



A BRIEF REPORT Of INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, 2017

Theme: “Biodiversity & Sustainable Tourism”



22 MAY 2017
INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism

Goa State Biodiversity Board

C/o Department of Science, Technology & Environment

Opp. Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Bardez, Goa, 403511.

Website:- www.gsbb.goa.gov.in

E-mail:- goanbiodiversity@gmail.com

Message from Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB)
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Goa

On the occasion of

International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), 2017



Shri. Manohar Parrikar

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 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.

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 ecologically & economically sustainable tourism destination for posterity.

REPORT

Session 1: Inaugural Session on 22nd May 2017

This year's National level event for celebrating “**International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), 2017**” was held in Goa on 22nd May 2017 at “**Dinanath Mangeshkar Auditorium**”, Kala Academy, Panaji- Goa from 09:00 am onwards. The event was organized by **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Government of Goa** in association with **Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB)**. The International Day for Biological Diversity 2017 (IDB) on this year's Theme: “**Biodiversity & Sustainable Tourism**”. The event was attended by over 2000 people in two days.



Shri. Manohar Parrikar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Chairperson, GSBB, inaugurating the Exhibition and Green Haat put up in the premises of Kala Academy along with Dr Amita Prasad, Dr Meena Kumari, Shri. Dharmendra Sharma, Dr Ranbir Singh and other dignitaries.

At the onset, the Exhibition and Green Haat (37 stalls) put up in the premises of Kala Academy was inaugurated at the hands of **Shri. Manohar Parrikar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Chairperson, GSBB** in the presence of **Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India; Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA); Ms. Marina Walter, Deputy Country Director, United Nations Development Programme, India (UNDP); Shri. Dharmendra Sharma, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Goa and Dr. Ranbir Singh, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Goa.**



Shri. Manohar Parrikar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Chairperson, GSBB visiting the Honey Stall put up for the IDB, 2017 by Goa State Biodiversity Board.

Biodiversity Exhibitions and the Green Haat were open for public on the 22nd May and 23rd May 2017. There were 35 stalls and 2 State Biodiversity Boards participated in the exhibition for the IDB, 2017. Goa State Biodiversity Board had put up Honey Stall for the IDB, 2017. All the organizations which displayed exhibition stalls were given certificate of participation.



Shri. Manohar Parrikar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Chairperson, GSBB visiting the Green Haat put up for the IDB, 2017 by United Nations Development Programme, India (UNDP).



The dignitaries being taken to the program venue the “Dinanath Mangeshkar Auditorium” by Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB.

All the above-mentioned dignitaries were taken to the program venue the “**Dinanath Mangeshkar Auditorium**” by **Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB** for the formal inauguration of the IDB 2017.



Dignitaries on the dais for formal inauguration of the IDB 2017, from left to right Ms. Marina Walter, Deputy Country Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India; Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA; Shri. Dharmendra Sharma, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Goa; Shri. Manohar Parrikar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Chairperson, GSBB; Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC, Government of India and Dr. Ranbir Singh, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Goa;



Dr. Sujata Arora, Adviser/ Scientist 'G', MoEFCC addressed the gathering. Two minutes silence being observed in DMK hall, to pay homage to **Late Shri. Anil Madhav Dave**, Former Union Minister, MoEFCC.

Dr. Sujata Arora, Adviser/ Scientist 'G', Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) addressed the gathering by explaining that the event was being organized in the shadow of the sudden and sad demise of Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India Shri. Anil Madhav Dave, who passed away on 18th May 2017. She explained how during his short tenure as Minister, he impressed and influenced everyone with his passion and commitment to the cause of environment, with his soft spoken-ness, simplicity and humility. The programme progressed with the observation of two minutes silence to mourn the sad demise of Shri. Anil Madhav Dave, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. Smt. Sujata Arora welcomed all the dignitaries on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), 2017.



Shri. Manohar Parrikar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Chairperson, GSBB lighting the traditional lamp to mark the inauguration programme of IDB, 22nd May 2017 also present from left to right Shri. Dharmendra Sharma, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Goa and Dr. Ranbir Singh, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Goa; Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, (NBA) and Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC, Government of India.

All the dignitaries on the dais were welcomed and felicitated with fruit Basket by **Dr. Ranbir Singh, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Goa** followed by the lighting of the traditional lamp to mark the formal inauguration of the IDB.



Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC addressing the gathering.

Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC gave key objectives of celebrating the “**International day for Biological diversity**”. She expressed her sincere gratitude to Goa, its people and its Government as well as its local authorities of the enchanting city for the warm

welcome and hospitality and excellent arrangement made for the meeting at Goa. She remarked the need for biodiversity mainstreaming with reference to Tourism and said that Tourism is closely linked to development which is a key driver for socio-economic progress for areas of unique natural beauty that attract large number of visitors such as Goa. She brought up the importance of Biodiversity forming tourism's greatest assets and roots for human co-existence.



Ms. Marina Walter, Deputy Country Director, UNDP addressing the gathering.

Ms. Marina Walter, Deputy Country Director, UNDP, expressed her deep and sincere condolences and that of her colleagues on the sudden demise of Shri. Anil Madhav Dave. Ms. Walter explained the importance of Tourism as a sector that is an important source of foreign exchange and how it helps the local economy. She also explained the drawbacks of ill managed tourism that can have far reaching implications on the economy and explained the sustainable tourism model keeping in mind the conservation of biological diversity in the State and also explained how such a model is being successfully implemented in Sindhudurg. Finally, she thanked the Departments for supporting the new partnership by the Global Environment Facility they are working with on access and benefit sharing which will focus on capacity building of research in academic institutions across the Country again on access to use of biological resources.



Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA addressing the gathering.

Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA quoted **“Biodiversity is life and life is Biodiversity”, essential and mutually complimentary needs and survival of all forms of life including humans.**” She stated that Biodiversity is source of life & livelihood or options for reducing poverty and enhancing human welfare. Around 70% of the world’s rural population depends directly on biodiversity for survival & wellbeing. She referred to various ancient texts in context to biodiversity conservation which are inherent to our culture & tradition. She also expressed how one needs to work on conservation, sustainable use and fair & equitable sharing of benefits related to Biodiversity and resources. She urged to the people of Goa to conserve, preserve, prosper and provide safe environment for future generations.



Unveiling of the India Biodiversity Awards 2018 and launch of the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project.



Release of the various Publications at IDB, 2017.



Winner of National Photography Competition receiving certificate from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Chairperson, GSBB, Shri. Manohar Parrikar.

Shri. Manohar Parrikar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Chairperson, GSBB unveiled the India Biodiversity Awards 2018 and launched the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project. He also released the print material which includes NBA's Newsletter "Biodiversity Matters"; NBA's Users guide; Release of the book- "Figs of Eastern Ghats" compiled by Shri. Chandramohan Reddy from Andhra Pradesh and his team, funded by NBA; proceedings of the Biodiversity Session at the 102nd Indian Science Congress edited by Dr. S Subramaniam; proceedings of the 11th National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards held at Chennai; publication of "Biodiversity and sustainable tourism, India at Konkan and beyond" and release of National Biodiversity Target poster. He also gave away the prizes to the winners of the National Photography Competition.



Shri. Manohar Parrikar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa and Chairperson of GSBB addressing the gathering.

Shri. Manohar Parrikar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa and Chairperson of GSBB gave an insight on the issue of 'greed' overcoming 'need' and the steps needed to tackle this greed taking place in the name of tourism and economy. The society as a whole needs to cope with both tourism and biodiversity growing together suggesting a strong need for community connect and people's participation. He highlighted that though many know a lot about biodiversity but one is not totally knowledgeable about the Biodiversity act, its implications and advantages which is need of the hour. He brought the spot light on 'Dudhsagar Waterfall' and the environmental pollution associated with the said area. He quoted, "One needs to keep such areas spotless and ban plastics, stop the vehicles and ask everyone to deposit their plastic and take it back when they return." There is need of strict regulation and monitoring keeping in view the carrying capacity and sustainability of the areas of tourist attraction. Tourism needs to grow in terms of biodiversity conservation and be knowledge oriented. Thereafter, he revealed how it is baseless when the judiciary focuses on 'One square bracketed solution' for the entire Country, how it is a major problem restricting 'one law-one rule' for entire country without taking into account the diversity that exists from one state to another. And how one law – one rule regarding biodiversity does not fit the entire Nation which is multi-cultural and multi-situational.



Dr. Ranbir Singh, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Goa proposing the vote of thanks at the inaugural session of IDB, 2017.

The vote of thanks for the inaugural session was proposed by **Dr. Ranbir Singh**, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Goa.



Audience at "Dinanath Mangeshkar Auditorium", Kala Academy, Panaji- Goa, during the Inauguration of IDB 2017.



Artists from Department of Arts & Culture, Government of Goa, singing the Biodiversity Song.

The Inaugural session concluded with the Biodiversity Song written and composed by **Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB** and sung by Artists from Department of Arts & Culture, Government of Goa.

Session 2: Technical Session

The Seminar on “**Best Practices on Sustainable Tourism**” followed the inaugural session. The seminar was chaired by **Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC** and co-chaired by **Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA**.



Dr. Ajit Kumar Pattnaik, IFS, Rtd, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF), Odisha during the seminar on “Best Practices on Sustainable Tourism”.

The first session was taken by **Dr. Ajit Kumar Pattnaik, IFS, Rtd, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF), Odisha; Member of International Steering Committee- Ramsar Center Japan; National Steering Committee- UNDP, SGP; Ministry of Forest & Environment, Member, Scientific Committee** on the topic “**Community led Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism- a Case Study of Chilka Lake of Orissa**”, wherein he spoke about tourism practices of Chilka lake, how the Chilka lake witnessed remarkable journey from indiscriminate poaching of birds to a responsible ecotourism site, steered by the local reformed bird hunters. He explained how the Chilka lake has amazingly emerged as one of the best site for wildlife photography and also increase in annual income. It also highly reduced the migration of villagers in search of employment. Besides it has witnessed key species conservation and lake population increase within a decade. In a nutshell, the Chilka lake transformation demonstrated with two case studies were excellent examples of how community led initiative for conservation of biodiversity can create a huge livelihood opportunity through sustainable tourism.



S.S. Kataik, IFS, Director, Great Himalayan National Park, (GHNP) during the seminar on “Best Practices on Sustainable Tourism”.

S.S. Kataik, IFS, Director, Great Himalayan National Park, (GHNP) presented topic on **GHNP- Biodiversity & Ecotourism**. He informed that GHNP was awarded World Heritage Natural Site Status. He also gave a simple success formula of formulating Tourism product linking Attractions, accommodation, food and drink, transport and events which transacts between Tourist needs. Through his case study he portrayed the highlights of Biodiversity, Tourism and Community advancement taking place in Great Himalayan National Park creating

opportunities of employment, restoring relationships between local community and natural environment and ultimately conserving biodiversity and environment.



Members of Audience interacting with Presenters.



Shri. Parag Rangnekar, Expert Member, GSBB during the seminar on “Best Practices on Sustainable Tourism”.

Shri. Parag Rangnekar, Expert Member, GSBB made a presentation on the topic on **“Aangan Village Stay- Success story of a community based tourism enterprise”** is a community based co-operative tourism practice operating in the Verlem Village of Goa. This eco-tourism practice integrates natural beauty and daily life of rural communities promoting productive sustainable practices within its tourism offerings maintained by local initiatives and communities, distributing the benefits along with farming income supplementation keeping in view conservation of biodiversity and nature. The case study presented was not only worth appreciating but a message which needs to be adopted by others.



Shri. N. Vasudevan, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Mangrove Cell, Mumbai during the seminar on “Best Practices on Sustainable Tourism”.

The first session after Post lunch was by **Shri. N. Vasudevan, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Mangrove Cell, Mumbai** on the topic **“Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Coastal belt of Maharashtra”** highlighting the interventions carried by Mangrove Cell, Forest Department, and Government of Maharashtra run by women for tourists to discover mangrove habitats, its associated biodiversity and familiarising with local traditions, culture and rituals in an afford to promote sustainable tourism successfully.



Shri. Gurharminder Singh, Senior Scientific Officer, Punjab State Biodiversity Board (PSBB) during the seminar on “Best Practices on Sustainable Tourism”.

Shri. Gurharminder Singh, Senior Scientific Officer, Punjab State Biodiversity Board (PSBB) presented the topic on **“Biodiversity and Sustainable tourism with reference to Kaya Kalp Vriksh (Great Banyan tree) and Keshopur wetland”** and focused on the initiatives taken by Punjab Biodiversity Board for conservation and promotion of Banyan which supports the existence of a large number of key species and tried to spread a positive message ‘Caring Pays’. In his next presentation on “Conservation of 1st Community Reserve of India ‘Keshopur Wetland’ as Ecotourism site”, he elaborated on the initiatives taken to facilitate the local communities for livelihood generation to reduce their dependence on wetland resources and also site popularisation among schools and colleges for education & sightseeing.



Shri. Kingzong Bhutia, Sikkim during the seminar on “Best Practices on Sustainable Tourism”.

Shri. Kingzong Bhutia, Sikkim gave a brief presentation on **“Strengthening Sikkim Himalayan Home Stays”**, where by income and employment generation opportunities are undertaken not only by sustainability but also restoration measures. Not just ban on fuel wood use, plastic bag, grazing ban but one finds complete mineral water ban in Gurudongmar lake in north Sikkim along with 80% park fees to be given to Eco-development committees.



Shri. Jigmet Takpa, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir during seminar on “Best Practices on Sustainable Tourism”.

Shri. Jigmet Takpa, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir focused on the issues and challenges associated with biodiversity conservation in Ladakh due to degradation of natural resources through competition for fodder conflicts between humans, livestock and wildlife depending on same natural resources. He revealed how the issues were tackled by identifying the opportunities for livelihood improvement by incorporating micro-level planning and vision document 2025 for conservation with the help of local communities of Ladakh.



Shri. Kapil Paigankar, Deputy General Manager, Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC), Govt. of Goa during seminar on “Best Practices on Sustainable Tourism”.

The final presentation of the Seminar was by **Shri. Kapil Paigankar, Deputy General Manager Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC), Govt. of Goa** briefed on the

Sustainable Tourism initiatives taken up by the Goa Tourism Development. He informed about the proposed Goa Tourism Master plan and the key strategies involved. Thereafter, he concluded with information on (GTDC).

Shri. Saish Deshpande, Abhivyaktee, Panaji compered the entire program including the seminar and cultural event.

The seminar was attended by Officials from UNDP, MoEFCC & NBA; Goa State Biodiversity Board Members; Biodiversity Management Committee members; Officers from Government Departments; Non- Government Organization members; Academicians; Technical Support Groups from Goa; other State Biodiversity Board, Students; Biodiversity enthusiasts and public.

Session 3: Cultural Evening

Cultural Event was presented by Groups from Goa from the Department of Arts & Culture, Government of Goa, which showcased a number of **Goan folk dances and cultural and traditional programs of dance and music to the visiting delegates.**

National Seminar on “Biodiversity, Legal framework and related aspects” by National reputed speakers at extended program of IDB 2017 on 23rd May 2017.

Session 1: Inaugural Session on 23rd May 2017.

Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) extended celebration of “International day for Biological Diversity 2017” on 23rd May 2017 at “International Centre Goa” (ICG), Dona Paula, Goa which was held in the distinguished presence of **Dr. Amita Prasad** Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India; **Dr. B. Meenakumari**, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA); **Dr. Ranbir Singh**, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Goa; **Dr. M. K. Ramesh**, National Law School of India University, Bangalore;. and **Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam**, Member Secretary GSBB.

The seminar was appreciated by the audience which comprised of Officials from UNDP, MoEFCC & NBA; Goa State Biodiversity Board Members; Biodiversity Management Committee members; Officers from Government Departments; Non- Government Organization members; Industrial Representatives from various industries; Academicians, Technical Support Groups from Goa; other State Biodiversity Boards; Students; Biodiversity enthusiasts and public.



Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC, Government of India lighting the traditional lamp to mark the inauguration of “National Seminar on “Biodiversity, Legal framework and related aspects” by National reputed speakers” of IDB on 23rd May 2017 also present from left to right Hon’ble. Justice Bakre, Chairperson Legal Advisory Group (LAG), GSBB; Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA; Dr.

M.K. Ramesh, National Law School of India University, Bangalore; Dr. Sujata Arora, Adviser/ Scientist 'G', MoEFCC and Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary GSBB.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the traditional lamp followed by presentation of basket of fruits to the dignitaries on the dais. Thereafter, **Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary GSBB** welcomed the gathering to the National Seminar on “**Biodiversity, Legal framework and related aspects**” by reputed speakers. He urged the small gathering of intellectuals to make the cause of the meeting successful.



Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC addressing the gathering.

Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC, in her address briefed on the key aspects of Biodiversity conservation in free and colonial India, Legal framework and pillars of Biodiversity conservation stressing on Access and Benefit sharing. She emphasized on the trust deficient issues and need for transparency by various stakeholders. She informed the relevance of making online resources most people friendly and importance of publicizing available resources. She requested to create information if there is no information rather than giving wrong information. She said people are hungry for information and hence there is a need to make resources and information available to public not only to ponder upon but also take up responsibility. **Dr. Amita Prasad** was felicitated by **Hon'ble. Justice Bakre**, Chairperson Legal Advisory Group (LAG), GSBB.

Session I:



Dr. M.K. Ramesh, National Law School of India University, Bangalore during the seminar.

Dr. M.K. Ramesh, National Law School of India University, Bangalore took the first session. He was introduced to the gathering by Dr. Ishwar C. Poojar, Project Manager - UNEP-GEF-MoEF ABS Programme, (NBA). Dr. M. K. Ramesh presented on the topic **“Biodiversity Act, Rules and Legal Framework for Biodiversity in India”**. He stressed that safeguarding of biodiversity forms background for systematization of legal norms. He mentioned the uniqueness of the Biodiversity laws which unlike other laws can be easily understood and practiced by all sectors of community without thorough knowledge and advice by law experts. The law not only includes horizontal (present), but also the vertical time dimensions (past and future). He said Piracy and loss of biodiversity are two main diseases experienced in the present scenario. He tried to disseminate every aspect related to Biodiversity laws. He put a limelight on Access and Benefit sharing and quoted, “Put Biological resources to use but not overuse”. He indicated that one should not go by perception but look at facts. **Dr. M. K. Ramesh** was also felicitated by **Hon’ble. Justice Bakre**, Chairperson LAG, GSBB.



Hon'ble. Justice Bakre, Chairperson LAG, GSBB presenting memento to Dr. M. K. Ramesh.

Session II:



Dr. Sanjay Molur, Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu during the seminar.

Dr. Sanjay Molur, Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu spoke on the “**Importance of documentation of Biodiversity (making PBRs)**”. He was introduced to the gathering by **Smt. Reshma Kerkar, Scientific cum Administrative Officer (SAO), GSBB**. Dr. Sanjay Molur had a very informative session which was very interactive too. He focused on five key concepts of Assessment, Networking, Capacity building and Education. He lamented that Biodiversity is often considered as low priority entity. He highlighted that

education is a key driving factor. Knowledge is the key to any kind of change spot lighting the case study of Nagaland where Kids and children are trained in identifying, documenting and analysing data of Biodiversity in their area which is done with curiosity and interest. This has not only created data base but investing in the younger generation has created lot of awareness about biodiversity conservation in practice. This practice has gone a further step where children have inculcated the habit of writing and publishing biodiversity data creating records. These are some of the successful stories for others not only to speak but follow. He finally urged the participants, NBA and State Biodiversity Board to take lead and come on board by adopting best conservation practices. **Dr. Sanjay Molur** was felicitated by **Dr. Ranbir Singh**, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Goa.



Members of Audience interacting with Dr. Sanjay Molur.



Dr. Ranbir Singh, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Goa presenting memento to Dr. Sanjay Molur.

Session III:



Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA during the seminar.

Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA spoke a brief about “**Access and Benefit Sharing- Experience and Challenges**”. She was introduced to the gathering by **Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas, Former Scientist, National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Expert Member, GSBB**. Dr. B. Meenakumari, expressed her concern that Taxonomists are become endangered species and there is a fall for job opportunities. She explained the ABS mechanism and components involved along with categories of ABS applications. She expressed the challenges in the way of ABS and suggested some ways forward like Interacting between SBBs & stakeholders. Awareness programs on protecting bio-resources, providing incentives for propagating bio-resources, intensifying stakeholder engagements with sector-specific training programs and monitoring, accounting ICT platforms in application procedures can be some of the few steps. She finally gave a vision of negative impacts and adopting the positive drivers for Biodiversity preservation and conservation. **Dr. B. Meenakumari** was felicitated by **Dr. Arvind Untawale, Former Scientist, NIO**.



Dr. Arvind Untawale, Former NIO Scientist presenting memento to Dr. B. Meenakumari.

Session IV:



Dr. Nandakumar Kamat (Environmentalism), Assistant Professor, Goa University during the seminar.

The Post lunch session was presented by **Dr. Nandakumar Kamat (Environmentalism), Assistant Professor, Goa University** spoke on “**Roadmap ahead**” in terms of Biodiversity, conservation and sustainable tourism. He was introduced to the gathering by **Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB**. He started his presentation with a video highlighting the dimensions of our existence as living entities. He insisted on the kinds of tourists and the kinds of visits we expect and an urgent need to first study the structure, kind

and aspects related to tourism. He posed many questions to initiate the interaction, as follows: what are Roadmaps? For whom? Who are the stakeholders and role players? Who is really interested in 'enjoying' biodiversity? He pinpointed the concept of targeting 'Biophilic tourist' and need of holistic, integrated and knowledge based roadmaps useful to BMCs. He suggested need of a series of GIS, GPS based village and town biodiversity maps illustrating local ecosystems, habitats, species and gene pools and information on Agro-biodiversity, Sacred groves etc. on which tourism products and services can be planned at micro level.

In the limelight of linking biodiversity to tourism there is an urgent requisition for policies, strategies and action plans which are ecosystem, species and genome specific. Goa lacks focused tourism and eco-tourism policies. He proposed out the 'Goa material-spiritual (GOMASPI) knowledge based model' for sustainable ecotourism. Finally, he suggested a master plan where the Government of India directs NBA to prepare National policy, Strategy Action Plan to link biodiversity to tourism along with special plan for Western Ghats. State Biodiversity Boards to prepare State level policy and plans. Microlevel BMCs to prepare community based plans for biodiversity linked sustainable tourism. Each BMC to identify and develop at least one biodiversity linked tourism product or service. All BMCs within single ecosystem could develop a common strategy and action plan and finally IT enabled and knowledge based marketing of BMC sponsored sustainable tourism plans could be implemented. **Dr. Nandakumar Kamat** was felicitated by **Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas, Former Scientist, National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Expert Member, GSBB.**



Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas presenting memento to Dr. Nandakumar Kamat

All the session was followed briefly by interaction from the participants. **Hon'ble Principal Secretary, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Goa Dr. Ranbir Singh**, moderated the sessions and created a bridge between the participants and presenters. Queries from the participants were satisfactorily answered by the presenters.



Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA presenting Certificate and memento to winner of IDB, 2017 Poster Competition (Senior Category) Miss. Aditi Naik.

The Programme concluded with the valedictory function and felicitation of prize winners of the IDB 2017 State Competitions as well as awarding Certificates to participants by dignitaries from State Government; Central Government; NBA; Photojournalists Association of Goa (PJAG).

The First winners of the Elocution Competitions (Senior and Junior Category) were given the opportunity to present their speech.

Smt. Reshma Kerkar, Scientific cum Administrative Officer compered the seminar.

The program concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by **Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB.**

