

प्रकाश जावडेकर  
Prakash Javadekar



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भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



It gives me immense pleasure to learn that Forest Survey of India is bringing out the India State of Forest Report 2015. The publication of the biennial report is a landmark in the assessment of the country's forest resources and gives us an opportunity to take an objective view of the success of our management efforts.

To look at the forests in their huge expanse is an awe-inspiring experience. We are the seventh largest country in the world and our forests range from alpine to tropical to thorn. Forests are not only a prized entity on our land mass but also make up the soul and life blood of our culture. From the great epics of our religions to the bedtime stories of our grandmothers, every facet of Indian life is replete with references to forests and the splendid life forms residing in it. It is hard to visualize our country without the hue of greenery radiating from the flora in our forests and the effervescence of the fauna residing in its shade. To look at forests is to look at the very soul of India.

What value do we ascribe to such treasures? The question is superfluous. India's forests are a precious legacy of its people that is to be passed on to future generations in good health. We are committed to the goal of protecting and enriching our forests. As we traverse the long road to industrial development, we shall constantly bear in mind that progress is meaningful only when the soul is intact. While we strive to fulfill the aspirations of the people, we shall not be blind to our existential needs. It is to give primacy to our core identity that we have developed a robust system to monitor the forests at regular intervals. Forest Survey of India has undertaken this task for more than a quarter of a century utilizing the best technology of the day. I congratulate the organization for keeping pace with advancement in technology and bringing to us in ever greater detail information about the health of our forests.

ISFR 2015 deserves to be hailed for another reason as well, as the report is being released within the year 2015. Director General, Forest Survey of India and his team have kept their date so that readers can derive the maximum benefit from the Report. I am confident that in years to come the organization will continue to fulfill its mandate efficiently and meticulously.

(Prakash Javadekar)

*foreword*



डॉ. एस. एस. नेगी  
Dr. S.S. Negi



वन महानिदेशक एवं विशेष सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREST & SPL. SECY,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE



The release of the India State of Forests Report 2015, the fourteenth biennial assessment report published by Forest Survey of India, is an important occasion for the forestry sector in India. With this we have completed about 28 years of regular assessment of our country's forests; being one of the few countries of the world to have done it on this level, scale and regularity. It is a gigantic task considering the geographical expanse of the country and the wide variation in the types of forests existing in different parts of India.

Ever since, Champion and Seth published the monumental work on the classification of forest types of India in 1968, their study is regarded as the framework to classify the country's astounding divergence of forest wealth. Forest Survey of India made a landmark contribution in this field in 2011 when it published the Atlas on India's forest types describing the geographical extent of different forest type groups.

The Forest Survey of India is doing yeoman service in generating a vast wealth of data on the extent and quality of forest and tree cover of India. With its enormous data on forest inventory, the organization was aptly poised to go beyond the delineation of boundaries and analyze the quality and extent of forests of each state and union territory of India based on different parameters. The data generated and ably analyzed in this report will be a handy tool in sustainable forest management of India's rich and diverse forest cover; trees outside forest; enhancing the quality and extent of forest carbon sink and ensuring ecological security for the country.

In the years to come, I expect Forest Survey of India will further hone its skills in terms of modern technology and provide us even better insights into our forest and tree cover. The entire team of the Forest Survey of India deserves our congratulations and appreciation for another excellent job done.

I wish FSI good luck in its future ventures.

(Dr. S.S. Negi)

*message*



अशोक लवासा  
Ashok Lavasa, IAS



सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Secretary  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



I am happy that Forest Survey of India is releasing the State of Forest Report 2015. The biennial report is a document eagerly awaited by readers to have an authoritative insight into the status of our forests. Over the years, Forest Survey of India has been breaking new ground to make the report more comprehensive and complete. A similar effort can be discerned in the present report.

Human beings are fascinated with numbers and figures; economic indices are part of our staple diet. One can be easily tempted to believe that all secrets of the universe can be encapsulated in the form of numbers. The progress over years can be seen by comparison with figures for corresponding periods. In reality, life is rarely simple enough to be expressed in numbers and graphs. There is another plane of qualitative attributes one has to delve into in order to know the status of life. Forests are a living ecosystem. It is natural that forests should have a life beyond cold figures. The present India State of Forest Report tends to highlight this axiom.

The state of forests is more than figures about growing stock and forest cover, though these numbers are useful insights into the status of forest health. Of no less value is the qualitative assessment of the health of forests. Where the forests stand in regard to grazing, fire, soil depth, presence of weeds, crop injuries and humus are factors that will determine the future health of forests as much as the figures about current growing stock. Forest Survey of India has rendered a yeoman service by including these parameters in its report. These details make the report more comprehensive and bring out forests as a living ecosystem that is changing every day and responding to its physical conditions. Restoring the physical conditions will lead to recovery of poor forests today; ignoring them will ruin the best forests in the not too distant future.

I am confident that in the years to come, Forest Survey of India will add more exhaustive information to its assessment of forests, making the India State of Forest Report a true barometer about the health of forests today and tomorrow and giving people confidence in the results of the efforts made to protect, preserve and grow more forests.

*message*





Dr. Anmol Kumar, IFS  
Director General



भारत सरकार  
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The India State of Forests Report (ISFR) 2015 is the fourteenth in the series of biennial assessment reports published by Forest Survey of India. It is the constant endeavor of the organization to provide reliable information on the country's forest resources using the best available tools of technology. Our efforts have been strengthened by the support we have received from the State Forest Departments. Twelve States / Union Territories provided us with usable geo-coded boundaries of Recorded Forest Areas (RFAs) under their charge enabling us to provide information on forest cover within and outside RFAs for these States/ Union Territories in the present report. We hope to enrich the content of ISFR further in the coming years as more information is made available with us.

Forests face a wide range of biotic pressures. It is important to monitor constantly the impact that these pressures are having on the ground and alert the State Forest Departments about unusual risk from any quarter. ISFR-2015, like last report not only provides information on forest cover and forest inventory but is a treasure trove giving authentic insight into different aspects of our forest varying from continuous patch size to different parameters w.r.t. forest health.

While forestry crops are of a long gestation period, intensive monitoring of our forest resources is the need of day as this meagre resource is under great pressure from numerous quarters. It is imperative for Forest Survey of India to provide exhaustive state of forest report in future with more accurate information covering all the aspects of our forests.

On the occasion of the release of ISFR 2015, I would like to place on record my appreciation for the constant support and guidance the FSI has received from Shri Prakash Javadekar, MoS (Independent Charge), MoEF&CC, Shri Ashok Lavasa, Secretary to the Government of India, MoEF&CC, Dr. S.S. Negi, Director General Forests & Special Secretary to Government of India, Dr. Anil Kumar, Additional Director General of Forest (FC), Dr. Rekha Pai, Inspector General of Forest (EAP) and Shri Anand Krishna, DIG (SU). I thank the officers and technical staff of FSI for their commitment and zealous efforts in preparing this report within the allotted time frame.

We at the Forest Survey of India rededicate ourselves to the mandate given to us and shall constantly strive to mould the organization into a true Center of Excellence.

(Dr. Anmol Kumar)

*message*

