

**Message from the Hon'ble. Minister, Environment & Climate Change
Government of Goa, Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB)**



Shri. Nilesh Cabral



On the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity 2023

Hearty greetings to everyone on 'The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)- 2023'. The year's theme "From Agreement to Action: Building Back Biodiversity" emphasizes on action in conservation of ecology around us. Major change can be brought if we adopt the Lifestyle for Environment as part of Mission LiFE envisaged by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modiji. The actions start from each one of us and since we are all part of web of life, maintaining habitats for biodiversity is important for our existence.

Our Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) through their voluntary actions have been trying to document and conserve landraces, document traditional wisdom associated with biodiversity and restore ecosystems by way of plantations and reviving agricultural practices. We are in constant efforts to improve the quality of our People's Biodiversity Registers, though it is a continuous process. Our actions like community seed bank, green skilling initiatives for institutionalizing traditional knowledge, efforts for more Biodiversity Heritage Sites, connecting livelihood to conservation through GoVan brand project, ongoing SBSAP, involving students and teachers to work with BMCs are some of the initiatives taken by Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB). Convergence of Governance achieved through notification of Lake Management Committees by Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) for participatory & integrated management of wetlands wherein BMC Chairperson is also leading this Committee and Engineer from Water Resource department is secretary to this committee itself is an example of unique initiative. Building back biodiversity is not an easy task, but conserving existing ecosystems will enable this process. We will need to take initiatives on all fronts and all this is only achievable if everyone starts actions in this direction. We at GSBB are committed to support at all levels and with our network of BMCs making up the base, we shall strive to achieve the success of the theme of IDB 2023.