



Government of Goa
Office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Department
Goa Van Bhawan, Old IPHB Complex;
Altinho, Panaji Goa - 403 001



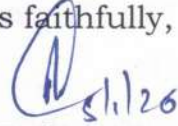
No.5-43/Tree Authority Correspondence/VOL-IV/25-26/FD/4156 Dated:-05/01/2026

To,
The Dy. Conservator of Forests,
North / South Goa Division,
Ponda / Margao - Goa.

Sub:- Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Tree Authority held on 2nd December 2025 at 5.00 p.m. in the Conference Hall, Secretariat, Porvorim.

Find enclosed herewith the Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Tree Authority held under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. Candavelou , IAS, Chief Secretary on 2nd December 2025 for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


Aditya Madanpotra, IFS
Dy. Conservator of Forests
Planning & Statistics

Encl :As above.

To,

1. Shri. Rajesh Phaldesai, Hon'ble MLA Cumbharjua Constituency, Tiswadi - Goa.
2. Dr. Deviya Rane, Hon'ble MLA Poriem Constituency, Valpoi - Goa.
3. Shri. Pravin Arlekar, Hon'ble MLA Pernem Constituency, Pernem - Goa.
4. Dr. Chandrakant Shetye, Hon'ble MLA Bicholim Constituency, Bicholim-Goa.
5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Altinho, Panaji - Goa.
6. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Forests Department, Altinho, Panaji - Goa.
7. The Secretary (Urban Development), Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa.
8. The Secretary (Revenue), Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa.
9. The Secretary (Panchayat), Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa.
10. Shri. Anil Katkar, Councilor, Valpoi Municipal Council, Valpoi.
11. Shri. Sagun Wadkar, Zilla Panchayat Member, North Goa.
12. The Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Saligao, Bardez Goa.
13. The District Collector (North), Special invitee.

14. The District Collector (South), Special invitee.

Copy to:

The P.S. to Chief Secretary, Secretariat, Porvorim Goa, for information of Chief Secretary.

Copy also to:

1. The Principal Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Altinho, Panaji – Goa.
2. The Managing Director, Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation, Panaji – Goa.
3. The Chief Officer, Bicholim Municipal Council, Bicholim Goa.
4. The Director (IT), Dept. of Information & Technology, IT Hub, Altinho – Panaji Goa
5. The Director (Admn.), Goa Medical College & Hospital, Bambolim – Goa
6. The Dy. Collector & SDO Bicholim, Sub-Division, Bicholim Goa
7. The Director, Directorate of Civil Aviation, Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa
8. The General Manager (Project), Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, Margao Goa.
9. The Commander Works Officer, for Commanding Officer, INS Mandovi, Verem Goa.
10. Shri Nitin Agarwal, Authorized Signatory Goa Tamnar Transmission Project Limited, D.B. Marg, Miramar, Panaji – Goa.
11. Shri Yatin G. Kakodkar, Alto Porvorim, Bardez –Goa.
12. The Maj, OIC, NFS Comdt., Bambolim, Tiswadi Goa.
13. The Managing Director, GTDC, Patto, Panaji – Goa.
14. The Member Secretary, Greater Panaji Planning and Development Authority, Panaji –Goa,
15. The Quartermaster, For Commanding Officer, 6 Technical Training Regiment, 2 Signal Training Centre, Ponda – Goa
16. The Director, Department of Tourism, Paryatan Bhavan, Patto, Panaji – Goa

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Goa Tree Authority held on 02-12-2025 at 5:00 P.M. under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Goa

The list of participants is at Annexure "A".

The Chairperson, Goa Tree Authority welcoming the members called upon the Member Secretary to brief the Committee regarding the agenda.

The Member Secretary apprised the Committee about the present status and progress made on the recommendations made by the Tree Authority in its 9th meeting, as shown below:

Sl. No.	Recommendations made by the Tree Authority in the 9 th meeting	Current Status
1	Permission to fell 97 trees at Chimbél Village, North Goa for Construction of Unity Mall GOA for promotion of Skill India, Make in India and One District One Product venture of GoI.	Felling permission order issued by DCF (North) with condition to replant 291 tall saplings and to undertake translocation as recommended by Tree Authority and approved by the Government of Goa.
2	Permission to fell 1449 trees at Tivim village, North Goa Construction of MIT - World Peace University Campus for MAEER	Felling permission order issued for only 535 trees by DCF (North) with condition to replant 1605 tall saplings and to undertake translocation as suggested by Tree Authority and approved by the Government of Goa.
3	Permission to fell 195 trees at Bandora village, Farmagudi, South Goa Development of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum at Farmagudi in Ponda Goa.	Felling permission order issued by DCF (North) with condition to replant 585 tall saplings and to undertake Translocation as suggested by Tree authority.

AGENDA 1: Hon'ble High Court order dated 16 Oct 2025 on functioning of Tree Authority in PIL WP 15/2024 (Aaron Victor Fernandes ors vs the State of Goa and others)



The authority members were apprised of a recent Hon'ble HC order dated 16th October 2025, in which the criteria for recommending the various projects by the Tree Authority has been succinctly delineated and laid out by the Hon'ble court. It was apprised that the Hon'ble court has clearly mentioned all the factors being and to be assessed by the Committee so that no tree is cut without necessary and proper justification in larger public interest. It says that the Tree Authority, in order to scrutinize the proposals involving tree felling, shall require the Applicant/ Department/ User Agency to submit the following

- i) A detailed report of assessment of trees that are likely to be affected by the project, with details such as number of trees, species, enumeration data, details of trees having local/religious significance or other trees which can be translocated, etc.
- ii) Replantation plan containing the details of the property/properties to be used for replantation, including the survey number and the village, species proposed and timelines.
- iii) The area proposed for replantation, marked on the Survey Plan.
- iv) If any trees are proposed for translocation, the agency which will carry out the translocation exercise, with the methodology to be used for translocation and the property where the tree(s) will be translocated.
- v) An undertaking for taking up replantation of saplings in terms of the permission.
- vi) An undertaking for maintenance of the saplings for a minimum period of five years.
- vii) Security deposit amount to be deposited towards the Tree Protection Fund constituted in terms of Sec. 35-A of the Act.

After the proposal is received, the same shall be scrutinized by the Tree Authority. The critical study shall include scrutiny of the report submitted by the applicant, the need for cutting the trees proposed, whether it is possible to save any trees from felling, whether translocation can be permitted of any of the trees having local/religious significance, and only if the felling is found necessary and recommended, the permission for felling can be granted.

The permission shall state the number of trees to be replanted/translocated, the property/properties where the replantation/translocation will be done, the type of species to be used for replantation, the timeline for the replantation, etc. The permission shall contain all the necessary conditions, including conditions as regards maintenance of the saplings for a minimum period of five years.



Annual verification shall be carried out by the Forest Department to verify the exercise of replantation and maintenance.

Requests for refund of the security deposit shall not be entertained until the replantation exercise as well as the maintenance is done for the minimum period of five years.

If the replantation and maintenance exercise is not completed in terms of the permission, the Security Deposit shall be forfeited and the amounts should be utilized for replantation and maintenance, to be carried out by the Forest Department, as per the directions of the Tree Authority, on the land to be provided by the applicant/user agency/department concerned.

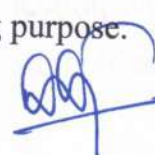
Further, if there is default by any private party/ concerned sub-division of the Department, which is granted permission, in carrying out the replantation and maintenance, the Forest Department should not grant any new permission to such private party/sub-division of the concerned Department, unless there is compliance in respect of the earlier permissions, to the satisfaction of the Forest Department. However, in exceptional cases, where overwhelming public interest requires the permission to be granted despite the earlier replantation not being completed by that sub-division, the permission may be granted to that sub-division/ Department provided a proper plan of action and undertaking, with additional security deposit, is furnished to complete the replantation work required to be done in terms of the earlier permission.

Decision: The Chairman desired that the order of Hon'ble High court be circulated to all the project proponents and Tree Officers for necessary compliance.

AGENDA 2:

Permission to fell 477 trees from PWD acquired land for widening of road from end of approaches, Cortalim to start at Margao Bypass, Verna by EE, Works Division XIV(NH), Fatorda.

The project proponent presented their proposal to the Committee members and justified the requirement of felling of 477 trees, so as to secure widening of road to the Margao bypass. Project proponent apprised that the land available at median and sides of the road will be used for replanting purpose.



The DCF (South) has recommended the proposal of felling 477 number of trees and suggested for translocation of at least 10% of the trees depending upon the feasibility and species involved.

Decision: After detailed discussion, the following decisions were taken,

- i. That a joint committee consisting of Goa State Biodiversity Board, (GSBB), Forest Department and PWD would inspect project site and recommend number of trees suitable for translocation out of 477 numbers of trees proposed for felling.
 - ii. The project proponent shall ensure planting of trees three times in lieu of trees permitted to be felled, which shall be in addition to the plantation to be undertaken by PWD in median and road sides as per the mandatory requirements of NHAI guidelines. The species of trees to be planted be decided in consultation with Forest Department and Goa State Biodiversity Board, based on the area of planting.
 - iii. It shall be ensured by the project proponent that the directions of the Hon'ble High Court dated 16.10.25 in PIL WP 15/2024 are strictly complied with. All the documents, plan, undertaking fees etc. as per the aforesaid High Court order be submitted / furnished by the project proponent.
 - iv. Project proponent shall translocate trees as per the recommendation of joint committee of GSBB and the Forest Department.
 - v. The project proponent shall carry out planting of only indigenous mixed tree species suitable to the site selected for planting. A geotagged accounting of the trees planted in lieu of trees felled shall be maintained for the purpose of monitoring by the Forest Department.
 - vi. During felling of trees, special care shall be taken by the project proponent to ensure that no wildlife is harmed or injured in anyway, including their nests and young-ones.
 - vii. The project proponent shall pay security deposit, maintain the saplings planted, at their own cost and management, over a period of five years from the year of planting.
- 2. Application to fell 1918 nos. trees from PWD acquired land for widening of NH-66 to 4/6 lane from end of Margao Western Bypass, Navelim to Uskini Bandh, Cuncolim by EE, Works Division XIV(NH), Fatorda.**

The project proponent presented their proposal to the Committee members and justified the requirement of felling of 1918 trees so as to widen NH-66 from four



lane to six lane from end of Margao Western Bypass, Navelim to Uskini Bandh, Cuncolim.

The DCF (South) has recommended the proposal of felling 1918 number of trees and suggested for translocation of about 10% of the trees depending upon the feasibility and species involved.

Decision: After detailed discussion, the following decisions were taken,

- i. That a joint committee consisting of Goa State Biodiversity Board, (GSBB), Forest Department and PWD would inspect project site and recommend number of trees suitable for translocation out of 1918 numbers of trees proposed for felling.
- ii. The project proponent shall ensure planting of trees three times in lieu of trees permitted to be felled, which shall be in addition to the plantation to be undertaken by PWD in median and road sides as per the mandatory requirements of NHAI guidelines. The species of trees to be planted be decided in consultation with Forest Department and Goa State Biodiversity Board, based on the area of planting.
- iii. It shall be ensured by the project proponent that the directions of the Hon'ble High Court dated 16.10.25 in PIL WP 15/2024 are strictly complied with. All the documents, plan, undertaking fees etc. as per the aforesaid High Court order be submitted / furnished by the project proponent.
- iv. Project proponent shall translocate trees as per the recommendation of joint committee of GSBB and the Forest Department.
- v. The project proponent shall carry out planting of only indigenous mixed tree species suitable to the site selected for planting. A geotagged accounting of the trees planted in lieu of trees felled shall be maintained for the purpose of monitoring by the Forest Department.
- vi. During felling of trees, special care shall be taken by the project proponent to ensure that no wildlife is harmed or injured in anyway, including their nests and young-ones.
- vii. The project proponent shall pay security deposit, maintain the saplings planted, at their own cost and management, over a period of five years from the year of planting.

AGENDA 3: REVIEW OF PLANTING OF TREES BY VARIOUS AGENCIES AGAINST TREE FELLING PERMISSIONS GIVEN IN LAST 5 YEARS

As was directed by the Chair in the 9th meeting, list of all the major agencies/Departments, which had a pendency towards planting trees in lieu of felling



permissions granted to them by the State Government over the past 5 years, has been deliberated. The Committee was appraised about the status of pendency as on date as below,

Sr. No.	Name of the User Agency / Address	Replantation pending (in no's)		Total (in no's)
		North Forest Division	South Forest Division	
1	The Principal Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Altinho, Panaji – Goa	33315	408	33723
2.	The General Manager, Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation, Panaji – Goa.	825	96	921
3	The Commander Works Officer, For Commanding Officer, INS Mandovi Verem, Goa	1137		1137
4.	Shri Yatin G. Kakodkar, r/o Post Office, Alto Porvorim, Bardez Goa	381		381
5.	The General Manager, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, Block A, 3 rd Floor, 1L and L Building, Near Matany Saldanha, Administrative Building, Margao Goa	666	972	1638
6	The Chief Officer, Bicholim Municipal Council, Bicholim Goa	183		183
7	The Maj, OIC, NFS Comdt., Bambolim Tiswadi Goa	177		177
8	The Executive Engineer, Project Cell; GTDC, Patto Panaji - Goa	291		291
9	The Director (IT), Department of Information Technology, 2nd Floor, IT Hub, Altinho, Panaji Goa	360		360
10	The Director (Admn), Goa Medical College & Hospitals, Bambolim – Goa	240		240
11	The Member Secretary, Greater Panaji Planning and Development Authority, Panaji –Goa.	207		207

12	The Director, Director of Civil Aviation, Room No. 19 Secretariat, Porvorim Goa	450		450
13	The Dy. Collector & SDO, Bicholim Sub Division Office, Bicholim Goa	450		450
14	Shri Nitin Agarwal, Authorized Signatory Goa Tamnar Transmission Project Limited, DB Marg, Miramar, Panaji – Goa.	282	445	727
15	The Quartermaster, For Commanding Officer, 6 Technical Training Regiment, 2 Signal Training Centre, Ponda – Goa	459		459
16	The Director, Department of Tourism, Paryatan Bhavan, Patto, Panaji – Goa	585		585
17	Mr. Laxman Badime, Maharashtra Academy of Engineering and Educational Research, MIT Group of Institutions, Pune (MAEER), S.No.124, Pune Maharashtra	1605		1605
	Total	41613	3382	44995

Further, as was directed in the previous meeting of the Authority, the matter of pendency of planting works of PWD in particular was also reviewed. The status as on date is as detailed below,

Sl. No.	Division of PWD	Pendency (in no's).	Forest Division
1	The Executive Engineer, Works Division-I, PWD, Panaji Goa	339	North Division
2	The Assistant Engineer-IV, S.D. IV, W.D.-III (PHE-North), PWD, Daag, Ponda-Goa	198	North Division
3	The Executive Engineer, Works Division-VII(NH), PWD, Panaji Goa	6801	North Division
4	The Assistant Engineer-IV, S.D. IV, W.D.-III (PHE-North), PWD, Daag, Ponda-Goa	744	North Division
5	The Executive Engineer, Works Division-VII(NH), PWD, Panaji Goa	186	North Division
6	The Assistant Engineer-I, S.D. I, W.D.-XV(NH), Daag, Ponda-Goa	438	North Division

7	The Executive Engineer, Works Division-VII(NH), PWD, Ground Floor, Junta House, Panaji Goa	21654	North Division
8	The Executive Engineer, Works Division-VII(NH), PWD, Mapusa Goa	1836	North Division
9	The Executive Engineer, Works Division-VII(NH), PWD, Panaji Goa	1119	North Division
10	The Executive Engineer, WD-VI, PWD, Fatorda Margao Goa	408	South Division
	Total	33723	

Decision: After detailed deliberations, the following decisions were taken by the authority:

i. The DCF concerned to provide list of planting pendency against specific projects of each of the PWD divisions along with all requisite details to PCE, PWD for follow up action.

ii. The DCF concerned shall circulate latest pendency details to respective user agencies / project proponents for enabling them to submit reconciled statement and timeline for accomplishment of clearing the planting pendency.

iii. All user agencies / project proponents against whom the planting pendency is shown, shall provide details of planting location and other essential details to DCF concerned within a fortnight for ensuring compliance to Hon'ble High Court order.

iv. It was reiterated that in pursuance to the direction of Hon'ble High Court, any non-compliance to the terms and conditions stipulated by Tree Authority can lead to adverse ramification against the user agency/project proponent concerned while considering their future proposals.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.


(NAVEEN KUMAR, IFS)
 CF (Conservation) &
 Member Secretary (Tree Authority)

**ATTENDEES OF THE MEETING OF THE TREE AUTHORITY HELD ON
02-12-2025 AT 5.00 P.M. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE
CHIEF SECRETARY, GOA.**

1.	Sh Candavelou. V	Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary (Forests)	Chairman
2.	Sh Kamal Datta	Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Altinho Panaji – Goa.	Member
3.	Sh Ramesh Kumar	Add. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Chief Wildlife Warden	Member
4.	Sh Sandip Jacques	Commissioner Cum Secretary (Revenue) Secretariat, Porvorim – Goa	Commissioner Cum Secretary (Revenue), Secretariat, Porvorim – Goa
5.	Sh Yetindra M. Maralkar	Secretary (Urban), Secretariat, Porvorim – Goa	Secretary (Urban), Secretariat, Porvorim – Goa
6.	Ms Cheshta Yadav	Secretary (Panchayat) Secretariat, Porvorim – Goa	Secretary (Panchayat) Secretariat, Porvorim – Goa
7.	Dr. Pradeep V. Sarmokadam	Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Saligao Bardez Goa.	Member
8.	Sh Sagun Wadkar	Zilla Panchayat Member	Zilla Panchayat Member
9.	Sh Naveen Kumar	Conservator of Forest (Conservation)	Member Secretary
10.	Sh Ankit Yadav	Collector & District Magistrate, North Goa	Special Invitees
11.	Ms Eгна Cleetus	Collector & District Magistrate, South Goa	Special Invitees
12.	Shri. Jiss K. Varkey	Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division	Special Invitees
13.	Shri. Santosh Kumar Reddy	Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division	Special Invitees