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## PREFACE

Forest Survey of India (FSI) has been mapping and assessing the country's forest cover biennially using remote sensing technology. 'India State of Forest Report 2011', (ISFR 2011) is the twelfth one in the series. The methodology used by the FSI has advanced considerably in last two decades. FSI has always been responsive to these technological advancements and quickly been able to assimilate them in its working system. This has helped in considerably expanding our capacity to assess the country's forest resources with still greater accuracy and precision.

ISFR 2011 presents the regular features like forest cover, tree cover, mangroves and growing stock in forest and TOF areas. Three new chapters of seminal importance have been featured in the present ISFR. These are: a detailed assessment of bamboo resources, a production-consumption assessment of wood based on data compiled through a special study conducted by the FSI and thirdly the assessment of carbon stock in India's forests reported under the NATCOM-II project. These are in keeping with the growing demands of time and the need for proper and scientific assessment of our resources. I am confident that information contained in the new chapters shall make the assessment of India's forest cover more comprehensive and complete.

Recently, we have taken up the challenge of monitoring our forests specially those in critically sensitive zones on near real time basis and are working towards putting the system and methodology in place. Likewise, fire the fieriest enemy of our forests, shall also be monitored on near real time basis by directly uploading the data with help of NRSC. With these and other initiatives, FSI shall be poised towards putting our forest monitoring systems at par with developed countries.

For the preparation of this report, I would like to acknowledge with thanks the guidance and support received from Dr. T. Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India, Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary to Govt. of India, Shri A.K. Bansal, ADG (FC), Shri R.K. Goel, IGE (EP) & Shri A.M. Singh, DIG (SU) from Ministry of Environment & Forests. I would also like to place on record the sincere efforts made by the officers and technical staff of FSI for the completion of this report. Their names are duly acknowledged at the end of this report. Lastly, as we stand to usher in 'India State of Forest Report 2011'; FSI renews its commitment towards making updated information and data pertaining to our forest resources always available so as to help make the sectoral planning and decision making processes most efficient and responsive to the future challenges.

  
(A.K. Wahal)