





# Centenary Year of Forest Research Institute (1906-2006)

Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun celebrated Centenary Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006. The inaugural function was chaired by Shri N.D. Tiwari, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttaranchal. Shri Nav Prabhat, Forest Minister of Uttaranchal; His Excellency Mohammed al-Amin Issa Kabashi, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Sudan; His Excellency Azhari Khalafalla, Minister of Agriculture in Gerzia State, Sudan, His Excellency Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem, Ambassador of Sudan; Shri Hans Raj Josan, Forest Minister, Punjab; Shri J.C. Kala, Director General and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests; Shri G.K. Prasad, DG, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE); PCCFs and senior officers and scientists from different States and organizations such as, Forest Survey of India; Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA); Wildlife Institute of India and representatives from the industries and NGOs were present on this historic occasion. A film on research activities of FRI was shown to the delegates. The officials who had been serving in the institute for the last 40 years were honoured. A souvenir and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Pine project document were also released on this occasion. The first Brandis Memorial lecture was delivered by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan on “Forests Custodians of India's Ecological, Hydrological and Food Security Systems” on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

## Historical perspective

Dehradun has been a Centre for forest related activities since 1878 when a college was established for training Rangers and Foresters. The Institution was taken over by the Government of India in 1884 and Forest Research was linked with forest education from the time since the Research Officers/Foresters were appointed in 1906. These officers took an important part in the training of the students. Initially four officers of the Indian Forest Service, and one specialist were appointed in 1906 when the Institute first began to take shape.

In 1906, a few small isolated buildings were used, which were soon found to be insufficient, and in 1914 a large building with laboratories was erected at Chand Bagh (now Doon School). It was expected that these buildings would suffice for many years to come, but the development of the forest resources of India made great strides during the War and every effort was made to render the country less dependent on foreign supplies. The Industrial Commission in 1918 highlighted the necessity for expanding the Institute to meet the rapidly increasing demands of the country and stated that the equipment provided was entirely inadequate, and emphasized the necessity for increasing the number of Research officers.



The Board of Forestry supported these proposals and the Government of India decided to acquire a large estate near Dehradun, to equip it with modern buildings, apparatus, and adequate staff. The workshops were completed and made operational in 1924, and the main building was occupied during the period from the year 1926 and 1928. The cost of the new Forest Research Institute was about Rs. 90 lakhs. The institute included a large number of residences of different classes, costing from Rs. 600 to Rs. 60,000. The main building was designed by Sir C.G. Blomfield of Delhi and the work was carried out by Sardar Ranjit Singh under the Supervision of Mr. Rouse, Chief Engineer, Mr. F.T. Jones, Superintending Engineer and Mr. Uttam Singh, Executive Engineer of Delhi Province.

Set in the sylvan surroundings of Doon Valley, the Forest Research Institute is proud testimony to the foresight and vision of foresters and administrators of yesteryears. The majestic main building of the Institute, construction of which took nearly 7 years, has a plinth area of 2.8 ha (7 acres). The whole estate covers 480 ha (1,200 acres), but later 52 ha (130 acres) was handed over to the Railway Board for a training college, and 2.4 ha (6 acres) were leased to a company which provided electric power to the new buildings. A considerable part of the institute land was covered by experimental plantations of chir pine, sal, and teak, and the Silviculturist, Botanist and Officer in Charge of Minor Products (now NWFP) all had their experimental gardens.

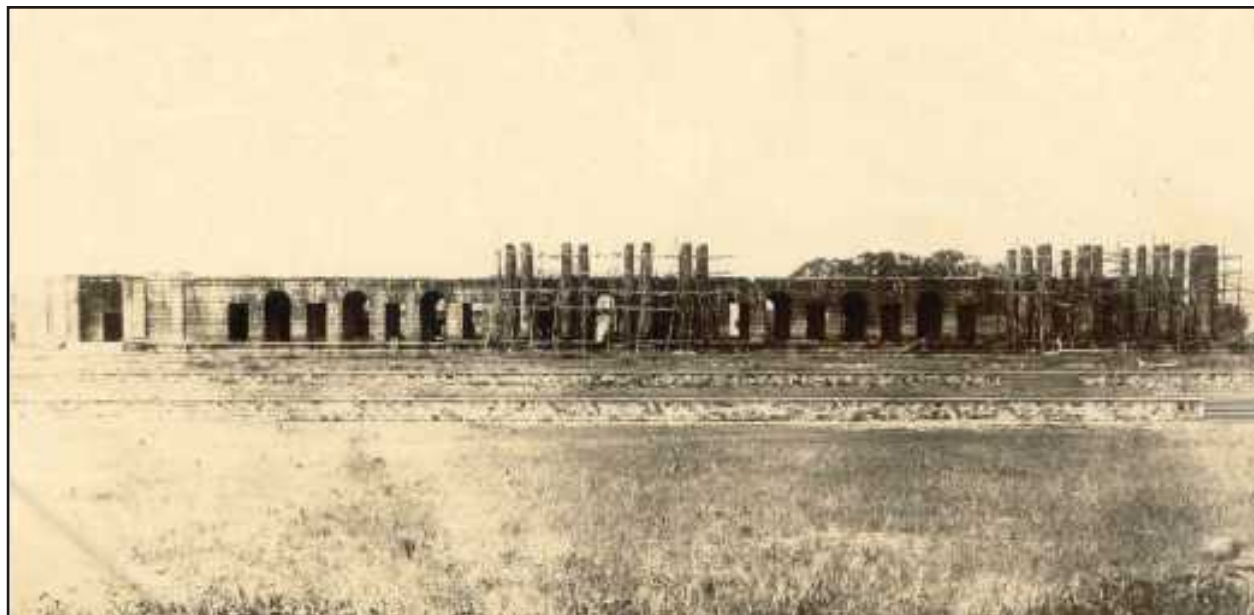
There are six museums, with floor space of 26,000 square feet, and the ordinary rooms designed for laboratories and offices cover about 63,000 square feet.

His Excellency the Viceroy Lord Irwin while inaugurating the building made the following observations:

“This Forest Research Institute is, I believe, the largest and most complete in the British Empire if not in the whole world and its completion is an event in which India may well take pride. I remember that my first thought seeing the layout of the Institute three years ago was that the building and their setting were in every way worthy of the great forests with which this country is endowed and of the fine work that has been, is being and is yet to be done towards their development and utilization for the benefits of the people of India. I feel that those who have planned and those who have found the money for this Institute have been inspired by no unworthy conception of its potential value to the life of India. Research is the essential counterpart of the splendid work that is carried on from day to day and from year to year by the officers of the Indian Forest Service, often in face of danger and generally in that isolation which is a stern test of character and of devotion to duty”.



## MEMORIES



FRI Main Building under construction



East Block of FRI Main Building under construction



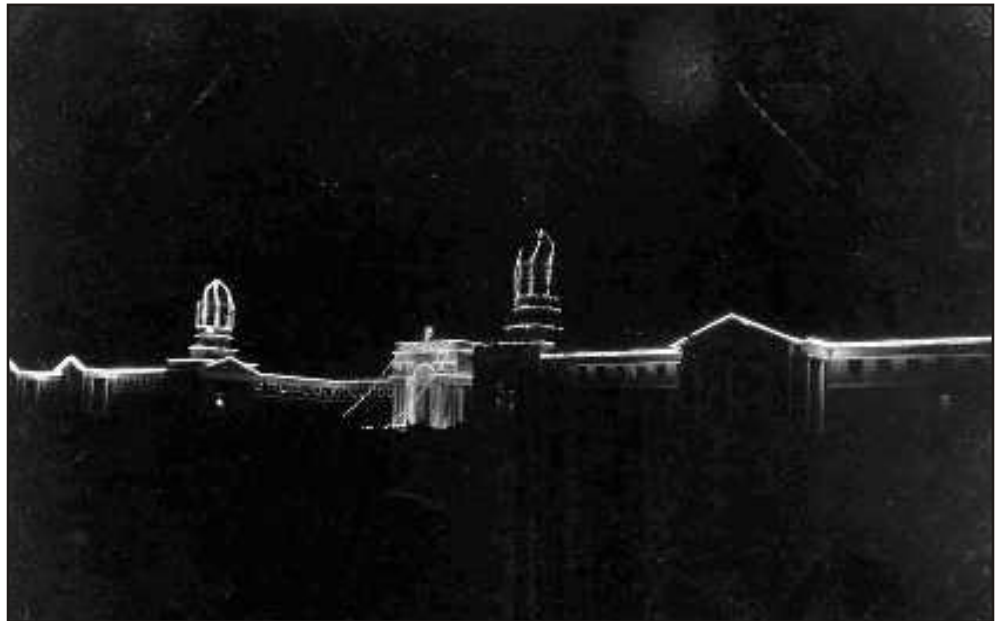
West Block of FRI Main Building under construction



Front view of FRI Main Building



Backside view of the FRI Main Building



Lighting on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the FRI Main Building





### Ceremonial Plantations by Dignitaries



His Excellency the President of India,  
Dr. Rajendra Prasad planting the Sal sapling:  
6<sup>th</sup> December 1956



His Excellency the President of India,  
Shri V. V. Giri planting the Kadam sapling:  
3<sup>rd</sup> August 1972



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,  
Smt. Indira Gandhi planting the Rudraksha sapling:  
19<sup>th</sup> December 1981



His Excellency the President of India,  
Shri R. Venkataraman planting the  
Sita Ashok sapling: 13<sup>th</sup> January 1989



His Excellency the Governor of U.P.  
Shri Moti Lal Vora Planting  
the Rudraksha sapling: 29<sup>th</sup> July 1993



Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests, Government  
of India, Prof. Saifuddin Soj planting the Chinara sapling:  
12<sup>th</sup> June 1997



His Excellency the Vice President of India,  
Shri Krishna Kant planting the Harad  
sapling: 28<sup>th</sup> May 1999



Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests,  
Government of India, Thiru T. R. Baalu planting  
the Aonla sapling : 26<sup>th</sup> May 2000



Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests,  
Government of India, Thiru A. Raja  
planting the Kachnar sapling: 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2004





## Distinguished Visitors



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,  
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: 12<sup>th</sup> December 1953



Shri K. M. Munshi: March 1954



His Excellency the President of India,  
Dr. Rajendra Prasad: 6<sup>th</sup> December 1956



Shri Jagjivan Ram: 31<sup>st</sup> March 1970



His Excellency the President of India Giani Zail Singh: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1984



His Excellency the Vice President of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2004