

INDIAN FORESTER - IN THE SERVICE OF FORESTRY

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It was in the year 1963, when the late Shri K.P. Sagreiya, I.F.S. was President of the then F.R.I. and Colleges, Dehra Dun, that I joined as the then Central Silviculturist and Director, Forestry Research, F.R.I. and Colleges in June 1963 and took over in addition, the Hony. Editorship of the *Indian Forester*. I continued to be so for over nine years till March 1972. This was not only the most challenging but also equally interesting and absorbing responsibility, which I had to shoulder in addition to my duties as Director, Forestry Research. Also, being a monthly issue, the publication of *Indian Forester* is highly time-bound, right from receipt of articles and papers on Forestry and allied subjects, their vetting, scrutiny and finally printing and mailing to subscribers and authors not only in India but all over the world. Therefore advance planning and strict adherence to time schedule, is imperative. In addition, the Hony. Editor has to ensure the high quality and standard that the *Indian Forester* has maintained since its inception in 1875.

The *Indian Forester* has rendered yeoman service to the cause of Forestry and Forest Products Research, both basic and applied, which together cover a wide panorama of subjects including wildlife and game management, photogrammetry, and many other aspects right from growing,

tending, protection and management of forests till their harvesting and utilisation of diverse forest produce. Equally important are the qualitative role of forests concerning nature conservation, ecological balance, biodiversity and forest influences, over climate, soil and moisture conservation and hydrology which directly affect the adjoining agricultural lands and their produce. The purpose of mentioning all these aspects is to emphasize the role of forests in the social and economic welfare of the country and the people. The *Indian Forester* was and is the only medium of providing vital and authentic scientific information in a comprehensive and integrated manner covering so many aspects connected with Forests and Forestry in India with a national perspective. This is no mean achievement of this monthly Forestry Journal now in its 125th year of publication. There is no country in the world which does not document forestry literature from results published in the *Indian Forester*. One can, therefore very well imagine and appreciate the unique service that the *Indian Forester* renders to the cause of Forestry.

It is also a repository of vital statistics and chronological events. I recall one instance in this respect. In 1982-83, when I was a Member of the Review Panel appointed by Government of India for the reorganisation of the then F.R.I. and

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Colleges (on the recommendations of which the present I.C.F.R.E. has come into existence), there was some information required which was not readily available. This could be had from the *Indian Forester*! Equally relevant to mention is the enormous task and hard work involved in its publication for which those directly or indirectly involved and associated with it deserve our sincere compliments and congratulations. During my tenure as Hony. Editor, I recall with gratitude the dedicated service of Shri Fakirchand, the then Asstt. Manager in charge of liaison with press, printing etc. Also, the ever-willing, smiling face of Shri V.K. Sharma the then In-charge of Photo Section of F.R.I. for providing prints of photographs whenever required for the *Indian Forester* with utmost promptness and personal attention.

Similar was the cooperation with all the then Branches and Sections of F.R.I. and Colleges - a cherished example of excellent team work!!

Finally, I wish the *Indian Forester* still greater glory and sterling achievements in its performance in the year to come. I am confident that the *Indian Forester* will prove more than equal to the tasks ahead. The urgent need of the hour is not only to preserve, protect and conserve the existing forests but also increase their potential by both intensive and extensive measures and greater active cooperation and participation by the local people through sustained education and research in the relevant field. May we succeed in it in spite of heavy odds! Yes we shall, if we have a "WILL".

SUMMARY

The Indian Forester is celebrating its 125th Anniversary in January, 1999. It is the oldest journal of forestry, rendering yeoman service to the cause of scientific forestry since 1875.

इण्डियन फॉरेस्टर - वानिकी की सेवा में

आई०एम० कुरेशी

सारांश

जनवरी 1999 में इण्डियन फॉरेस्टर अपनी 125 वीं जयन्ती मना रहा है। वानिकी की यह प्राचीनतम पत्रिका है जो 1875 से वैज्ञानिक वानिकी के लिए महती सेवा करती चली आ रही है।