

A Dormant Trust Reawakens – and This Time, for Every Forest Guardian

After more than a decade of inactivity, the Indian Forest Service Benevolent and Welfare Trust (IFSBWT) has been decisively revived with an expanded mandate – standing not just for IFS officers, but for **every frontline warrior who protects India's forests**, right down to the forest watcher level.

◆ OUR STORY

Born from Tragedy, Revived with Purpose.

The IFSBWT was originally registered on July 22, 2008 under the Registration Act, 1908, by IFS officers serving at the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC), New Delhi. It was triggered by the untimely death of an IFS officer that left his family in severe financial distress – a situation that moved colleagues into collective action.

The Trust functioned for about a year, then fell dormant after 2009 as some of the Trustees got transferred, making coordination impossible. For over a decade, the small corpus – built from voluntary contributions – could not grow further and sat in a bank account.

In January 2026, the tragedy of Shri Jitendra Singh Shekhawat, a Forest Guard who lost his life fighting illegal sand mining in Dholpur, Rajasthan, rekindled the resolve of the Trustees. The Trust has now been revived – and this time, it is built to last.

In Memoriam: Shri Jitendra Singh Shekhawat

Forest Guard, Rajasthan Forest Department – martyred on **7 January 2026** in the line of duty while combating illegal sand mining in Dholpur District, Rajasthan. His family was among the first beneficiaries of the revived Trust – a cheque of **₹1,35,000** was handed over on February 11, 2026 by DCF, Alwar on behalf of the Trust.



• **OUR MISSION**

What the Revived Trust Stands For

The amended Trust Deed now has three clear objectives that reflect the ground realities of forest protection in India:



Death in Line of Duty

Financial assistance to bereaved families of IFS officers, SFS officers, Forest Range Officers and all subordinate forestry field personnel who die while performing their duties.



Serious Injury or Illness

Financial assistance to officers and personnel who suffer serious injuries, disabilities, or critical illnesses while performing their duties.



Welfare of Families

Any other welfare activity for families of officers and all subordinate forestry field personnel as decided by the Trustees from time to time.



Who is Covered?

IFS Officers · SFS Officers · Forest Range Officers · All frontline field staff down to Forest Guards and Forest Watchers.

"Most casualties and serious injuries occur among frontline forestry personnel. These brave individuals work in remote areas under harsh conditions and some of them make supreme sacrifices. Supporting these frontline warriors is the foremost priority."

◆ LEGAL FOUNDATION

The Amended Trust Deed — Registered and Ready

Following the fourth meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 24, 2026, the original 2008 Trust Deed was comprehensively amended to reflect the new vision.

Registered with: Sub-Registrar-I, Kashmere Gate (Central), New Delhi

Registration No.: 2026/19/IV/32|February 11, 2026

Key changes incorporated in the Amended Trust Deed:

- Expanded beneficiary scope to include all forestry field personnel and their families
- Committee structure for fair, time-bound scrutiny of proposals
- Automatic membership for all serving and retired IFS officers
- Delineation in functions of the Trust and the Governing Body

◆ **MILESTONES**

What We Have Accomplished – January and February 2026

Jan 24, 2026

Meeting of the Board of Trustees at New Moti Bagh Club, New Delhi—23 participants. Trust formally revived. Amendments to Trust Deed approved. New Governing Body (GB) elected. Eight new Trustees inducted. Two Committees constituted for processing of requests for assistance and coordination with the state associations/agencies.



Feb 07 2026

First meeting of the GB held. Committee members nominated. Trust bank account (SBI, CGO Complex) with Rs.9,68,985/-confirmed operational. Cheque of Rs.1,35,000 dispatched to family of late Shri Shekhawat. Tagline 'Standing with Green Warriors' officially adopted.



Feb 07, 2026

A QR code for quick and easy donation payments has been created through the Trust's bank account with the State Bank of India (SBI).

Feb 10-11, 2026

Amended Trust Deed signed and presented to Sub-Registrar-I, Kashmere Gate. Deed formally registered on February 11, 2026. Trust is now legally re-constituted with its expanded mandate.



Indian Forest Service Benevolent and Welfare Trust

STANDING WITH GREEN WARRIORS

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Feb 14, 2026

A LinkedIn page of the Trust has been created and some information about the Trust posted.

Feb 23, 2026

The second meeting of the GB of the Trust was held virtually on February 23, 2026. The decisions taken include finalizing the modes of receiving contributions and issuing receipts to donors, disclosing donor names, and sending communications to forestry and other associations as well as other prospective donors, providing details about the Trust and appealing for donations. The meeting also finalized a monthly e-newsletter and a LinkedIn page, and discussed modalities for the development of a website.

◆ TRUST CORPUS

Where the Trust Stands Financially

₹10.62L Balance in SBI Trust Accounts on Feb 28, 2026	₹1.35L First assistance disbursed to family of late Shri Shekhawat	32 Active Trustees across cadres nationwide
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The Trust **operates through two channels:** (a) direct financial assistance from the Trust Corpus, evaluated by the Committee for Scrutiny and Evaluation of Proposals; and (b) a facilitative platform for donors wishing to contribute to specific cases—such donations are passed directly to beneficiary families without any deduction.

◆ LEADERSHIP

Governing Body – Elected January 2026

PRESIDENT Sh. A.K. Goyal (KR:1981)	VICE PRESIDENT Dr. D.D. Sharma (JHK:1984)
SECRETARY Sh. Rajesh Kumar Chaudhry (PB:1987)	TREASURER Sh. V.K. Tiwari (HP:1986)
JOINT SECRETARY Sh. Sanjeev Chadha (OR:1989)	

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The **GB is supported by two dedicated committees**: the Committee for Scrutiny and Evaluation of Proposals chaired by Sh. Ashok Pai, and the Coordination Committee chaired by Sh. V.K. Tiwari — coordinate with various associations/agencies for making contributions to the Trust Corpus and ensuring swift, fair, and transparent processing of every assistance case.

◆ SUPPORT THE CAUSE

Your Contribution Makes a Difference

Every patch of forests saved, every tiger protected, every illegal encroachment checked—these victories come at a human cost, borne often by frontline field personnel earning modest wages, far from home. When he doesn't return, his family is left with nothing. Your contribution can change that.

Contribute to the Trust Corpus


UPI ID: **ifsbwt@sbi**

Account Name: Indian Forest Service Benevolent and Welfare Trust

Savings Account Number: **30454625682**

Bank and Branch: State Bank of India, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi

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

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

◆ WHAT'S NEXT

On the Horizon

As the Trust establishes its operational rhythm, the focus in the coming months will be on:

- Obtaining PAN and seeking income-tax exemptions (Sections 12AB and 80G) so that the donations qualify for tax deduction
- Finalisation of vision and mission statements of the Trust
- Launching the Trust's official website and logo
- Engaging a Chartered Accountant for audit and statutory compliances
- Circulating amended Deed to all State Forest Departments to build awareness



Dedicated to the welfare of all forestry field personnel and their families

(Indian Forest Service Officers, State Forest Service Officers, Forest Range Officers, and all Frontline Forestry Field Personnel)