

**Message from the Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board;
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Goa.**



On the occasion of
**International Day
for Biological Diversity
(IDB) 2017**



“The biosphere we live in is rich & diverse realm of interdependent components of nature. Biodiversity refers to interrelatedness of genes, species & ecosystems & in their interactions with environment” – UNEP

This year's theme 'Biodiversity & Sustainable Tourism' is perhaps why Goa was chosen for the National level celebration of IDB-2017. We are proud to host IDB-2017 and welcome the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change , GoI, Shri. Anil Madhav Dave, all the Distinguished Guests & Dignitaries from across India and other parts of the World.

Traditionally Goa has inherited culture of traditionally living in harmony with biologically diverse species & ecosystems. Goa is blessed with rich and vibrant coastline on its west and the biodiversity rich Western Ghats to its east, making it the ultimate tourist destination in India with lots of opportunities available for Eco- Tourism as interestingly about 20 percent of the total land area is under wildlife conservation, with wildlife parks as well as some of the most visited wildlife sanctuaries of Goa, including the Salim Ali Bird sanctuary on the island of Chorao.

Goa is also blessed with wide range of biodiversity in the form of its Agriculture & Horticulture produce, so also the vast coastline is a rich source of the sea food for which tourists flock to Goa to partake its traditional culinary delicacies, much sought after is the 'Fish-Curry & Rice' a staple food of Goans.

The hinterlands of Goa house the traditional farms- our 'Kulagars'- better known in the tourism sector as Spice Plantations, showcasing traditional and organic farming practices and presently the latest eco-tourism destination for National as well as the Global tourists.

On the occasion of IDB-2017, I take this opportunity to appeal to all my fellow Goans to protect and conserve our Goa, its natural beauty and its rich biological diversity so as to make it a ecologically & economically sustainable tourism destination for posterity.