

## **2. Geo-referenced Digital Database Creation of Forest Boundaries in Meerut Forest Division Using Remote Sensing Data, GPS and GIS Technique – A Pilot Project**

**Objectives:** To prepare a reasonably satisfactory geo-referenced digital map of forest boundaries of Meerut Forest Division, U.P.

**Study Area:** The study area covers Meerut Forest Division (Meerut & Bagpat district), Uttar Pradesh.

**Brief Description:** Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that each State/UT Government needs to complete the exercise to identify the areas which are "forests" irrespective of whether they are so notified, recognized or classified under any law and irrespective of the land of such "forest" and the areas which were earlier "forests" but stand degraded, denuded and cleared. The exercise, as per the guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Court, should culminate in preparation of geo-referenced map indicating the location and boundary of each plot of land that may be defined as "forest" for the purpose of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for each district in the country.

In view of the aforesaid guidelines, issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court, U.P. State Forest Department approached RSAC-UP, Lucknow to create a geo-referenced digital database of forest boundaries in Uttar Pradesh using remote sensing data, GPS and GIS technique. To begin with, one district on pilot project basis has been taken up.

**Funding Agency:** Uttar Pradesh Forest Dept., Lucknow.

**Project Personnel:** Dr. T.S.Kachhwaha, Head-FRED, Dr. P.Kunwar, Scientist 'SD' & Project Manager other Project personnel.