**Programme on Forest Laws and Related Legal & Administrative Framework organized at GNLU**

**Gandhinagar, December 03, 2018**: The two-day Capacity Building Programme for Forest Officers on Forest Laws and Related Legal and Administrative Framework was held at the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) from November 30 to December 01, 2018. A total of 35 officers of the Indian Forest Service participated in the programme and deliberated on the contemporary issues in the field of Forest and Wildlife Laws in India.

The inaugural session was graced by Shri. G.K. Sinha (Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of Forest Force, Gujarat State), Shri Nityanand Srivastava (Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Gujarat State) and Dr Sanjiv Tyagi(Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Research and Training, Gujarat State).

Shri G.K. Sinha focused on the Important initiatives of the Government of Gujarat towards mangroves, grasslands, sharing of proceeds, e-auction of timber as well as the importance of forests, ecology, environment, rural development and Eradication of Poverty.   He stated that “Labour Law issues are a key area of concern for the forest department” and called for a proactive approach in dealing with them.

Shri Nityanand Srivastava observed that there is a lack of effective techno-legal training for the Forest Officers and appreciated the initiative of GNLU in bringing together the academicians, legal practitioners and Forest Officers for meaningful deliberations which would help the Forest Officers in expanding and updating their knowledge base.

Wide-ranging topics such as labour laws, service laws and penal provisions with respect to forest and wildlife, Wildlife protection laws, and an overview of National Green Tribunal were discussed at the programme.

The programme was organized by the GNLU Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Forest and Environment Department, Government of Gujarat.