

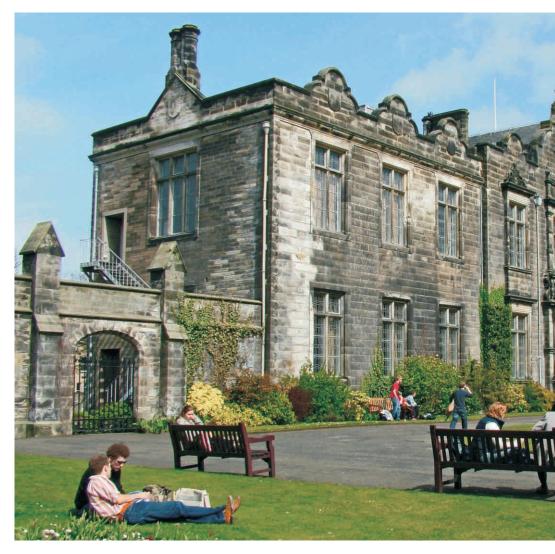




randis sought authorisation to get help from abroad, and the government consented. He was free to seek help from among the trained officers in Germany and France. He decided to enlist the help of two German officers: William Schlich and B. Ribbentrop, appointing them as Special Assistant Conservators in 1867. The two officers landed at Calcutta on 6th February, 1867, and were immediately put to work: Schlich was posted to Burma and Ribbentrop to Punjab. But what kind of dent could just two officers possibly make? Dr. Brandis wasn't interested in a merely token effort; he was committed to seeing the job done well. His vision was to have a full-fledged service of scientifically trained officers, capable of providing top-notch management for the Indian forests. So again Dr. Brandis took a proposal to the government, and it was accepted. The door was open now for the Indian Forest Service (IFS) to have regular recruitment.

Next, Brandis needed a place for training these officers, and he turned to the experienced forest services of France and Germany. Brandis travelled to these countries and made arrangements in France with Monsieur Laydekar, Directeur General des Forests, and in Germany with Heinrich Christian Burckhardt, Forest Director. These two men accepted the challenge of providing training courses for IFS trainees. The probationers, for their part, were required to be, "men of high moral character, a good constitution, even temper, superior abilities and preferably young men of good family connections." They had to be between 18 and 22 years of age.

The first seven candidates were selected in 1869. Five of them, including an Indian, Framjee Rustomjee Desai, son of a Bombay merchant, were sent off to France for their training. The other two candidates were sent to Germany (Hanover). The France-Prussia war broke



out in 1870, so the training in Nancy Forest School, France had to temporarily close just one year into the two-and-ahalf year training programme. The five probationers in France were shifted to a forestry training programme at St. Andrews University in Scotland where Dr. Hugh Cleghorn (ex-Conservator of Forests of Madras) was their able supervisor.

The next batch was selected in 1871, and they were all sent to Germany. Soon after the France-Prussia war had ended, France had been able to reopen. For a few years,



IFS probationers were again being trained in both Germany and France. But in 1875, the IFS stopped using Germany as a training venue, and for the next 10 years (1875-1885) IFS training was done exclusively in France. More than 90 officers had been recruited and trained during this initial stage (1867-1885) of IFS recruitment.



THE SHIFT TO ENGLAND: IFS TRAINING AT COOPER'S HILL COLLEGE (1885-1905)

In 1885, IFS training was shifted from France to Cooper's Hill College in England. The Royal Indian Engineering College was already functioning at Cooper's Hill, so all that was needed was the addition of the Forestry branch. Sir William Schlich, who was Inspector-General of Forests in India, was invited by the then Secretary of State to organise and develop the Forestry Branch at Cooper's Hill College. He pioneered the training programme there, and as Professor of Forestry he directed the programme all the way until the close of the college in 1905.

To enhance the classroom instruction given at Cooper's Hill, the students would be taken on trips to Germany, where they would study a variety of forestry works there. In 1888, Sir Brandis (by then, retired from active service) was appointed Director of the practical study of forestry and took on the responsibility of guiding the Cooper's Hill students during their trips to the German forests. Brandis held this post until 1895. At this point, the IFS had further developed the recruitment requirements: there was an entrance exam and a physical test consisting of walking a distance of 24 miles. Up until 1890, the course duration was 26 months (22 months at the College and 4 months in the forest). But beginning that year, the program was increased to 3 years. By the time of Cooper's Hill College's closing in 1905, Dr. Schlich had supervised the training of 173 probationers.

→ Pillars of IFS Training in British India

Clockwise from top

- → Sir William Schlich
- → Cooper's Hill College
- → Dr. Hugh Cleghorn
- → St. Andrews University



OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE **AND EDINBURGH: 20** YEARS OF IFS TRAINING (1905-1925)

Beginning in 1906, after the closing of Cooper's Hill, all IFS training was shifted to the University of Oxford

After a probationer was approved by the Secretary of State (with the India Office's endorsement), he would have to apply for entrance to Oxford (if they were not already students there) in exactly the same way that any other Oxford applicant would. They had to meet all the same entrance requirements, pass the entrance tests, etc. The requirements for obtaining the Forestry Diploma consisted of: a) successful completion of the approved course of study, extending over 2 years in Oxford; b) fulfilment of the practical courses of work and study at places and under conditions approved by the forestry training authorities; and c) satisfactory performance in the examinations.

By 1910, due to the protests coming from Cambridge and Edinburgh, the IFS opened training branches at these two universities as well.





During the period of 1913-1914, the Islington Commission studied the possibility of training IFS officers in India. But forest education experts opposed this on the ground that for practical training, students must get exposure to forests that have been under expert management for at least one rotation period (i.e. from germination to maturity/harvest). At the time, no such managed forests existed yet in India.

The procedure that had been in force for IFS recruitment until 1914 came to an end with the unleashing of World War I, and England's involvement in it. After the armistice in 1918, the India Office began recruiting probationers from among the officers who had served in the war, selecting them in order of their military seniority, and sending them to the three universities in England for their forestry training.

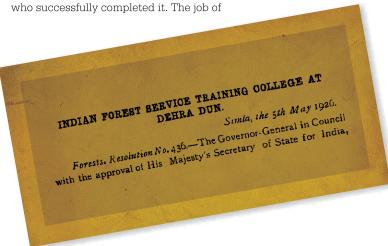
In 1920, in accordance with the orders that emerged from the Islington Commission's recommendations, recruitment for the Indian Forest Service could now be made by direct appointment in India, as well as in England. This was a significant development. Then, after World War I, the demand for probationers increased, and there was a growing belief that it was time to begin doing forestry training inside of India. This belief was supported by the Lee Commission (1923-1924) which was recommending the general Indianisation of the Forest Service. All the way into the early 1920s, only a handful of Indians had been trained as Officers of the IFS, but the new policies being adopted would soon open the way to remedy the imbalance.



IFS TRAINING COMES HOME TO INDIA 1926-1932

On 5th May 1926, through Resolution no. 436, the creation of the Indian Forest Service Training College was granted official recognition. Just a few months later, on 1st November 1926, the training of foresters was finally brought home to India. The venue chosen for the IFS College was the Imperial Forest Research Institute (FRI), in Dehradun. The new course would be a 2 year program, and diplomas were awarded to candidates who successfully completed it. The job of

supervising the training was given to the President of FRI, and he was to be assisted by a Professor of Forestry and instructors. C. G. Trevor, who was Conservator of Forests for the Working Plans Circle of the United Provinces, was posted as Vice President of FRI in order to assist in the development of the new IFS Training College. He was also named Professor of Forestry, and was assisted by two other instructors.

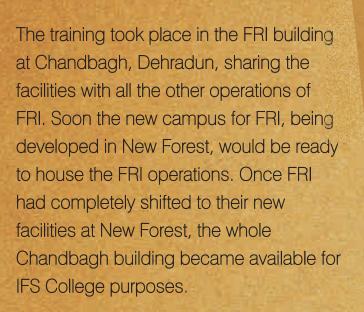




→ They too played a significant role in IFS Training

Clockwise from top

- → University of Oxford
- → University of Cambridge
- → University of Edinburgh
- → C.G. Trevor First Professor of Forestry in Indian Forest Service Training College, Dehradun
- → Lord Islington



REGULATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT IN INDIA OF PROBATIONERS FOR THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE

A competitive examination to select two candidates for training for the Indian Forest Service will be held at Allahahad in the month of August 1926.

All applications must be accompanied by the following

2. All applications must be accompanied by the following certificates:

(a) A certificate of age (see paragraph 4 below).

(b) A certificate that the candidate is a 'native of India' within the meaning assigned to these words by within the meaning assigned to these words by section 6 of 33 Vict., Cap. 3.

(c) Two certificates of recent date signed by individuals of good moral character.

(d) A certificate that the candidate has obtained an Honour's degree or the degree of M.A. or M.Sc. of a University degree or the degree of M.A. or M.Sc. of a University degree or the degree of M.A. or M.Sc. of a University degree or the degree of M.A. or M.Sc. of a University degree or the degree of M.A. or M.Sc. of a University degree or the displayment of the Mayo College, Ajmer.

(e) A preliminary medical certificate of fitness for service in the Forest Department signed by a Presidency in the Forest Department signed by a Presidency which the applicant resides, or a residency or respectively. Surgeon or the Civil Surgeon of the district in Surgeon. This certificate is intended to prevent applications from candidates who are obviously applications from candidates who are obviously not exempt candidates from appearance before the final Medical Board.

Regulations in 1926, for the appointment in India of probationers for the Indian Forest Service included an age limit of 19-23 years, a personal interview, a physical test (15 mile walk in 4 hours), a medical examination and then a written examination covering both compulsory and optional subjects.

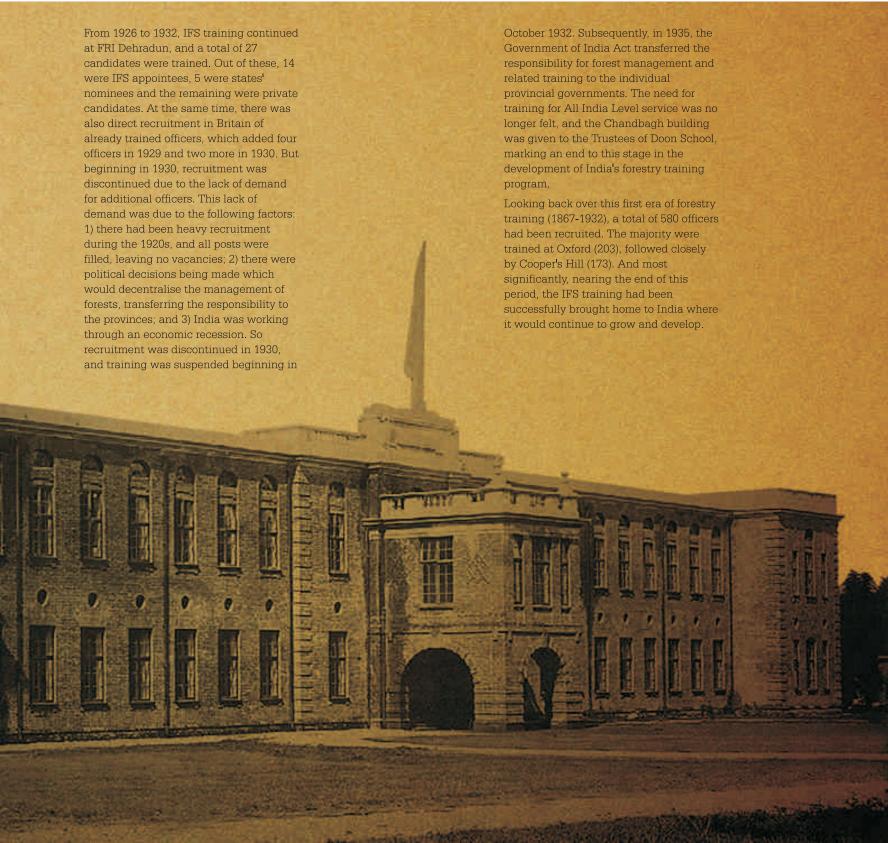


→ IFS training in India

Right & Below

→ FRI Building at Chandbagh, where IFS Training College functioned from 1926-32 (Presently Doon School building)

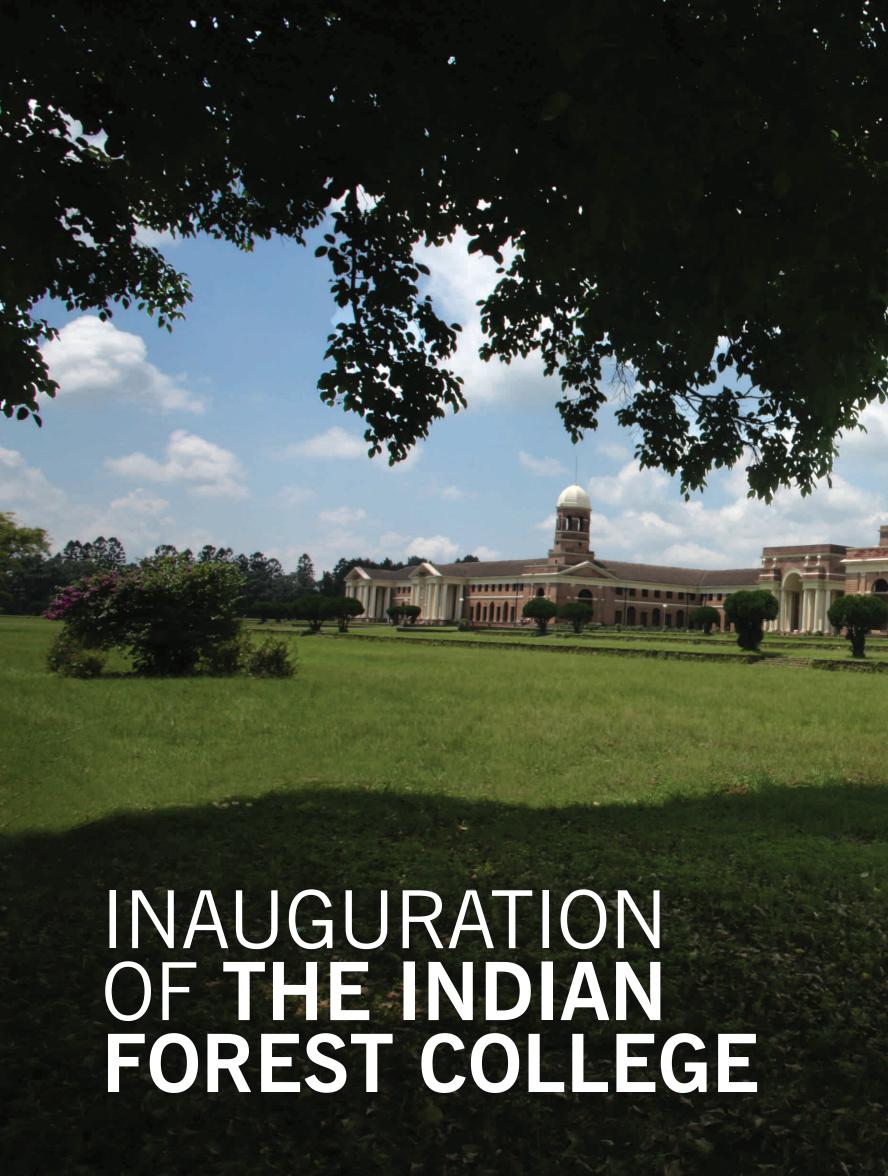






ANEW BEGINNING: ESTABLISHMENT AND GROWTH OF IFC & IGNFA

1938-2012









The Indian Forest College opens its doors

The picture was bleak indeed! But Mr. A.D. Blascheck, the inspector general of forests and president of the forest research institute and colleges at the time, refused to be defeated by this looming cloud. Instead, on 31st October, 1931, while the 1929-1931 batch was finishing, Mr. Blascheck gave this heartening forecast, "it is unfortunate that the college has to be closed so soon after its foundation, but there is no real occasion for gloom or depression. It is almost certain that it will have to re-open in the course of a few years and I very much hope that it will be in even closer association with the Forest Research Institute where all the most modern facilities are available for studying forestry in all its aspects."

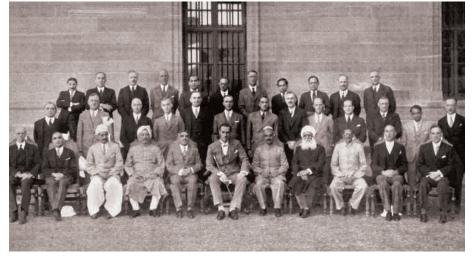
It didn't take long for Mr. Blascheck's predictions to come true. Just a couple years into the closure of the IFS College, a number of provinces began feeling the pinch from the shortage of gazetted-level officers to manage the forests. The retirement of the most experienced officers each year was only adding to the problem. To relieve this pressure, some provinces, like Bombay, started sending their new recruits to Universities in England again. Mr. Hari Singh, who eventually served as Inspector General of Forests and who played a key role in the reconstitution of IFS, was one of the officers who was trained in England during the closure of the IFS College.

The shortage of IFS officers was becoming such a grave problem that it was set as the main agenda item for discussion at the 1937 Forestry Conference in New Delhi. Two days of intense discussions led to the following resolutions.

→ A new beginning

- → Top FRI building, part of which housed the IFC
- → Above Logo of IFC





Their wisdom paved the way for revival of training of senior forestry personnel in India Delegates who attended the Forestry Conference in 1937

- There should be only one Superior Forest Service in each province, direct recruits to which should receive their training at Dehradun.
- The aforesaid training provision should be made with effect from 1st April 1938 at the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. The instructions should be of the highest standard necessary for Indian requirements.

Armed with these resolutions, the Government of India opened the Indian Forest College (IFC) on 13th May 1938. Six years had passed without an option to train new recruits in India, but now, once again, training for the Superior Forest Service of the provinces was up and running.





The IFC's Facilities and Administration

The IFC was housed in the Forest Research Institute building in the New Forest Campus at Dehradun. The upper floor of the southwest wing of the building served as the IFC campus. There were two lecture rooms, a good biological laboratory, access to a good chemical laboratory, the Principal's office room and one Students' Common room. The IFC also enjoyed free access to the museum, herbarium, laboratories and workshops of FRI, which formed an integral part of the college programme. The central library of FRI was also made available to the IFC students while the college's own library started in a common room with an assortment of books of science, travel,

biographies, novels, etc., mostly gifted by officers at New Forest and United Province.

The administrative leadership of the IFC was provided by the Inspector General of Forests and President of FRI and Colleges. Under him was a Professor of Forestry cum Principal and a lecturer in Survey and Engineering. These were joined by research officers serving as lecturers in their areas of expertise in Botany, Entomology, Biochemistry, Utilisation and Silviculture.

At the time of the IFC's opening, Sir Herbert Howard was the Inspector General of Forests and President FRI, and so carried the overall responsibility for directing the college. Mr. E.C. Mobbs, an IFS officer, who joined service in 1922 and worked in the United Provinces and Rangers' College, was posted as the first Professor of Forestry and Principal of the college. Assisting these officers was Mr. Owen Williams, the first lecturer in Survey and Engineering.

The Principal, Mr. Mobbs, gave oversight to the day to day, practical functioning of the college. He was known to be extremely particular about the details of everything, including things like the layout of the furniture and other articles in the classrooms and laboratories. No detail seemed too small for his attention!



Once, the curator, Mr Nagi, who was asked to arrange a barber for the college, reported that he had found one. Mr Nagi said that the barber he had located was the son of the barber who was working in the IFS College at Chand Bagh. Mobbs reportedly said, "Being a son of a good barber does not mean that he too is good. I want to test him." Mr. Mobbs served as Principal for 7 years. In 1945, he was posted as the Director of Forest Education, responsible for supervising the IFC and Rangers College.

The Students

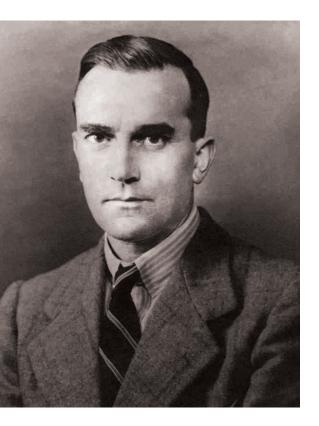
Entry into the college was through selection by provinces and states. Candidates had to be between 19 and 23 years of age and a B.Sc. (Honours) not lower than second class, in Botany, Zoology or Chemistry or holders of an M.Sc. degree in any subject, as long as Chemistry, Botany or Zoology was studied at the bachelor's level. There were, however, special circumstances that would allow exceptions to these qualifications. The provinces and states, for their part, had to guarantee that the selected candidates would be granted a gazetted appointment upon successful completion of the course.

The IFC's first students were a batch of 16 who had come from 8 different states and provinces. For this first group of students, four Class II Officer's bungalows were converted into hostels, providing each student the convenience of their own bedroom and bathroom. A fifth bungalow was converted into a common mess containing two small dining rooms.

The Principal would instruct the students, very soon after their arrival, about the conduct he expected from them in their interaction with the Institute staff, the servants and mess staff and the officers of the neighbouring Indian Military Academy.

The mess had a very western flavour. The students were required to wear western style clothing, and to eat in the western way. They also had to get used to eating English food every day except Sunday. The Principal had secured a catering contract with the same people that served the Indian Military Academy. They agreed to provide the same meals that they were serving the Cadets. The food was mostly non-vegetarian, and this was creating quite a difficulty for some of the students. One particular student from the 1938-1940 batch, Mr. Nandan Bhargava, a pure vegetarian from Rajasthan, was having a terrible time with this diet. The class got up the nerve to approach the Principal, Mr. Mobbs, and request that students be given the option of exemption from non-vegetarian meals. To everyone's relief, the Principal agreed, and the mess became much more comfortable for everyone. Mr. Mobbs, always attentive to detail, was also very vigilant about the quality of food being served. To help keep the mess staff motivated and doing topnotch work, he would occasionally grace them with surprise visits!

One day, a group of students from the first batch were invited to Dr. Bor's place for dinner. Dr. Bor and his wife were both Botanists. The dinner was served and



→ Sowing the seeds

- ightarrow Above First Principal of IFC Mr. E.C. Mobbs
- → Right First batch of IFC 1938-40
- → Left Museum of FRI



everyone had eaten to their full. Dr. Bor then politely asked each of the students if they wanted any more. When he came to Bhargava, he replied, "I am fed up." Dr. Bor had a hearty laugh and jested to his wife, "Dear, Mr. Bhargava is fed up with your food!"



→ A humble but firm beginning -

Clockwise from top

- → Dr. N.L. Bor the Botanist of FRI
- → Copy of programme of two years
- → Instructions to orderly officer
- → Weakly time table
- → IFC Pavillion in 1939

The Training Program: Blending Theory and Practice

The educational standards for the course were on par with the forestry degree courses at British Universities. The training schedule for the first 2 year course (1938-1940) was divided up between lectures (10 % months), tours (8 months), examinations (1 month) and vacations (3 % months). These course features brought the total training time to 23 % months.

The cost of the training for the first course (1938-1940) came to about Rs. 10,500, which included annual fees, travelling expenses for field training and tours, camping expenses, etc. This also included a monthly stipend of Rs. 100 to cover basic living expenses. Fortunately for the recruits and their families, the training expenses were mostly borne by the Provinces and States.

Trainees began their day with physical training (PT) before breakfast. After breakfast, at 8:30 am, classes would start. There were four classroom sessions of 55 minutes each before lunch, with a quick 5 minute break between each class. Lunch ran from 12:25 pm to 2.00 pm. The afternoon classes, which were practicals, would go from 2 pm to 4 pm. In the winter months, the afternoon schedule was shifted slightly, holding classes from 1:45 to 3:45 pm. The probationers would finish off their day with mandatory games in the evenings. The students enjoyed some great options for sports. There were three tennis courts and a huge playing field which had a cricket pitch, a football ground and a hockey field. At the hostel premises there were also badminton, tenniquoit and volleyball courts. And in the second year of operation (1939) a pavilion was built



Saturdays were reserved for field excursions and Sundays were holidays when on campus. Trainees would often use their free Sundays to visit Dehradun City, using bicycles as their mode of travel.

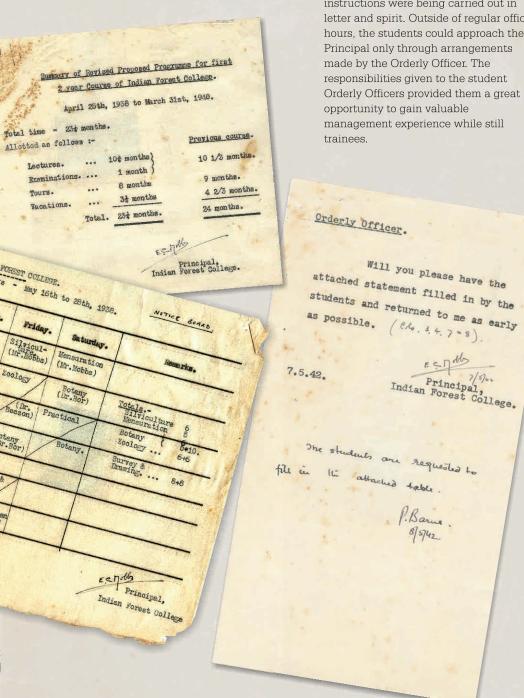
A system of Orderly Officer was established to ensure proper conduct of the students. Students were nominated to serve as the Orderly Officer for 2 week stints. The Orderly Officer's primary responsibility was to communicate with the students and to ensure that instructions were being carried out in letter and spirit. Outside of regular office hours, the students could approach the made by the Orderly Officer. The management experience while still trainees.

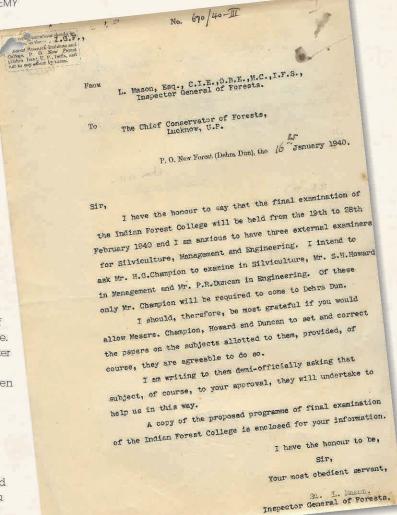
There was also an extracurricular opportunity for students called the College Science Society where students were able to contribute papers on various research topics.

The subjects covered in the formal IFC programme were Forestry, Botany, Utilisation, Engineering and Survey. Forestry proper included the study of Silviculture, Mensuration, Management, Valuation and Protection. Forest Botany and Ecology were also essential elements, and Pathology was included as well. Entomology was covered as an important component under Zoology. Much weight was given to Surveying and Engineering, affording them a prominent part of the course. Utilisation and Forest Law were also taught in the college as part of the curriculum

The programme was much more than just classroom instructions. Time in the classroom was supplemented by fieldbased, practical application. This was accomplished through study tours to various parts of the country. For tours where there was no housing accommodation available, trainees would stay in tents, which were brought with them from the college. The trainees were required to pitch the tents themselves. and it was the duty of the Orderly Officer to ensure proper pitching and layout. Once they were pitched there would be an inspection by the Principal, and if the alignment or pitching was not proper, then the tent would have to be pitched again. Tours involved long treks and manual work for various forestry activities under the active supervision of local forest officers. Each student had his own axe and had to learn to use it in actual forestry tasks. The probationers would take on chores like thinning and cleaning. nursery and plantation work and departmental burning of forests.

The trainees' first tour would happen after about one and half months of classroom studies. They would be taken to Chakrata in the nearby Himalayan forests for about 26 days. In this tour, trainees learned about local vegetation and performed mensuration exercises to study the growth pattern of trees. The rainy season was used for classroom lectures, laboratory practicals, and vacations of nearly 1 month. After vacations, students would return to the campus for about 1 ½ months of theoretical instructions and laboratory practicals. After this, there would be the tour to Sal and to a variety of forests in Dehradun, Saharanpur, Haldwani, Gorakhpur and parts of





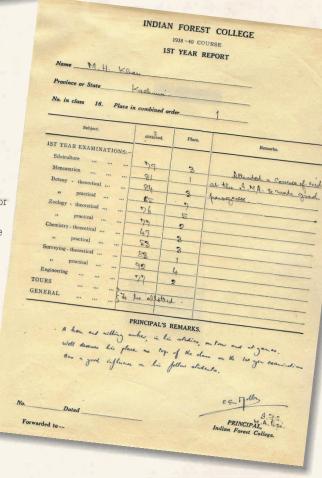
Bengal. The irrigated plantations of Changamanga, and the erosion areas of Punjab were also toured during this time. Around Christmas time there were winter vacations which were used for riding lessons at the IMA. The probationers then had a time of classroom lectures and finished the year with their first year examinations.

The second year training schedule was again divided between classroom sessions, practicals, tours, vacations and examinations. Tours were taken to Kullu forests and to evergreen, deciduous and dry forests of Bombay and Madras. A course of practical engineering was done at Roorkee with King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners. During this course, trainees constructed trestle, suspension and cantilever bridges. Other activities included practical training in handling of explosives. Towards the end of the 2-year training, each student would prepare the all-important working plan for part of a forest division. The students used to be divided into different houses for doing their field work, and their collection of data. They would use the Dehradun Division for this exercise, and the month spent on this work formed the crowning culmination to all preceding instructions.

Examinations were conducted at the end of each year. External examiners were brought in to conduct the examinations, especially for subjects like forest management for which forest officers from different provinces were preferred.

Examinations were not the only place for assessing the probationers. They were also evaluated for their work done during the tours, their botanical and entomological collections, their plates for survey and engineering and also for general considerations such as proficiency and keenness in sports and games, character and conduct and the

demonstration of general qualities of leadership. The grading would be made public at the time of convocation which was held at the Convocation Hall of FRI. Two kinds of diplomas were given at the convocation: the Honours diploma and the Pass diploma. The Honours diploma was given to a student who had secured an overall score higher than 74%. Other special awards for students were the Currie Scholarship, Hill Memorial Prize for Silviculture, college prizes for Botany, Engineering and Surveying and a college prize for the Most Practical Forester.



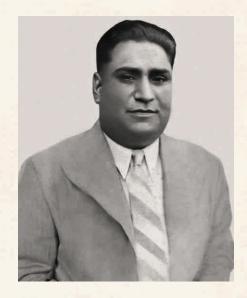
→ Maintaining High Standards -

Anti Clockwise from top

- → Letter for external examiner
- → First year report of a student with principal's remarks
- → Note for Currie Scholarship
- → Mr. Hari Singh, former Inspector General of Forests - one of the recipients of Currie Scholarship

A Special Scholarship

The Currie Scholarship, which originated in the year 1887 at Cooper's Hill College in England, deserves special mention among all the student awards. During the award distribution event at Cooper's Hill that year, Mr. B.W. Currie, who was the Vice President of the Council of India, made a personal gift of 1000 Pounds in response to a plea by the president of the college. This gift was to be used for funding scholarships for the most deserving students. In 1906, when Cooper's Hill College was being closed down, it was decided in consultation with Mr. L Currie (heir of Mr. B.W. Currie) that the scholarship should continue to be made available, now as a prize to the probationer who headed the list of final examination scores, prior to appointment



Principal's Copy.

President.

Herewith I return the various papers and files
His Majestyle C.

His Majesty's Secretary of State for India has apparently approved the proposal of the Government of India that 75 % of the net amount income shall be applied in awarding one or more prizes to Forest Service cancidates in India, and that 25 % shall similarly be allowed to Burma.

The Govt. of India have further suggested that as the course at the Indian Forest College is biennial, two prizes should be awarded to the two students passing out highest in It would are

It would appear that no prize has been awarded for 1937, 1938 & 1939, the last award being for 1936 to Messrs.

J.V. Karamchandani and Hari Singh of Bombay Forest Service,
I, therefore

I, therefore, recommend that two prizes be awarded for 1940 to the two students standing highest in the Indian 6th, 1940.

I sand by

I send herewith an official recommendation, together with details required concerning the two students.

DRS.

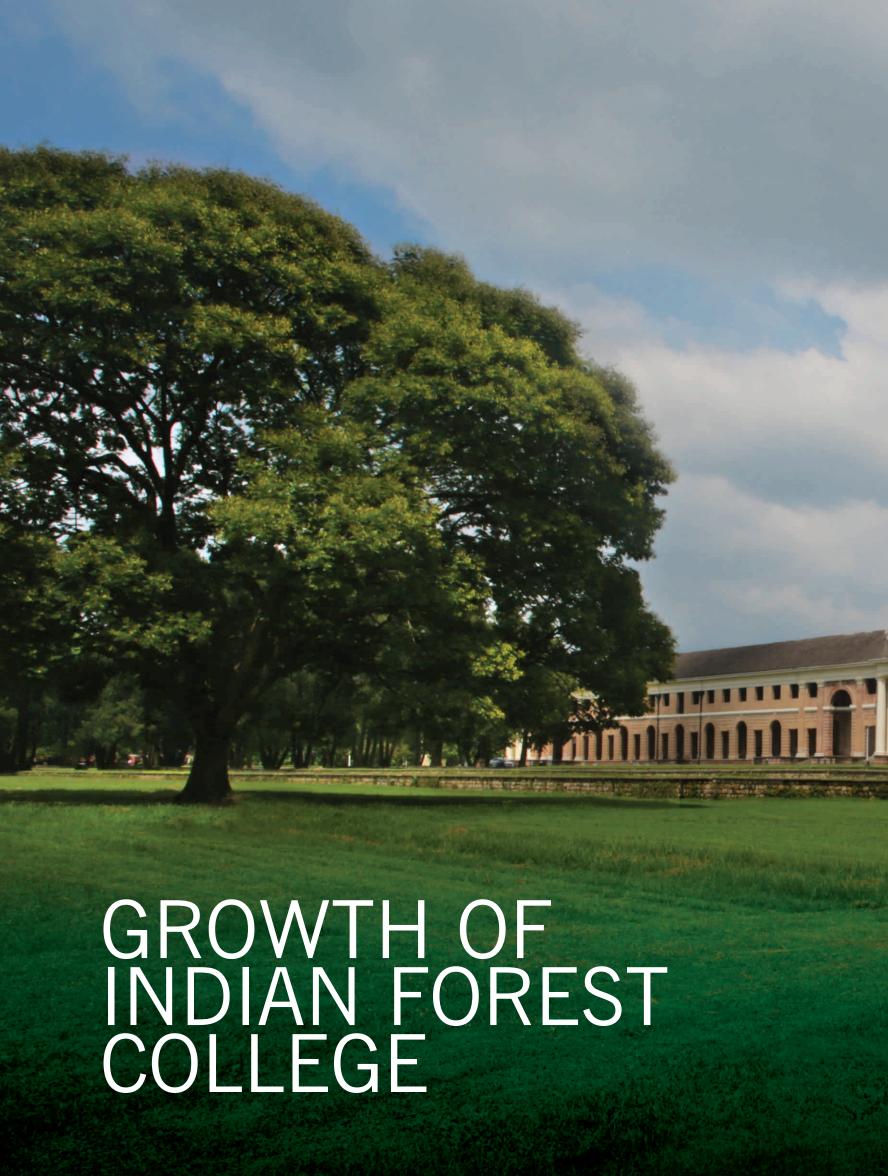
13.4.40, Principal, Indian Forest College.

into the Indian Forest Service. When the new Indian Forest Service College was opened in 1926, the Currie Scholarship continued on. And when that college was closed down in 1932, the award continued to be given out, benefitting the Probationers who were being trained in England (Mr. Hari Singh who studied at Edinburgh University during the period was one of the recipients of this scholarship). With the start of training in India again, now at the Indian Forest College, the Currie scholarship continued forward in benefit of trainees there. In 1940 it was reshaped again, and provided aid to students all the way into the mideighties.

A Great Start for the IFC

There was a great sense of accomplishment as the IFC's first course came to a successful close. It was marked by a convocation ceremony at 11 a.m. on 6th April 1940, in the Convocation Hall of FRI. Sir Girija Shankar Bajpai, Hon'ble Member for Education, Health and Lands (who was also a participant in the crucial Forestry Conference at New Delhi in 1937 where a decision to start IFC was taken), distributed the diplomas and prizes.

The first 2 years of labour at the IFC had produced a batch of world class foresters. But that wasn't all! There was also a growing esprit-de corps being engendered through the sharing of life and purpose in the common college.



CHAPTER 1940-1954

Initial Years

The IFC started its journey with 16 students in the first biennial course of 1938-1940. With every passing year the College grew and scaled new heights. The second batch of IFC started in 1940 with 20 students but had 21 students by the time it concluded. One Mr. Gurbakhsh Singh Dhillon from Punjab was accepted midway through the IFC course as a concession to the Punjab state government. Mr. Singh had completed his training as a ranger trainee in 1941, and placed first in the list of successful graduates. Therefore, his state government selected him for gazetted service and sent him to IFC for further training. Due to the growing number of students at IFC, the class II quarter, which had been used as the mess in the first course, was converted to an additional hostel. A new mess was accommodated in the building formerly used as the New Forest Club.







Mr. Ghulam Naqushbund, IFS (retired) 1940-42 batch of IFC

INDIAN FOREST COLLEGE



Top to Bottom

- → Trainees after a hectic day during tour.
- → Fancy dress competition
- → Group photo of 1940-42 course of
- → Admission Certificate of a trainee
- → Confidential report a trainee

The number of students increased with every successive course. Educational qualifications for entry were broadened, and now required an honours degree, not lower than second class in any science, mathematics or agriculture. However in exceptional cases there was a provision to relax educational qualifications. The upper age limit for entry into service was also increased to 24 years, as recommended by the Board of Forestry. Beginning with the third course, IFC diplomas were recognized as post graduate diplomas and the holders were granted the designation of Associate of the Indian Forest College. They were allowed to use the letters A.I.F.C. after their names. A close watch was kept on performance of students and this was reflected in their confidential reports.







The demand for trained foresters was on the rise, so beginning in 1945, the course was changed from a biennial programme to an annual one. Faculty positions were also augmented in order to manage the increased work load at the college. In the same year, a proper hostel for the accommodation of the trainees was completed and the quarters that were previously used as hostels were vacated. This hostel is the one known today as the "old hostel," and is still in use for housing trainees

By this time, the IFC's fame was spreading beyond the borders of India. In 1946 the IFC received its first foreign trainee, from Nepal, as a member of the 1946-1948 course. From that point forward, the training of students from other countries became a regular feature of the IFC.

IFC Started growing

Left & Below - Old Hostel

Bottom Left - Old Hostel Mess





Above - Probationers in old hostel Sh. A.L. Rao, Sh. C. Kirpekar and Sh. N. Goswami of 1950-52 course



Ramesh Chandra 1947-1949 COURSE

It was April 1947 when I was only 22 years old and came to New Forest. There was a big competition to get to this stage. I was going to enter a discipline of my liking. The environment of New Forest (F.R.I) was breath taking and inspiring. It was for the first time in my life that I was full of enthusiasm.

Mr. E.C. Mobbs was the Director of Forest Education and Mr. C.A.R Bhadran was the Principal of the Indian Forest College. Both were great teachers and strict disciplinarians. The course started immediately. A very tight time table and after a months' initiation we were ready for the hill tour to Jammu and Kashmir. We did lot of practical botanisation and mensuration exercise. Long marches and visits to glaciers and most fascinating was the one to "Alphather" beyond Gulmarg which is now a developed Resort.

Everything was going on very well with our field studies and camp fires when suddenly we heard on the All India Radio in Srinagar that British are going to quit India and that our mother land will be free. There was all round happiness in general, but there were some reservations because details were not very clear and soon after the declaration some small rioting started in parts of Punjab and Bengal.

Our return journey from Jammu to Dehradun via Lahore was uneventful and we escaped the effects of communal riots and reached Dehradun safely. The classes started again, but there were more and more disturbing news about communal tensions and even killings. The programme at the Indian Forest College, however, continued as per schedule. The British Staff at the F.R.I and colleges started leaving for their country (U.K) including Mr. Mobbs who was the pillar of the strength of the Forest College in late July, 1947.

It was declared that India would be independent about the middle of August, but as a divided country India and Pakistan. Rioting, however, intensified. 15th of August was celebrated, but horrible killings started particularly in Punjab.

Our summer vacations started and all students left for their homes, but I (the only Hindu from Punjab) could not go home due to stoppage of all travelling to my home district of Sargodha now in Pakistan through Lahore.

From then on till passing out in April 1949 was the worst period in my life. Worried about my parents and their evacuation and all the accompanied financial and mental problems. This was one time when I was not interested in anything including my studies. Anyhow, I got my diploma and done a good job.



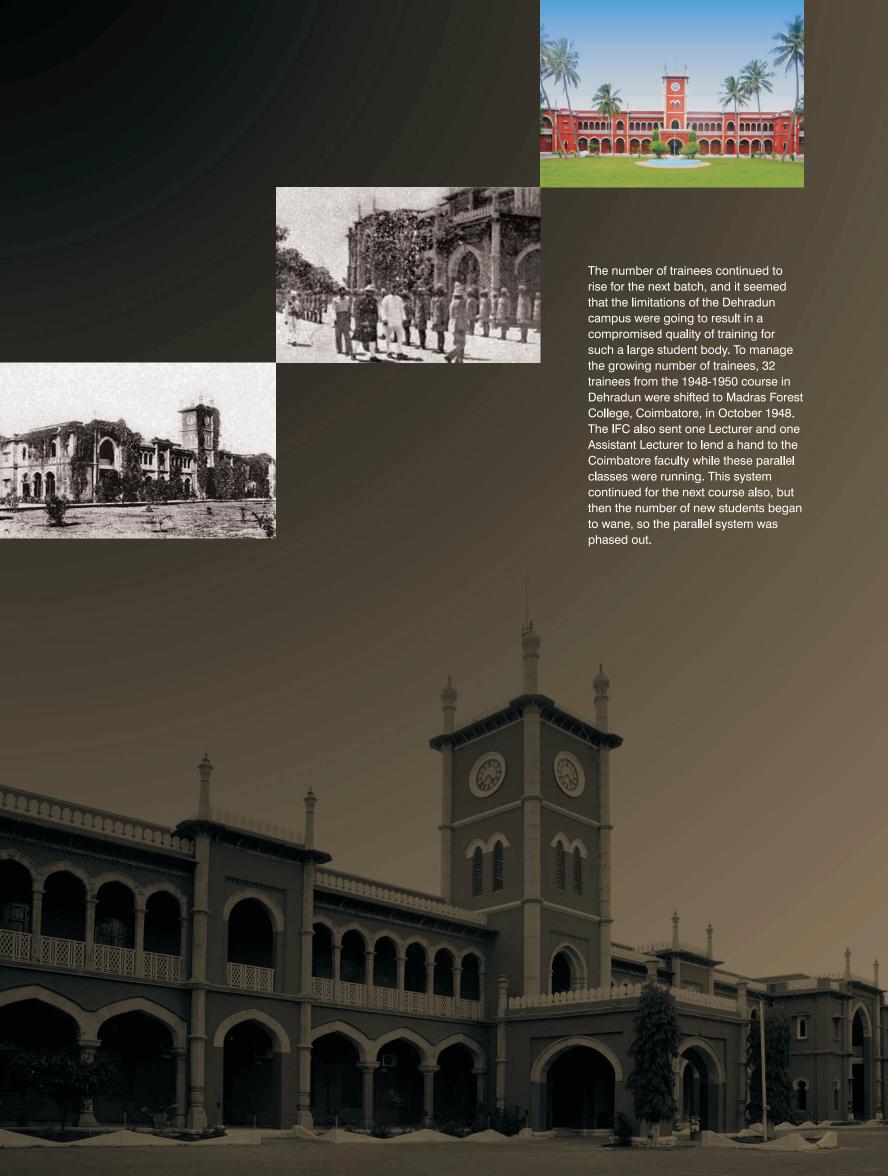
Demand for trained forest officers continued rising in the post World War II period. So in 1947, the IFC doubled its intake capacity by admitting two parallel classes. The existing hostels were not enough to handle the double load of trainees, but the "sisters quarters" had potential. These were the temporary wartime quarters and mess used by the hospital nurses . A renovation rendered these facilities more than adequate for the large batch of students.

Sisters' Quarters



Life on the FRI campus was not seriously affected by the disturbances of the partition, although for some students of the 1946-1948 course, it indeed resulted in major change since they had come from places that now belonged to the newly formed Pakistan. These students left the training at the halfway point in order to return to their homes, which no longer belonged to India.





In 1949, the IFC engaged its first regular Physical Training instructor, the legendary Mr. O. E. Peters, who remained a pillar of strength at IFC for nearly 25 years.



THE LEGENDARY O.E. PETERS

By-Sh.Vinod Rishi, 1969-71 batch IFS

Our toughening up program started on the second day in IFS. Paan Singh woke me up with a hot cup of tea at 6:00 am, with a curt "Get up, sir. You have to report for the morning P.T. at 6:30 am. Get ready, and keep your shoes outside the room for cleaning." Later I found out Paan Singh was a word-thrift - it must have taken him quite some effort to speak so many words at a go.

In the ground a Triumph motor-cycle thundered in from the gate near the Basket-ball court. A tall, elderly, bald-headed, dark complexioned man stepped off the bike, set it on its stand, and ambled along towards us. He was in white shirt and trousers. Athletically built except for an alcoholic belly, he introduced himself as Mr. O.E. Peters, the man who had trained every single officer of the forest service, right from the Inspector General of Forest to the President of the Forest Research Institute down to officers who had just completed their training and left IFC the day we had arrived. And now he was going to see what he could do with the lot standing before him!

One by one he stepped close to us, casting piercing stares at us and asking us about the disciplines of sports and games of our interest. Our batch was small, but many of us were quite proficient in field games and sports. I had played football at Inter-universities tournament level and senior division football at Delhi before I came to Dehradun. Most of the former army officers had a good list of games they could play. But there were also those who did not play anything worthy of note by Mr Peters. He felt there were a whole lot of novices fit only for learning volley-ball, and he will change that.

In the convocation of the 1947-1949 course, which was held on 24th March 1949, India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, was the chief guest. During his address he exhorted the officers with these compelling words: "I am a great lover of mountains, trees, birds and animals and therefore of nature and natural forests. I appeal to the forestry students and forest officers that they should maintain intimate contact with the forests with a view to their development, for the benefit of the masses."

During the 1948-1950 course, it was determined that the physical demands of the programme were unnecessarily strenuous for the students. Reducing the amount of time spent on tours, and increasing the hours of classroom instruction remedied this. At the same time, lectures were limited to morning hours only, so that students would have more time for studies, recreation and social contacts.

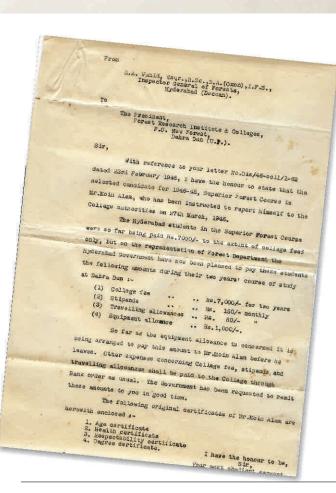
Beginning in the 1950-1951 course, a new programme for senior students was opened. They would be assigned a special subject for intensive study, and be guided by experienced research officers.

The educational qualifications for applicants were broadened a bit again in 1950, allowing admission to graduates in

science with a second division. Degrees in civil, mechanical and chemical engineering, statistics and economics also became included in the list of approved minimum qualifications. The final selection of candidates depended upon the results of a competitive examination through state public service commission, also introduced that year.

In 1951, opportunities for extracurricular activities were improved through the provision of new facilities for outdoor hobbies such as photography and rifle shooting. In the same year, the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) formally endorsed the college as an International Centre of Forest Education for the Southeast Asia and Pacific regions. It was also around this time that the designation of Principal was changed to Dean.

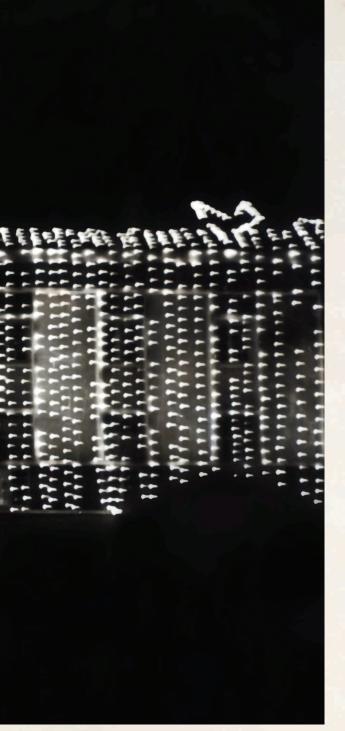
Another important development during this period was the recognition of the vital importance of wildlife management to the domain of forestry. In order to equip the students with an adequate knowledge of this critical subject, a full course of 18 lectures on Wildlife Management was introduced as part of the curriculum. Training course, tours and other activities of training otherwise remained similar to first course. Cost of training was borne by state governments who were sending the candidates for training.



→ Above - Letter showing cost of training at IFC



THE ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIAN FOREST COLLEGE



CHAPTER O6

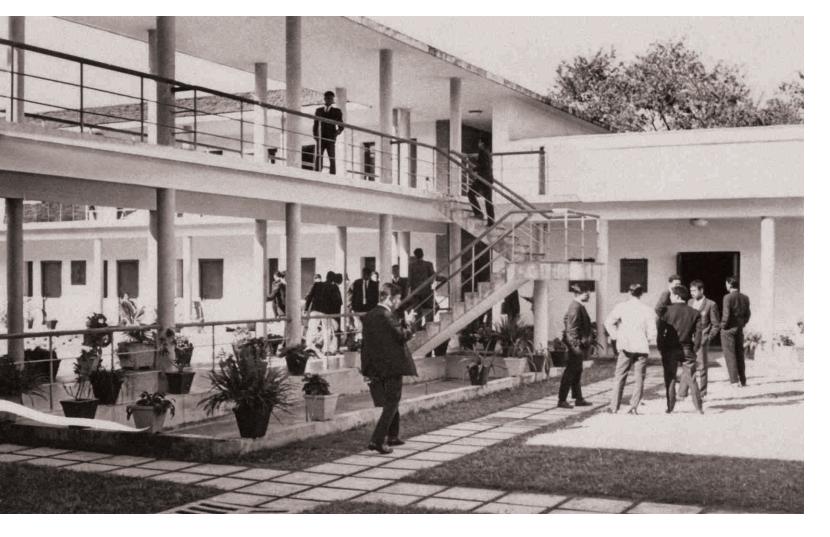
TOWARDS THE SILVER JUBILEE

IN 1955, THE LENGTH OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SUPERIOR FOREST SERVICE (SFS) TRAINEES WAS INCREASED FROM 2 YEARS TO 3 YEARS. ONE MAJOR CHANGE THAT BEGAN WITH THAT FIRST 3-YEAR COURSE (1955-1958) WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 6-MONTH PERIOD OF ON THE JOB TRAINING THAT THE PROBATIONERS WOULD RECEIVE IN THEIR HOME STATES, CANDIDATES FOR THE SFS WOULD SPEND THEIR FIRST 2 YEARS STUDYING IN THE COLLEGE, AND THEN HEAD OFF TO THEIR RESPECTIVE STATES FOR THEIR PRACTICAL TRAINING. AFTER THE 6 MONTHS OF ON THE JOB TRAINING, THEY WERE REQUIRED TO COME BACK TO THE IFC FOR THE FINAL 6 MONTHS OF THE COURSE, STUDENTS WOULD BE AWARDED A PRELIMINARY DIPLOMA AFTER 2 YEARS OF STUDY, BUT THEIR FINAL DIPLOMA WAS GIVEN ONLY AFTER COMPLETION OF FULL 3-YEAR PROGRAMME.

eginning in 1956, the start of the academic year was shifted from April to October. This was done to enable the fresh graduates to join the Service in the same year of their graduation, saving them the 6-month wait that had become customary. This change also made for a helpful adjustment in the schedule of the practical training period. Now the students would take their practical course after two years training, from October to April, allowing them to avoid the rainy season.

Until 1956, student accommodation was handled primarily in the Old Hostel. But then the much bigger New Hostel was built. It had three wings, 84 single occupancy rooms and common bathrooms. This New Hostel complex also had a Lounge, an Auditorium and an Officers' mess. Trainees began using this hostel on 1st October, 1956, but the IFC continued to make good use of the Old Hostel. Initially, while the IFC programme was a 3-year course, the Old Hostel was used for senior students when they came back for their last 6 months of training. Later on, when the programme was again trimmed to a 2-year course, and the student batches were quite large, it was used to accommodate the junior class trainees.







→ Improving the infrastructure

Top to Bottom

- → Three wings of New Hostel, constructed in 1956
- → Inside view of New Hostel
- → New Hostel Auditorium and Lounge view from outside

The reason the 3-year course was compressed to 2 years was because of the difficulties in administration and in running the tours. The final 3-year course was completed by the 1958-1961 batch. The next course, 1959-1962, actually took two and half years, providing a transition down to the 2-year course. The probationers from this course graduated in April 1962 instead of October 1962. The next batch of recruits, joining in 1960, would be the first to take the new 2-year programme. Since there was no fresh batch joining in 1961, that year was used to produce a new revision of the training syllabus.

Besides the 2-year diploma course for the Superior Forest Service, the IFC also offered a special 1-year management certificate course to students from foreign countries, who were already graduates in forestry. The certificate course covered subjects dealing with Forest Management, and was supplemented by tutorial coaching.

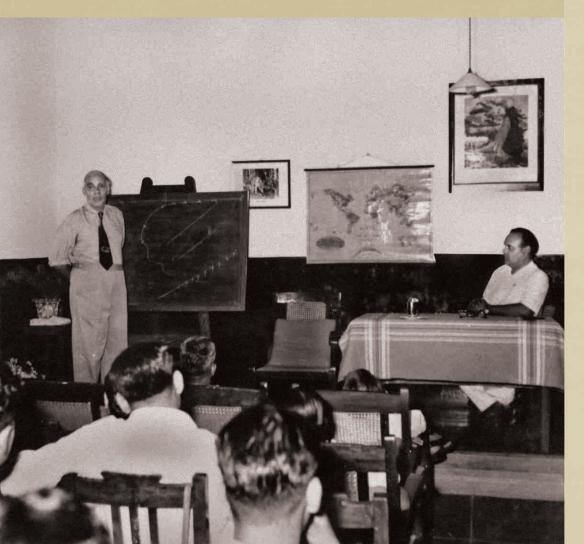
In 1964, two prizes were instituted to encourage excellence among the students. The first was for the foreign student who secured the highest total marks in the diploma course. For funding this prize, money was donated by Sh. V.S. Rao, ex-Inspector General of Forests. The other prize was for the student who

secured the highest total marks in forestry subjects in the first and second year terminal examinations. To fund this prize, money was donated by Sh. K.P. Sagreiya, ex- President of FRI and Colleges. These two prizes were awarded each year, funded from the interest being earned by the donated money. Another fine award was begun in 1964: a book donated by the Director of Commonwealth Forestry Bureau, Oxford would be awarded to the course's outstanding student.

The faculty of IFC was strengthened in the year 1964, as four distinguished retired foresters were posted as Professors Emeritus for delivering special lectures on important forestry aspects.



- → Wildlife Trophy of Wildlife Culb
- → Professer Emeritus (Retired Senior Forester) taking a class



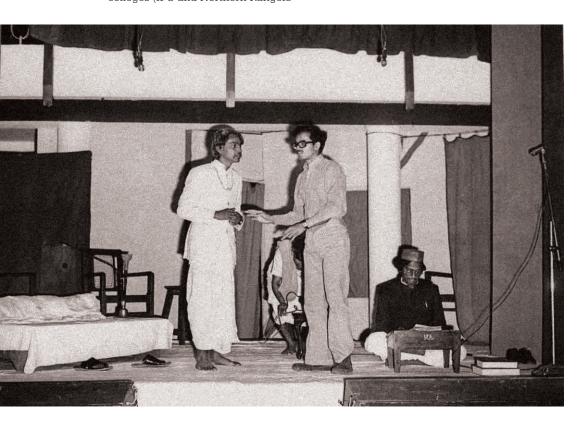


Life outside the Classroom: Extracurricular Activities

Over time, along with the development of the academic aspects of the course, there was also a growing richness in the extracurricular options available to probationers. The Wildlife Club was established at IFC in 1955. This Club was key in fostering a love for wildlife among young forest officers and in coaching them in the correct method of nature study, especially in the critical issue of game preservation. The Club also organised a highly popular shooting competition each year between the students of IFC and the students of the Northern Forest Rangers College. The best marksman was awarded the "Chaturvedi Shield." The IFC Wildlife Club was equipped with an excellent library and a fine collection of trophies and mounted specimens of wild animals.

There were other clubs and societies that gave students opportunity to learn new skills or pursue new interests. There was the camera club, the science society, the sports club and others. In 1958, these clubs were all amalgamated into one Student Association for the college that had several branches covering the different activities. This was done to lighten the management load, while still ensuring that the students would be the ones to control the activities that were being financed from their own pockets. Only the Wildlife Club remained separate, as this was an organisation for both the colleges (IFC and Northern Rangers'

College) as well as for F.R.I. At the end of each year there were tournaments and photographic exhibitions, organised by the Student Association responsible for the particular activity. Starting in 1956, an annual Students' Magazine was launched by the IFC Magazine section of the Association. In 1962, the Student Association added a drama and entertainment section. This enthusiastic group of students organized cultural programmes at the end of each year to provide a platform for students to showcase their performance talents.





Top to Bottom

- → Cultural Programme by Drama and Entertainment section of IFC club
- → Convocation

Silver Jubilee: the IFC Celebrates 25 Years of Service

The 25-year anniversary of the IFC should have been celebrated in 1963, but the Indo-China war precipitated a national emergency, and forced a delay in the celebration until the next year. The time for commemoration came on 23rd October 1964, when the IFC was finally able to celebrate its Silver Jubilee in the Convocation Hall of FRI. Shri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, was the chief guest. The event started with a welcome address by Sh. M. A. Rehman, President of FRI and Colleges. Sh. Rehman had accomplished something that no one else could boast: he had taught every single batch of probationers from the college's inception, through to its silver jubilee. After the welcome address, the Director of Forest Education, Sh. R.C. Kaushik provided a review of the IFC's first 25 years of functioning. Next, the inaugural address was delivered by the chief guest. During his address, the chief guest included some words of tremendous motivation to all who serve as part of the IFC: "Today, almost the entire Forest Service in the country is manned by the alumni of this college and in no small measure; the history of forestry in India has already been shaped and will continue to be shaped in our country by them. The numerous alumni from foreign countries who passed out from the portals of this college might also be doing the same in their countries. The Indian Forest College can rightly be proud of this achievement." The anniversary event then concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Sh. Hari Singh, Inspector General of Forests.



Convocation Hall of FRI

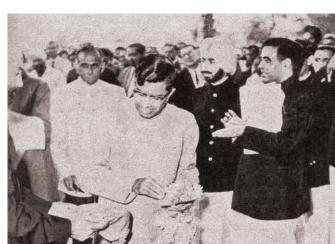
→ Achieving a milestone

Clockwise Below

- → New IFC building
- → Opening of the new College building of the IFC by Shri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Food & Agriculture, Govt. of India
- → Silver Jubilee Souvenir of IFC

In the afternoon of the same day, the Hon'ble Minister also performed the opening ceremony for the new IFC administrative building. This building is still the main building of the Institute today. For a period of time before its formal inauguration, this building had been placed at the disposal of the Indian Military Academy. On the night of its opening ceremony, the building was lit up splendidly as part of the celebration. A Silver Jubilee souvenir was also published on this occasion, accentuating its importance as a milestone of the IFC's development and value.



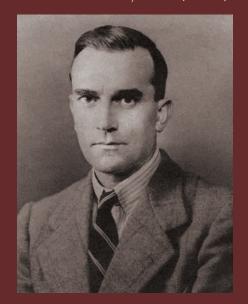




On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of The Indian Forest College

As appeared in silver jubilee souvenir

REFLECTIONS BY E.C. MOBBS, I.F.S. (Retd.)



opportunity of seeing the results of his work, whether they be the effects of his thinnings on the forest, the progress of his plantations, or the way natural regeneration is establishing itself after his regeneration operations. In this way he continues to learn; and when he stops learning, it is past high time for him to retire!

These are in general short-term effects, and although in carrying out the various works he has often had to keep in mind the long-term effects, to think and to plan in terms of decades, or even of a century or more, it is not often given to him to see or to be able to review these long term effects, which are the ultimate result of the work of many others besides himself.

The Silver Jubilee of the Indian Forest College affords an excellent opportunity for such a review of the work of the College. As its first Principal for 7 years, from 1938 to 1945, and then as the first Director of Forest Education under the Government of India for the following two years, 1945 to 1947, it was the privilege and pleasure of the writer, as well as his duty, to start the college off on its life, which has already passed a quarter of a century, and will doubtless be very, very long, and which has already established a world - recognized reputation for the high standard of its training and the quality of the officers it produces.

students of the earlier classes are now at the head of their services as Conservators and Chief Conservators, and how many have occupied posts as research officers; and interesting also to read their publications in various journals.

What is it, one wonders, that these early alumni remember most vividly about their college days? Probably not just the teaching they received in the various aspects of forestry, for that at best only provided the solid basis on which they have been able to build the superstructure of experience and wisdom, which has led them to their present positions.

Was it the tours, which took them to all parts of India, and parts of what now Pakistan, from the pine and deodar forests of the Himalayas in Chakrata, Kangra and Kulu, to the evergreen, deciduous and dry forests of Coorg, Madras and Bombay, and from the erosion areas of the Pabbi Hills and the irrigated plantations of Changamanga, through the sub-montane Sal and miscellaneous forests of North India, to the taungya plantations of Bengal?

Or was it the P.T. at 6 in the morning, and the compulsory games every evening, and the succession of blisters-blistered hands from felling trees in the practical thinning exercises, blistered feet climbing the steep slopes of the Himalayas, and blistered seats on the riding



course, in the Chakrata division, when starting at 6 in the morning, we climbed up and down 6,000 feet, walked 28 miles, studied the forests and changing vegetation from over 9,000 ft. down to the Tons valley, a little over 3,000ft., and spent the afternoon in the stifling heat of the valley measuring and drawing plan and elevation of the Thadiar suspension bridge. Each class took a delight in telling their successors of this picnic day, so soon to be "enjoyed". Only once did all the class get back to the camp at Kathian by 10 p.m. where Mrs. Mobbs would be waiting up with balm for tired and blistered feet!

It was certainly a strenuous two years' course. Only a few weeks ago, at the Forestry Commission Exhibition at Blackbushe in Surrey, an Indian gentleman introduced himself to me. He had been a student at the Indian Forest College, but after my time. "You gave them a very tough time," he said; and on my replying that he must have had a much easier time, he replied emphatically, "Oh no, Sir! Our instructors had been your students, and they did the same as you did, and we had just as tough a time!"

Perhaps, however, it is none of these aspects of the College course which linger longest and different parts of India; the common mess; the dinner parties in the houses of the Principal and other instructors and the various officers of the Forest Research Institute and the social relations these engendered, which led up to the guest nights held in the mess during the second year of the course. They were "good show", enjoyed by students and guests alike.

But whatever may linger longest in the memory, it was the combination of everythingthe lectures and the practical classes, the tours and the playing field, the common mess and the social relations, which prepared the students for the positions they were called to take up, and particularly for the responsibilities they have had to shoulder since the inauguration of India as an Independent country.

And the same is, of course, true today; for the College has established its reputation not only on the technical grounds of its teaching, but for the way it instills a sense of professional integrity and devotion to duty and service, and encourages the development of the esprit de corps, characteristic of forest services the world over, which transcends local barriers of district or province, and looks to the welfare of India as a whole and on the entire forest

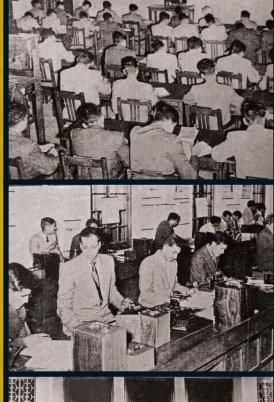
from a number of our former students at the College, and to receive a few of them in our home when they have come to Britain; and to myself to meet others of them on my travels in various parts of the world, particularly at the 5th World Forestry Congress at Seattle in the United States in 1960, and to talk to various people who have been to Dehradun and have visited the College since we left. And it has been an even greater pleasure to us to know that the Indian Forest College, towards which we cherish such warm affection, continues to develop in all ways.

We regret very much that we cannot be present at the Silver Jubilee celebrations. which we hope will be very successful and joyous occasion, and we send our united good wishes for the continued growth and success of the College for very many years to

→ Forestry is a multi disciplinary subject

Top to Bottom

- → Class in progress
- → Practical Class
- → Teaching Faculty in 1964
- → Forest Engineering practical in Roorkee
- → Plantation Activity







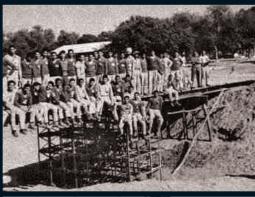
Beyond The Silver Jubilee Mark 1965-1967

Beginning with the 1964-1966 course, training in the maintenance of motors and heavy vehicles was added to the field engineering practical in Roorkee at the Bengal Engineering Centre. To accommodate this upgrade, 5 days were added to the field engineering practical. Another advance took place in 1965, when a 1 week Plantation Camp in a plantation area was added to the students' array of subjects.

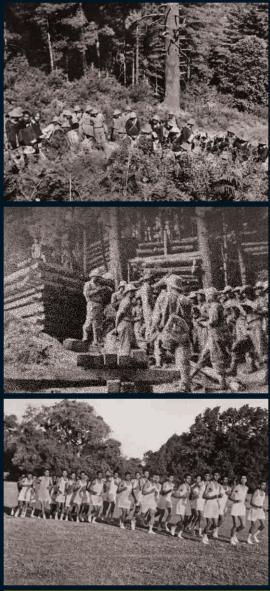
Due to the growing number of students, a house tutor system was introduced to supplement the classroom efforts, providing additional, personalised attention for personality development. One officer was in charge of 20 students in each house. In recent years, students have also been furnished with a system of special coaching in the areas of mathematics, botany and zoology, giving basic grounding to those who had not studied those subjects during their University education.

Beginning in 1965, in addition to the admission of state sponsored candidates, the diploma course of IFC was also thrown open to nominees from a variety of industries. One Sh. H.N. Verma, of Rohtas Industries attended the 1965-1967 course.

The faculty for the IFC was primarily drawn on a deputation basis from different States. Normal tenure for these officers had been limited to 5 years. But in 1965, in order to more fully utilise the services of experienced instructional staff, the limit on the period of deputation was raised from 5 years to 8.



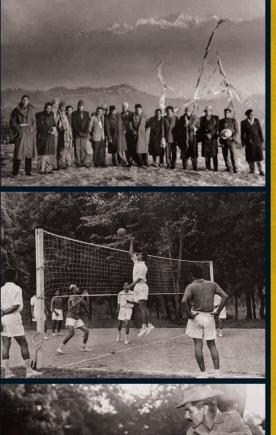




→ Sound mind in sound body

Top to Bottom

- → Students during a tour
- → Students learning timber depot management
- → Physical Training in the morning
- → During a tour
- → Evening Sports
- → Weapon Training in IMA



From the time of the IFC's birth, it had always been part of the vision to provide "Refresher Courses" for officers already in service. This vision was fulfilled in 1965 when, beginning in January of that year, as per the decision of the Central Board of Forestry, a 6-month refresher course for promoted officers was established. To be eligible for the Course, trainees had to be holders of the Rangers Certificate and have a substantial period of field experience. The primary purpose was to help them improve their performance as gazetted officers.

A physical training shed for IFC students was also constructed during this period in the mid-60s. Another improvement was the construction of barracks used by IFC trainees during tours. These were built at Sukna in West Bengal, at Allappali in Maharashtra and at Tholkabad in Bihar, saving everyone the trouble of hauling tents when on tours. These barracks were completed in 1967.

Practical training activities such as tours, exercises, horse riding, weapon training, physical training and games etc. continued to be engaged during this period as valuable features of the IFC programme.

The last trainees to be admitted to the SFS course were those of the 1967-1969 batch. At that point, SFS training was suspended as the Indian Forest Service had been reconstituted in 1966, and the training done at the IFC would now be for the all India level.

REMEMBERING THE ALMA MATER

D. C. Khanduri

1966-1968 course

I joined Indian Forest College (IFC) as State Forest Service trainee in 1966-1968 batch. Though I belong to the Garhwal hills, I was recruited for Punjab forest service and was ultimately allotted to Himachal Pradesh, on trifurcation of Punjab state in the November of 1966. Ours was relatively a big batch of about 110 probationers, and hence divided into three sections--A, B and C. However, most of the time C section was further subdivided into two and each half was asked to join either section A or B. The sections and houses within each section provided excellent opportunity to work in team spirit and develop camaraderie, as most of the time field tasks, such as enumeration, stump analysis, field surveys, etc., were assigned house-wise or section-wise. Apart from the dress code, etiquettes and table manners, making courtesy call on instructors and seniors was a part of grooming of trainees. Calling between 11 AM to 1 PM, on Sunday, was considered most appropriate and convenient time for both the visitor as well as the host, as Sunday matinee movie show, after a sumptuous lunch, was almost a regular routine of most of the trainees. These courtesy calls provided an opportunity for the trainees to develop social relations and discuss topics, other than the forestry and studies, in a cordial atmosphere. Involvement of house lady was very important and effective, as a communicative lady host would encourage the trainees for a repeat



Life at IFC would have been very dull had there not been the photographer Mr. Arora. As and when there was an indoor or outdoor activity, on the very next day one would see the photographs of the event, in black and white hues, spread on the table of common room and trainees leaning over each other to get a glimpse of his own face and book the copy. Ali, the supplier of the items of daily use, Kohli, the tailor and the barber, were other persons important in the life of trainees. But the person with whom most important relationship each trainee developed was his bearer. Most of them were very efficient, pleasant and affectionate. One bearer used to serve six trainees of the house and was able to keep each one in good humour. This was not an easy job.

Visiting petty shops for tea and sweets at Panditwari was out of bounds and on being caught would result in "conduct marks" being deducted though I could never figure out as to how many were the maximum conduct marks from which these deductions were made. There was dress code (including foot wear) for every occasion and one could not defy it. Putting on clothes other than prescribed dress code was a big offence, but visiting Panditwari in Dinner Jacket (DJ) was still bigger one, which most of the trainees did commit. However, there was difference of stages, as some did it in the very first month of the joining IFC while others in last month before leaving IFC. The first time I visited Panditwari, sometime in November 1966,

was a terrible experience, as while I was cycling down to the road, everyone coming from the opposite direction looked to me either Mr. Vaishnav or Mr. Sahariya.

On the eve of passing-out from IFC, there was a tradition of organizing a farewell dinner, which was called the "Guest Night" and juniors used to perform cultural show. Preparation was being made by us for this occasion for about twenty days under the guidance of Mr. Saharia, who was in charge of these activities. Three days before the "Guest Night", when everything was in final stages and trainees were rehearsing, after dinner, in auditorium of new hostel. Mr. Kaushik, the DFE, dropped in. After various items were presented, he disapproved of everything and questioned "Are you organizing a dinner or a stage show? Will you ask your guests to sit in auditorium? This is rubbish. You can entertain them by some fancy dress show or presenting some songs, while they are enjoying their dinner." Everything had to be changed overnight. However, the Guest Night went off well, highlight of the evening being a pipe smoking gentleman (S.K. Dutta, Senior class) and his charming lady wife (J.S. Nayal, junior class).



IFC AS TRAINING GROUND FOR THE RECONSTITUTED IFS

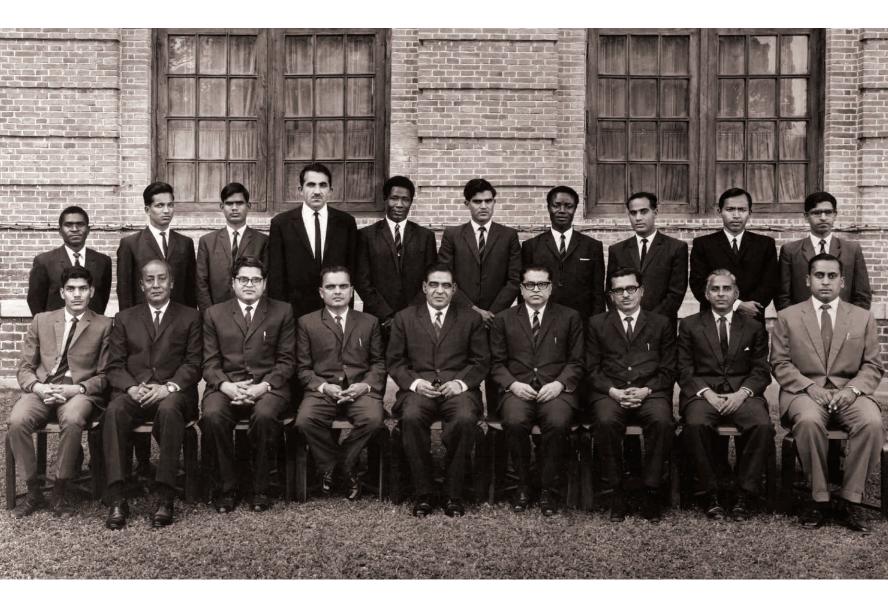


CHAPTER 07

IN THE EARLY 60s, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BEGAN RECOGNISING HOW VITALLY IMPORTANT THE FORESTS ARE FOR THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. THIS UNDERSTANDING RESULTED IN THE DECISION TO RECONSTITUTE THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE (IFS) AS AN ALL INDIA SERVICE. SO THE 1951 ALL INDIA SERVICES ACT WAS AMENDED IN 1963, EMPOWERING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO CONSTITUTE THREE NEW ALL INDIA SERVICES.

- 1. THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE
- 2. THE INDIAN SERVICE OF ENGINEERS
- 3. THE INDIAN MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICE

1968-1987



It took 3 years, but on 1st July 1966, the Indian Forest Service was officially constituted as an All India Service (the other two services could not yet be established). When it came to the selection of a venue for training the recruits of this newly reconstituted service, the obvious choice was the IFC, which by now had acquired international renown as a forestry training institute. Up until the 1967-1969 batch of students, all candidates for SFS training at the IFC were selected and recruited by their respective state governments. But with the reconstitution of the IFS in 1966 as an All India Service, this recruitment responsibility would now rest upon the shoulders of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) of India. So in 1967, the UPSC conducted an open, all India competition in search of talented trainees for the Indian Forest Service. This competition generated a select group of 51 candidates. Out of these qualified candidates, 34 had previously undergone training at the IFC as SFS trainees and were already active in service. Another

seven were current students at the IFC, taking training as part of the 1966-1968 SFS course. These already trained probationers were exempted from any additional training, and admitted directly into the IFS. From the remaining ten selected candidates, only nine joined the IFC in April 1968, forming the 1968-1970 course of IFS probationers. Later, three of these probationers resigned, leaving only six IFS trainees in the new batch at the IFC. There were also five foreign trainees who took the programme as members of that course.

Recruitment to the SFS was suspended after 1967, but only for 3 years. In 1971, the training of State Forest Service (previously Superior Forest Service) probationers was revived, and for 5 years the IFC was carrying out the training of both IFS and SFS probationers. In May 1976, a new State Forest Service College was opened at Burnihat, Assam, for the SFS trainees, so from that point on, the IFC was occupied exclusively in the training of IFS probationers.

Born with Silver spoon

Above: 1968-70 course, the first one of the reconstituted Indian Forest Service

The Training

The Government of India was responsible to define and develop the IFS Probation Rules, which guided the training of IFS Probationers. According to the Rules of 1966, every person recruited to the Service through competitive examination would be on probation for a period of 3 years. The monthly salary of a newly appointed probationer was Rs. 400.

For designing the training curriculum, "The Indian Forest Service (Probationers' Final Examination) Regulations, 1968" served as the guide. These rules had come into force on 1st April 1968 and, among other things, divided the final examination into three parts:

- i) Written and practical examinations
- ii) Exercises
- iii) Qualifying tests

9. THE INDIAN FOREST SERVICE (PROBATIONERS' FINAL EXAMINATION) REGULATIONS, 1968 In pursuance of rule 8 of the Indian Forest Service (Probation) Rules, and the Union Public Service Commission, hereby makes the following 1. Short title and commencement.—(1) These regulations may be called 1968.

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) These regulations may be called Examination Regulations. (2) They shall be deemed to have come into force on 1st April, 1968. 2. **Definitions.**—(1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise res, "Schedule" means a Schedule appended to these regulations. (2) All other words and expressions used in these regulations and not forest Service (Probation) Rules, 1968. 3. Final Examination.—(1) Every probationer shall, during and at or examination comprising; (iii) qualifying tests. (2) The written and practical examinations shall be held as follows:— (i) First year Examination at or about the end of the first year of Second year Examination at or about the end of the second year of training at the Institute, (3) Exercises in field work shall be held during the course of training tramme. (4) The Final Examination shall be conducted by the President in (5) The dates on which and the places at which the various examinations and tests shall be held shall be fixed by the Central Government in

Above: Syllabus for IFS training in 1968

"------ If you accept this offer, you must report to the Dean, Indian Forest College, Prem Nagar Post office, Dehradun, Uttar Pradesh, not later than 1st April, 1968. --- Government of India wishes you a successful career in the Public Service.

Yours Sincerely,

M R Bhardwaj,

Deputy Secretary, DoPT, New Delhi"

We were six in the first batch of IFS, to be trained. DFE, Mr R C Kaushik, in his first address, termed us as 'born with silver spoon'. IR (Initial Recruit) was yet to be finalised. Thus we were the only IFS in the campus. Salary and TA of IFS constituted a substantial portion of FRI budget. Full first class bogey reserved for tours with bearers travelling in the same coach all through.

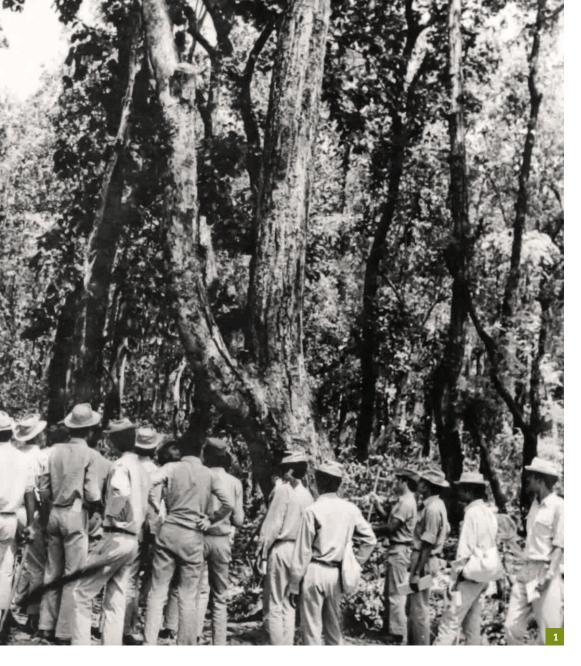
Camps had the real attention to details with no let up in cutlery/crockery and the manners in dining. Strict discipline, incisive eyes of instructor and thorough coverage of syllabus both in the class and in field kept us busily engaged and we did not know how 2 years have passed. (We had no foundation course in Mussoorie as the details were yet to be worked out). We had 5 foreigners in the batch one each from Afghanistan, Indonesia and Malawi and two from Nigeria who gave us excellent company.

There were lighter moments too. I recall our Dean Mr H C Dey asking us not to forget to write the question number in silviculture examination since 'all the questions had the same answer'; getting stranded in Simla due to heavy snow fall and no money to pay hotel bill; losing route during return from Thadiar to Mundali; instructor telling us the sequence of tree species near rest house, from the old tour journal, without knowing that one of the trees has been cut

DoPT took time to decide our Cadre allocation. Nearly at the end of the training, I was informed of my allocation to Madras cadre; Ram Prasad, Ramesh Sharma and Suresh Jena to MP Cadre; Kidar Nath Baidya to Karnataka and Ganesh Prasad Shukla to UT - first posting in a division in NEFA which did not find place on the map. Despite collegues lamenting on my cadre, I enjoyed every moment of my stay in Tamilnadu.

Training period in IFC was the best part of my career which I will cherish always. I had also the fortune of giving away the Diploma to IFS Probationers from the same dais in the convocation Hall where I received my diploma from.

J C KALA Former DG Forests and Secretary to GOI





→ Acquiring different skills

- → 1 Learning the forest management in a forest
- → 2 Weapon training in IMA
- → 3 & 4 Survey exercise
- \rightarrow 5 Visit to a forest industry
- → 6 During a field tour
- → 7 Mensuration Exercise in Chakrata Forest
- → 8 Horse Riding in IMA

Written and Practical Examinations

The IFS Regulations defined a detailed syllabus for these three areas of training. For the written and practical examinations section, the subjects immediately included in the syllabus had remained largely unchanged from the SFS syllabus of 1961. But in 1971, the syllabus was reviewed in consultation with the Panel on Forestry Education, and modifications were made in order to keep the probationers current with modern developments in forestry. This resulted in the addition of subjects like Forest

Economics, World Forestry and Environmental Conservation to the diploma training of IFS. About 60% of the training period was spent on lectures and the remaining 40% was spent on laboratory practicals, field tours, excursions and exercises.

Exercises

The Exercises included Botanical and Entomological Collections, Engineering and Survey Plates, a Working Plan exercise, a Field Engineering course with the Army, Forest Road Alignment and Dissertation (thesis).





Qualifying Tests

The Qualifying tests were First Aid and Ambulance Drill, Weapon Training, Riding, Regional Languages, Hindi, Motor Mechanics and Swimming.

The IFC dedicated more than 30 weeks to tours in order to expose the probationers to the different forest types of the country, the national parks, sanctuaries and zoological parks and also to visit wood based industries. Tours during the first year included Summer tour, Autumn tour and two Winter tours. Then in the second year, there was another Summer and a

Winter tour. Dynamic training activities like physical training, games, extracurricular activities, wildlife club, etc. continued to develop during this stage in the IFC's life.

Examinations were conducted throughout the program and a 50% score in forestry subjects was required to pass, as well as a 40% mark in all other subjects. On successful completion of the 2 years course, a diploma titled "Associate of Indian Forest College (AIFC)" was given to the Probationers who secured 55% aggregate marks. Probationers securing more than 75% marks were awarded an

honours diploma. If a probationer failed to reach pass marks, he would be given another chance in a supplementary examination. However, the marks obtained by the probationers in the supplementary examination did not qualify for determining their final seniority placement.

The second batch of IFS probationers joined in 1969 and experienced a slightly different training track from the previous batch of probationers. They did their first 4 months of training, from April to July, 1969, at the IFC, but then they were sent to Mussoorie to take 4 months of the



Foundation Course (FC) at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA). In the FC, probationers from the three all India services, Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Forest Service, along with probationers of the Indian Foreign Service and Central Services were trained in the basics of administration and bureaucracy in India. This training feature proved to be very successful, and after this batch the FC became a regular component of the training provided for all IFS probationers.



VINOD RISHI (1969-1971 course)

After the first phase of four months of our training at IFC we were sent to LBSNAA for four months of Foundation Course.

Ours was the first batch of IFS officers sent to the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration at Mussoorie. We joined the Foundation Course training for all new entrants to the IAS, IPS, Indian Foreign Service, IRS and all other Central Services. The pride in our service, consolidated by the previous four months of training at IFC had given a confidence that set us apart from the rest. The Indian Forest Service probationers were adjudged to be the best in many activities, and also as a batch we had received favorable comments from the authorities at the Academy.

NAG TIBBA

But I cherish the winning of a cup in an interservices competitive trek to Nag Tibba from Mussoorie. The probationers of each service were required to send a team of 6 members for the competition. Our team leader was Balvinder Singh (Assam-Meghalaya Cadre), and I was one of the five in the rest of the team. The terms of competition included the conditions that the entire team will have to reach the Nag Tibba summit, hand over to the staff at Nag Tibba the slips given to us at Mussoorie, and return together at the end point of the trek, where prizes will be given by the Director of the Academy at camp dinner. The use of ponies or failure of a part of a team in reaching the summit and back to the finishing point would disqualify the team.

We had covered a total distance of 57 km in 17 hours of non-stop walk. We were the first to reach Nag Tibba; all team members had covered the entire trek as a tight band of trekkers. When we had descended a few hundred yards on our way back we found the first member of the following team coming up. Half way down we found one member of his team riding a hired pony. We kept on walking the mountain track through the dark night, ignoring the furious barking of dogs when we passed through hamlets. In the distance the sparkling lights of Mussoorie made the dark mountain slope a surrealist picture. Dawn brought us to a small shop at the base of Nag-Tibba mountain, where we stopped for tea. The shop was crammed with trekkers from other teams who had dropped the idea of climbing up in the gloom of night.

Shortly thereafter we reached the finishing line. After reporting our arrival we relaxed. confident that we were the winners. But in the evening, when the results were declared we were shocked to hear that another team had been named winner. We knew the team was led by the person whom we had met going up on our way down from Nag Tibba. Some of his team members had spent night in the tea shop where we had stopped for a few minutes a few hours ago. It was physically not possible for any of them to have climbed up and return from Nag Tibba in such a short period of time.

We felt crest-fallen, but Balwinder Singh could not accept defeat. We decided to lodge our protest, and he spoke forcefully on the role of a training academy in character building of the officers who are supposed to serve the country setting examples of integrity and professionalism for others to follow. His talk was very impressive, inoffensive, yet full of implications if flaws in integrity are ignored.

A brief and quick enquiry was held. The contention was found justified. The decision changed. And the cherished cup commemorating the win rests on a shelf in my drawing room.

The layout for training was changed a little bit in 1972 as it was decided that the Foundation Course at the National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, would now be conducted at the end of the 2-year professional course at IFC, Dehradun

The professionalism and excellence of the IFC program continued to earn wider acclaim, and in 1977, the Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Universities both recognised the A.I.F.C. diploma as equivalent to a post-graduate degree.

A noteworthy advance in the 80s was the admission of the first female IFS probationer in the 1980-1982 course. The training syllabus was revised again in 1983, making the following changes:

- (1) The optional Botany or optional Elementary Mathematics was deleted.
- (2) Range Management, Mensuration-III, Social Forestry, Tribal Welfare and Forest Machinery were added.
- (3) The number of elective subjects was increased from three to six.

Right: Syllabus of 1983

Left:Foundation course in LBSNAA Mussoorie

In the year 1984 designation of Dean was changed as Director. For the Convocation of the 1982-1984 course, the IFC was privileged to have the Hon'ble President of India, Giani Zail Singh, as the chief guest. There was no Convocation event for the 1984-1986 course, but the diplomas were distributed by the Director of the IFC in his chamber. Again for the 1985-1987 course, no formal Convocation was held, but the diplomas and prizes were distributed in a simple ceremony.









Sweet fruit of 2 Years hard work

Convocation photos of IFC

The New Hostel and Old Hostel continued to meet the housing needs for students throughout the 70s and into the early part of the 80s. But by the time we come into the mid-80s, the size of the student batches required greater housing capacity, and they began to be accommodated throughout the campus in the Old Hostel, the New Hostel, the SFS College South Block hostel and, for the lady probationers, in the sisters' quarters. In 1987, three more blocks (the present D. E and F blocks) having 84 rooms were added to the New Hostel to accommodate the growing number of trainees.







→ Family of Foresters

- → 1 Lunch in new hostel mess
- → 2 Holi celebration in new hostel
- → 3 Diwali celebration in new hostel with Dean IFC

Cadre Allocation Policy of the IFS

With the creation of the IFS as an All India Service, cadre allocation to probationers was introduced. From 1968 to 1978, batch cadre allocation was done on the basis of a Roster System. Under this system, each selected candidate was asked to choose three states in order of preference. Cadres were allocated depending on the number of vacancies and maintaining a 1:1 ratio of insider to outsider candidates (i.e. native or nonnative to the State in question). Beginning with the 1979 batch, the Roster System was changed to the Limited Zonal Preferences System. In this system, all the cadres were grouped into five zones, and the candidates were given the opportunity to rank the zones in the order

of their personal preference. Then, for each zone, the candidates were to indicate their first and second preferred cadre. The allocation was made in light of the rank and preferences of the candidates, as well as the number of vacancies available to both insiders and outsiders. This system continued through the 1984 batch. Beginning with the 1985 batch, the Roster System was again reinstated, but now changing the ratio of insider to outsider candidates to 1:2. Allocation was made based on rank and on the willingness of the officers to be allocated to their home states. All state cadres were arranged in alphabetical order and divided into four groups. This system continued until the 2008 batch.

Refresher and Special Courses

The IFC had been providing a 6-month special refresher course for rangers promoted to gazetted service since 1965. But in 1975, the IFC suspended this service in light of the new 1-year Management Course that was set to be a part of the newly formed SFS College at Burnihat, beginning in 1976.

Beginning in 1970, the IFC launched the 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ month Wildlife Management Course to provide essential training for forest officers coming from various states. The first 6 months of the course took place at the IFC, then for the final 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ months, the trainees would head to their respective states where they would do their dissertation work. Successful candidates were awarded a Diploma of Wildlife Management (DWM). The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) expressed considerable interest in the course, to the point that even their own experts were

contributing valuable suggestions for the course's further development. The first batch of officers joined the program on 1st April 1970 from a number of State Forest Departments, mostly drawn from the Sanctuaries and Wildlife wings of the various States. Subsequently, it was realised that the 6-month training period at the IFC was too short a period for such a course, so beginning with the fifth course, which commenced on 1st March 1973, the training period was extended to a total of 10 1/2 months: 8 months at the IFC, then the 2 ½ months of dissertation work on a selected subject, which was completed by the trainees upon return to their respective states. Officers, such as Shri S.R. Chowdhury from Orissa, were in charge of the Wildlife Management Course at the IFC. In 1977, this valued IFC course was elevated to a full-fledged diploma course, and to the establishment of a separate Directorate of Wildlife,

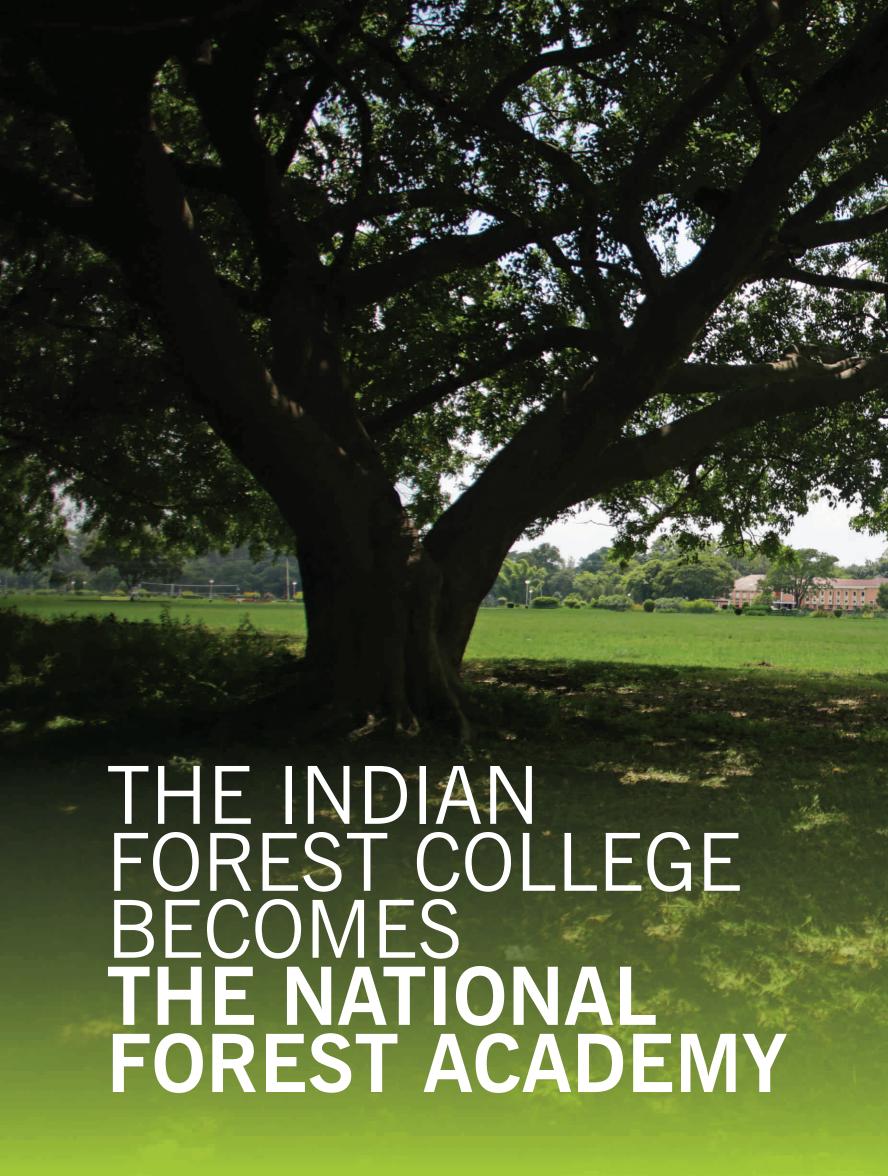
Environmental Research and Education, that served under FRI, and gave leadership to the Wildlife Management training efforts.

The administration and faculty of the IFC, always eager to keep improving their educational practices, hosted a 2-week course on "Pedagogical Techniques in Forestry Training." This course was conducted by the FAO and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) in March of 1971. The IFC also held, in late 1976, an international workshop on "Forest Development Planning." This workshop was also jointly sponsored by FAO and SIDA, and drew interested participants from Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Korea and Sri Lanka.

→ Caring for Wild Life

→ Below: Shri. S. R. Chowdhury faculty of IFC with Wild Life Diploma Trainees



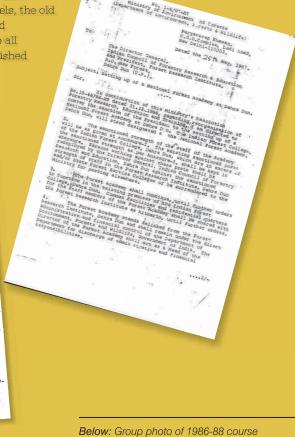




ust a few months later, on 25th May, 1987, the Government of India implemented the resolution, issuing an order to upgrade the IFC to the National Forest Academy, which was given the formal name of "The Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy." The MoEF also set the size of the faculty, as well as the size of the staff of the academy. During these changes, the 1986-1988 batch was in training, and Sh. P. Keswani of the Maharashtra cadre was serving as Director of the academy. The IFC building with the two grounds in front of it, the old and new hostels, the old hostel mess, the playground and associated sports facilities were all brought under the newly established

ns, Ministry of Environment and

academy. However, for the time being, residential accommodation continued in FRI quarters, as it had been earlier (separate residential colony of academy came up in 1992, along Chakrata road). The function and purpose of the academy remained the same: the training of new recruits to the Indian Forest Service. But with the passage of time, the academy has grown in size, its activities have become more diversified and the infrastructure has continued to improve.



The Training

Although the 1987 upgrade caused no major change in the training activities of IFS probationers, the awarding of diplomas upon completion of the training was stopped and convocations were no longer held. Beginning in 1991, instead of the convocation, a valedictory event was given, where course completion certificates and awards were distributed. This continued until 1998 when the more formal convocation ceremony was reinstated.

A new enhancement was the introduction of a one week long Parliament Attachment. This feature was designed to familiarise the probationers with the procedures and functioning of the Parliament of India. The 1986-1988 course of IFS probationers was the first to undergo this training, and its success resulted in making it a regular component of training for all probationers. A computer centre was also established in academy in the year 1990.





- → Keeping Pace with Technology
- → Left: Inauguration of Computer Center of IGNFA



The awarding of a new diploma, the "Associate of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy" (AIGNFA), was introduced by the Government of India on 21st January 1998. Then in April 1998, the diploma was declared to be equal to the M.Sc. Forestry degree approved by FRI University. The trainees of the 1995-1998 course were the first to be honoured with these new diplomas, receiving them during the newly re-established convocation event. These upgraded diplomas were also sent to all those officers who had successfully completed the programme during the 10 preceding years. There had been a total of 788 graduates during that period from 1986 to 1997.





In February 2000, a special award ceremony was held, honouring officers of 1986 to 1988 batches who had won prizes because for these batches there had been no convocation or valedictory functions to recognise their achievements.

Above & Left: First Convocation of IGNFA in 1998

Below: Special award ceremony for 1986 to 1988 Batches

