



प्रधानमंत्री  
Prime Minister



### MESSAGE

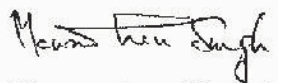
It is a matter of satisfaction that the Forest Survey of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests has completed two decades of forest cover assessment using remote sensing technology on a biennial basis and is presenting its 10th "State of Forest Report 2005".

Forests are among the most important of our life-support systems and our food security and water security are embedded within it. We need to both protect and enhance our green cover. The need to conserve forests and promote afforestation is especially urgent today as our planet faces the challenges of climate change.

It is important for the country to develop accurate knowledge of the status of forest cover and any changes in it on a continuous basis. This will help judicious allocation of resources for greening and help us evaluate our efforts. Effective benchmarking of our forest cover can also be useful for us as policy instruments get developed for financial transfers to compensate afforestation efforts.

We must on the one hand use the advances of modern technology in making our assessment more accurate and on the other ensure wide dissemination of the findings of such reports so that environmental sustainability becomes a collective agenda of all our people.

New Delhi  
4 January 2008

  
(Manmohan Singh)