant Shankar Gaonkar, receiving Goa Biodiversity Awards -2020 (Individual Category) North Goa**

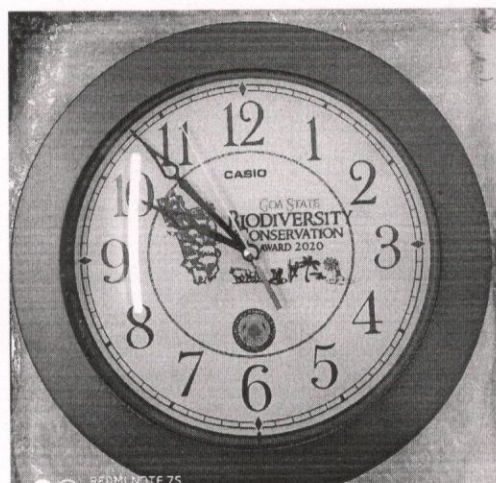
**Shri. Janu Ghurko Gaonkar from South Goa** has been awarded for his service as Traditional Medicinal Practitioner with vast experience and selfless service in his tribal village and adjoining villages, Excellent traditional knowledge of flora & fauna. He is a much sought after traditional medicinal practitioner- 'Voktoli' for his guaranteed cures to a number of ailments. However, he does not charge monetary fees and subsists on whatever fees are voluntarily given and working as a farm labourer or any other menial work. He even has knowledge of gynaecologic ailments of women and has helped in difficult childbirth in very inaccessible and remote tribal areas of Khotigao, Canacona.



**Shri. Janu Ghurkho Gaonkar, receiving Goa Biodiversity Awards -2020 (Individual Category) South Goa**



**Citation presented to awardees**



**Memento presented to Awardees**



Special recognition certificate was given to Shri. Sadashiv Datta Narverker, Adv. Prakash Mahadev Govekar, Shri. Sahil Vijay Warang, Shri. Gowind Bhobe, Shri. Ashay (Ashu) Abhay Korde, Shri. Sandeep N.S. Parker, Shri. Damodar Vasant Chari, Fr. Bolmax, Shri. Sadhanand Gawde.

Special BMC appreciation awards with appreciation certificate, Memento and a sum of Rupees ten thousand each were awarded to the following BMCs:

- ❖ **Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) BMC** for being first Municipal area BMC to do City Biodiversity Index & PBR derived conservation focus approach activity.
- ❖ **Anjuna Caisua BMC** for involvement in conservation activities, tree plantation activities, People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) completion.
- ❖ **Chodan Madel BMC** for local vigilance wherein violation was captured. Participation at GSBB programs and involvement.
- ❖ **Curti-Khandepar BMC** for rejuvenation of springs & water bodies as part of PBR derived focus.
- ❖ **Chicalim BMC** for efforts taken to control overexploitation of clams. Proposed Biodiversity Heritage Site, PBR completion.

**Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards -2020 BMC Category:**

In the BMC category, **Shri. Sitaram P. Raut and Shri. Vinay Tubki**, the Chairpersons of **Agarwado Chopdem BMC from North Goa & Shristhal BMC from South Goa** respectively, accepted the Awards on behalf of their Biodiversity Management Committees. This award included Shawl and Shriphal, Citation, Memento and a sum of Rupees Fifty thousand each.

Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Award has been awarded to Agarwada Chopdem BMC for efforts taken by BMC in making Peoples Biodiversity Register of their village, efforts for identifying potential Biodiversity Heritage Site in village, contribution of BMC team members in recognizing the local biodiversity knowledge holders, stakeholders and experts. Efforts in convergence and collaboration of local institutions, encouraging youngsters and youth in conserving biodiversity has been exemplary for many and handholding to other BMCs by going out of way. BMC has worked zealously at the ground level with efforts to conserve & revive traditional



occupations, including conservation program taken to conserve the real diamond of Agarwada Chopdem – ‘The Saltpans’ and helping local farmers in developing local tagging and branding of biodiversity which is appreciable and will lead to livelihood support to local farmers. Special appreciation is extended to BMC for the exemplary service and full cooperation in providing food, groceries, vegetables and masks to the needy persons, during the COVID- 19 pandemic.



Shri. Sitaram P. Raut, Chairperson Agarwada Chopdem BMC and other members receiving Goa Biodiversity Awards -2020 (BMC Category) North Goa, on behalf of Agarwado Chopdem BMC.

Shristhal BMC received the award for efforts taken by BMC in making People's Biodiversity Register of the village, efforts for declaring Biodiversity Heritage Site – ‘Ghodyapaik-Gulem’ in the village, contribution of the BMC team members in recognizing the local biodiversity knowledge holders, stakeholders and experts. BMC has worked zealously at the ground level with efforts to revive traditional occupations. Special appreciation was given to BMC, for doing exemplary service and extending full cooperation in doing door to door survey and for distribution of food to all the needy persons specially the stranded migrants in Canacona Taluka, during COVID- 19 pandemic by Mamlatdar of Canacona Taluka.



Shri. Vinay Tubki, Chairperson Shristhal BMC and other members receiving Goa Biodiversity Awards -2020 (BMC Category) North Goa, on behalf of Shristhal BMC



**Shri. Subhash Chandra, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Goa** Forest Department, addressed the gathering. In his address he congratulated all award winners and he said people should conserve nature for better future, he appreciated the efforts of GSBB & extended full support of Forest Department for the activities of GSBB, especially regarding afforestation and livelihood related activities in collaboration with BMCs.



**Shri Subhash Chandra, IFS, PCCF, Government of Goa, addressing the gathering during program**

Chief Guest **Shri. Kunal, IAS**, spoke about Goan Biodiversity and how rich it is, and also advised people to impart traditional knowledge to future generation.



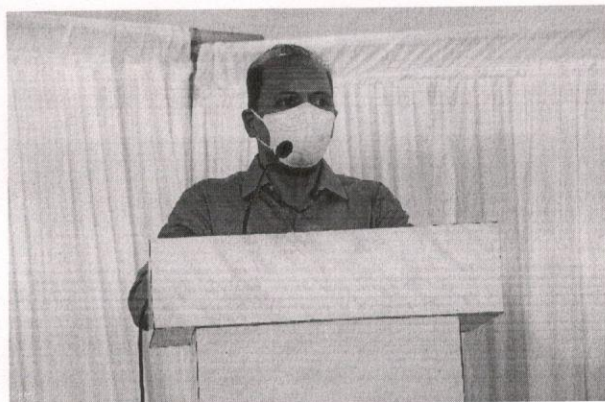
**Chief Guest Shri. Kunal, IAS, Secretary environment, Government of Goa. addressing the gathering during program**

Award function also included appreciation with appreciation certificate of Shri. Chandrajitsing Rane, Shri. Arjun Govekar, Shri. Sidhant Haldankar, Shri. Ravikiran Gaonkar, Shri. Manjunath Wadyar, Shri. Rohit Apa Gaonkar - students of Ramanata Crisna Pai Raikar School of Agriculture, Savoi Verem, Ponda Goa, for participating in plant distributing activity of GSBB. Appreciation certificates were also given to all staff of GSBB for mentoring BMCs.

Shri. Sanjith Rodrigues, Commissioner, CCP, addressed the gathering. He congratulated each participant and he spoke about PBR, he said conserving villages

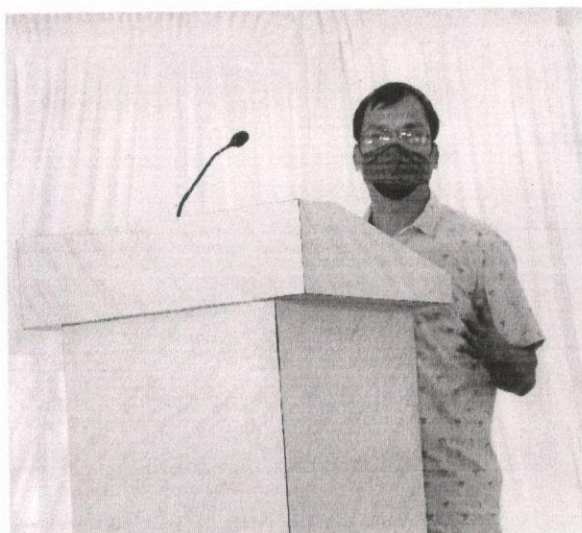


pride is real development, he also mentioned about biodiversity management plan of Panaji.

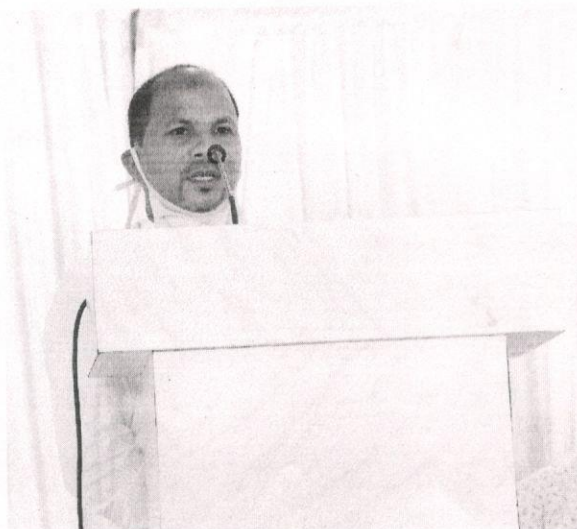


**Shri. Sanjith Rodrigues, C ommissioner, CCP, addressing the gathering.**

Awardees Shri. Suryakant Shankar Gaonkar, from individual category and Shri. Vinay Tubki, Chairperson, Shristhal BMC, BMC category addressed the gathering and expressed their gratitude to the Goa Government for recognizing their efforts towards conservation of biology, ecology & environment.



**Shri. Suryakant Shankar Gaonkar, addressing the gathering.**



**Shri. Vinay Tubki, addressing the gathering**

Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble Minister Environment, Chairperson GSBB addressed the gathering vide video message. In his message he congratulated all the winners and also declared two more award categories for upcoming years namely:


1. State Biodiversity Conservation Award in the field of Applied Biodiversity Research.



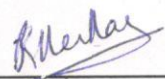
2. State Biodiversity Conservation Award to Biodiversity Enthusiasts in the field of rescue/restoration and related activities.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. Joyce Rodrigues, Legal Assistant, GSWA. The entire program was compeered by Shri. Subhash Jan.

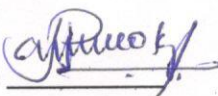
Due to Covid- 19 Pandemic restrictions the function was held with restricted number of participants, altogether eighty invitees only.

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