

# Indian Forest Service Benevolent and Welfare Trust

Standing with Green Warriors  
e-Newsletter | Vol. 4 | May 2026

## The Month the Trust Went Public — May 2026 in Review

May 2026 was the Trust's most public month since its revival. Within a single week, the Trust held a webinar for the forestry associations of the States and Union Territories (May 23, 2026), convened the first General Body Meeting of the Trust (May 24, 2026), and addressed the press at the Press Club of India (May 26, 2026). The month also marked the Trust's two major acts of assistance under its widened mandate—one, support to the family of a Forest Guard of Madhya Pradesh who lost his life in the line of duty, and two, financial assistance for Thiru S Radhakrishnan, ACF, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore who got seriously injured in the line of duty and presently undergoing emergency treatment in a hospital in Coimbatore—alongside steady contributions from the forestry fraternity and well-wishers.

## ◆ Three Events in One Week

<b>Webinar</b> <i>May 23, 2026</i>	Office bearers of forestry associations across all four cadres—Frontline Field Staff, Forest Range Officers, State Forest Service officers and Indian Forest Service officers — were apprised of the Trust's objectives, activities and modes of contribution. Their cooperation was sought in the timely identification and submission of beneficiary cases. The President shared the scope and status of the Trust's activities through a PowerPoint presentation.
<b>First General Body Meeting</b> <i>May 24, 2026</i>	Held online and chaired by the President, who presented the Trust's expanded mandate, governance framework and milestones since revival. Members offered suggestions spanning governance, policy standardisation, beneficiary-assistance guidelines, financial mobilisation and digital outreach. The Governing Body (GB) will evaluate the feedback and integrate feasible proposals.
<b>Press Conference</b> <i>May 26, 2026</i>	Held at the Press Club of India, New Delhi, with ten journalists from the print and electronic media. The purpose was to create awareness among stakeholders and civil society about the objectives and functioning of the Trust.

## ◆ Standing By a Fallen Forester

### Assistance to the family of late Shri Harikesh Singh Gurjar, Forest Guard, Morena, MP

At its fifth meeting on May 7, 2026, the GB considered the case of the late Shri Harikesh Singh Gurjar, who lost his life in the line of duty on April 8, 2026 while attempting, with his team, to intercept an unregistered sand-laden tractor of the mining mafia. On the recommendation of the Committee for Scrutiny and Evaluation of Proposals (CSEP), and on the certification of the PCCF (HoFF) that he had fallen in the line of duty without fault, the GB resolved to extend assistance to the bereaved family—over and above the ex-gratia of the State Government.



Financial relief was released to the family without delay, and a dedicated provision was made for the higher education of his young daughter through a LIC policy initiated in her name. The PCCF (HoFF), MP and the DFO concerned were informed of the assistance. This was the first beneficiary case taken up by the Trust under its widened mandate.

## ◆ Governance and Key Decisions

### Fifth Meeting · Governing Body

May 7, 2026 | Virtual

- Assistance approved for the family of a FG of MP (see above).
- CSEP to frame Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines for processing future cases.
- Mechanisms agreed to ensure complete proposals reach the Trust quickly after an incident.
- Trust to write to the Hon'ble Minister, MoEFCC, urging parity between police and forestry personnel in line-of-duty compensation, citing the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka precedent.

### Sixth Meeting · Governing Body

May 21, 2026 | Virtual

- Preparations for the webinar, the first General Body Meeting and the press conference were reviewed and finalised.
- State/UT Coordinators nominated: Mr. Ankit Singh (JHK:2017) for Jharkhand; Mr. Pradyumn Gaurav (BH:2016) for Bihar; Mr. Anil Ganeriwala (SK:1986) for Sikkim.
- A dedicated WhatsApp group of all State/UT Coordinators to be created.
- A three-member committee to scrutinise the credentials of institutions before they are approached for contributions.
- Provision for an online contribution-and-receipt facility to be explored at nil or nominal charges to the payment gateway and a Suggestions Box to be added to *foresttrust.in*.
- A proposal to be sent to MoEFCC to recognise contributions to the Trust within CSR for environment, forest and wildlife conservation.

## ◆ Outreach to Institutions

Acting on the GB's decision to broaden its base of support, the President addressed letters to the Chairmen and Managing Directors (MDs) of major Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs)—among them the NHA and BHEL—seeking lead contributions towards a sustainable corpus, each accompanied by a Note on the Trust. In all such communications, the Trust has stated candidly that its registrations under sections 12A and 80G of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and under Form CSR-1 are presently in progress, and that the particulars will be conveyed to donors as soon as they are received.

## ◆ Trust Corpus – May Highlights

73

Donors in May 2026

₹7.43 L

Contributions in May 2026

03

Events held

Together with the contributions of earlier months, so far 345+ donors (*a few of them donated more than once*) have contributed ₹16+ lakh, the corpus has continued to grow steadily since the revival of the Trust in January 2026 – a measure of the confidence the forestry fraternity and well-wishers place in its mandate.

## ◆ Milestones – May 2026

May 6, 2026

The President writes to the Chairmen and MDs of major CPSUs— including the NHA, BHEL and NHPC—seeking lead contributions toward a sustainable corpus.

May 7, 2026

Fifth meeting of the GB. Assistance approved for the family of late Shri Harikesh Singh Gurjar, FG, Morena (MP).

May 14, 2026

A LIC policy initiated in the name of the late FG's daughter for her higher education.

May 15, 2026

Appeal for support addressed to the Hemendra Kothari Foundation.

May 21, 2026

Sixth meeting of the GB. Public events finalised; new State Coordinators nominated for Jharkhand, Bihar and Sikkim.

May 23, 2026

Webinar with the State/UT forestry associations across all four cadres.

<b>May 24, 2026</b>	A WhatsApp group has been created for state/UT coordinators for the exchange of information about the activities of the trust.
<b>May 24, 2026</b>	First General Body Meeting of the Trust.
<b>May 26, 2026</b>	Press conference at the Press Club of India, New Delhi, with ten journalists from the print and electronic media.
<b>May 27, 2026</b>	Application for seeking income tax exemption under sections 332 and 354 of the new Income Tax Act, 2025 have been submitted.
<b>May 29, 2026</b>	The Trust has been registered under NPODARPAN of the NITI Aayog for seeking funding from the Government.
<b>May 30, 2026</b>	Released financial assistance of ₹ two lakh for emergency treatment of Thiru S. Radhakrishnan, ACF, TN Forest Academy, Coimbatore, who got seriously injured while on duty.

## ◆ On the Horizon — June 2026

- SOPs and guidelines for processing beneficiary proposals to be finalised by the CSEP and the GB.
- Letter to the Hon'ble Minister, MoEFCC to be pursued—urging implementation of the Keshav Varma Committee report on “improving and strengthening the working conditions of forest frontline staff”, compensation parity for forestry personnel at par with other uniformed services, and recognition of forestry-welfare contributions as eligible CSR activity.
- State/UT Coordinator network to be expanded.
- Online contribution-and-receipt facility and the Suggestions Box to go live on *foresttrust.in*.
- Continued outreach to institutional and corporate well-wishers.

## ◆ Support the Cause

### Contribute to the Trust Corpus

**UPI ID:** ifsbwt@sbi    **Account No.:** 30454625682

**Account Name:** Indian Forest Service Benevolent and Welfare Trust

**Bank & Branch:** State Bank of India, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi    **PAN:** AACTI5925J

*Payments accepted via UPI · BHIM · Net Banking · Google Pay · PhonePe · Paytm*

*Earmarked donations for specific cases are transferred in full to the named beneficiary family. The Trust acts as a facilitating agency and retains nothing.*

## IFSBWT

*Honouring the sacrifices of foresters and standing by their families*

Indian Forest Service Officers · State Forest Service Officers · Forest Range Officers · All Frontline Forestry Field Personnel