

# Biggest enemy of forests is the forest department, claims CM

**Panaji:** Chief minister Manohar Parrikar said the biggest enemy of the forests is the forest department itself.

Speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of IV Kirloskar Vasundhara international film festival at Kala Academy on Saturday, Parrikar said that he made this statement often, but did not elabo-

rate on it.

Further, he said that unless environment is linked to some commercial aspect, there may not be any big success stories in environment.

He cited the example of an European nation, which grows forests for commercial exploitation. "You have to link it with commercial aspect and one at-

tempt was carbon credit," he pointed out.

Parrikar further stated that he was willing to ban mining completely, as demanded by some activists, but iron is a necessity. All activists should be ready to move around on bicycles. Digging the earth will cause some environmental damage, he said. TNN