

OM PRAKASH SHARMA “VIDYARTHI”



Om Prakash Sharma “Vidyarthi” is a Professional Forester with 27 years of field and administrative experience in Government of Jammu and Kashmir. He did M.Sc. Botany from Jammu University in 1981. Qualified Kashmir Administrative Services (1984); subsequently, qualified Civil Services Examination in 1985 and joined Indian Forest Service (IFS) in 1987. He is intensely passionate about Nature and has coined nearly 2000 Technical and Scientific words in Dogri, compiled Trilingual Dictionary on Biodiversity (Dogri, English, Hindi). He has authored 38 books on Forestry and Non-Forestry subjects, notable contributions include: (i) Wild & Cultivated Plants of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, (ii) Medicinal Plants of Plains & Hills, (iii) Vidyarthi’s Dictionary of Plants and Animals, (iv) Ecotourism Destinations - Gurez, Gangbal & Gulmarg, (v) Forest Flora of Kashmir, (vi) Ped, Paryavaran & Paryatan. He has notable experience in the field of Taxonomy, Ecotourism, Documentation of Traditional Knowledge, Biodiversity Conservation and Medicinal Plants Conservation. He has contributed three scientific papers published in various journals of repute.

His previous posting profile include working as D.F.O. Research, D.C.F. Communication & Extension J&K Social Forestry Department, D.C.F. State Vigilance Organization, Regional Director Pollution Control Board, Joint Director J&K State Forest Research Institute, Conservator of Forests Working Plan, Conservator of Forests Vigilance, O/o Prl. CCF, Chief Conservator of Forests (Ecotourism) J&K Wildlife Protection Department, CCF Settlement and Demarcation, CCF Central and presently working as Director, Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing.

Om Prakash Sharma “Vidyarthi” has won “SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD” in 2002 for the literary contribution in “Dogri” language, book stands translated into Hindi “Boond Boond Smritiyan” by Sahitya Akademi New Delhi. He has initiated an innovative weekly environmental awareness programme nicknamed “TREE TALK” since 19th December, 2010 and has so far held 375 sessions involving students and members of the civil society.