

3rd Meeting of National Think Tank on Geospatial Strategy for New India

20 August 2019,

National Security Council Secretariat, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg,

New Delhi

3rd Meeting of National Think Tank on Geospatial Strategy for New India was convened on 20th August and was hosted by Lt. Gen. Rajesh Pant, Cyber Security Coordinator, National Cyber Coordination Centre, Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi.

Meeting was chaired by Padma Shree Dr BVR Mohan Reddy – Chair of the National Think Tank on Geospatial Strategy for New India.

Agenda at hand

The National Think Tank on Geospatial Strategy for New India came together on the 20th of August 2019 to deliberate on the **Geospatial Strategy and Policy Framework for New India**.

After deliberations on various issues associated with geospatial industry and its potential role in transformative journey of India, Think Tank Members made following recommendations. In addition to this, a concrete action plan was suggested, which is also submitted herewith in this document.

Recommendations:

1. Re-visited the need for one nodal geospatial agency and one nodal ministry and they shall be responsible for providing foundational geospatial data infrastructure and develop protocols to connect and collaborate with other thematic data producing agencies as well as commercial market place. It is further resolved that Survey of India (SoI) and Ministry of Science and Technology are the most appropriate organisations to undertake this responsibility.
2. Re-iteration on the need to define in the policy the relationship between SoI and the 16 other lead agencies and define clearly the roles and responsibilities of all lead agencies.
 - SoI to create a Geo-Hub in which all lead agencies create their own geospatial data hub and ensure that their data is easily accessible and shareable.

3. Revisited the need for Sectoral Geospatial Strategies for addressing primary user industries. The document shall define the geospatial activities that should be undertaken in each of the below sectors and the impact the activity will have on the given sector.
 - Transport Infrastructure
 - Urban Development
 - Land
 - Water
 - Energy
 - Disaster
4. The **National Geospatial Strategy and Policy Framework for New India** must articulate opportunities in the Geospatial domain by:
 - a. Detailing specific examples on how geospatial technologies help address pain areas in various sectors
 - E.g. improving farmer income – examples of how geospatial helps with this
5. The **National Geospatial Strategy and Policy Framework for New India** must bring out current policy level challenges and define a strategy that will help implement the proposed policy.
6. Recognizing the critical role of capacity development in the sector, the strategy must develop a plan on education and skill building in the sector taking into account the ways in which incubation should be promoted and how capacity can be developed through secondary, post-secondary and professional education. While the policy must identify geospatial profession as an independent sector.

Action Plan

1. The **National Geospatial Strategy and Policy Framework for New India** must have its vision and goals recast to the years that are relevant and important to the Indian Government and it's long-term and short-term agenda:
 - a. 2022 – short term goals
 - i. E.g. CORS will fall under the short-term, 2022 goals but will be completed by 2020. The impact of having a CORS network should be defined for the years 2022 and 2030
 - b. 2030 – long term goals
2. Once the document is developed, the think tank must take it to the influencers and stakeholders from the primary identified sectors by carrying out the following activities:
 - i. It is resolved that the National Think Tank on Geospatial Strategy for New India will deliver a National Geospatial strategy and policy document by 30th of September 2019 and will take it to all stakeholders by arranging a stakeholder seminar in October 2019. Survey of India will host the seminar in Dehradun on the 11th of October 2019.

- ii. The **National Geospatial Strategy and Policy Framework for New India** will be discussed at a larger senior executive stakeholder level during the pre-conference event at GeoSmart India, 2-5 December 2019, HICC, Hyderabad
- iii. Build bureaucratic and political support for the **National Geospatial Strategy and Policy Framework for New India** through meetings with identified key sector bureaucrats and ministers.
- iv. Developing a common hashtag for the movement
- v. Promote geospatial through seminars and talks at leading education institutions like IITs and IIMs.

About the National Think Tank

Terms of Reference

- **Non-Executive National Think Tank on Geospatial Strategy for New India**
- **Type of Entity:** Non-Executive and Volunteer Group of Leaders;
- **Purpose:** Development of a comprehensive, cohesive, coordinated, and conducive national geospatial strategy, encompassing shared vision and values of public authorities, private sector enterprises, academic institutions and users, laying the foundation for robust and innovative geospatial industry in India facilitating greater adoption of geospatial technology across various sectors of governance, development and businesses in India;
- **Tenure:** Tenure of the Think Tank shall be 4 year covering 2019 to 2022;
- **Membership Criterion:** Professionals having credible background and willingness to contribute on voluntary basis;
- **Funding Mechanism:** Geospatial Media shall allocate Rs. 10 lacs annually towards organizing meetings and secretarial support;
- **Meetings:** Think Tank shall meet at least twice in a year;
- **Ethics and Values:** Think Tank shall work together with common vision of serving the national goals and shall preserve integrity and intellectual propriety of its members;

Members and Observers Present for 2nd Meeting of National Think Tank on Geospatial Strategy for New India

1. **Chairman:** Dr BVR Mohan Reddy, Chairman, Cyient Limited and Chairman of Board of Governors, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad
2. Raj Alla, CMD, IIC Technologies
3. Vinit Goenka, Member, Governing Council-CRIS, Ministry of Railways
4. Dr KJ Ramesh, Director General, Indian Meteorological Department
5. Sanjay Kumar, CEO, Geospatial Media and World Geospatial Industry Council
6. Rajan Aiyer, President, Association of Geospatial Industries and MD Trimble India
7. Pramod Kaushik, President, Hexagon India
8. Nikhil Kumar, HERE Technologies India
9. Srinibas Patnaik, Senior Director, South Asia, Maxar Technologies
10. Member Secretary, Anamika Das, Vice President, Geospatial Media and Communication

11. Anoop Singh, Special Secretary, Dept of IT, Govt of AP

Observer Members:

1. Lt General Girish Kumar, VSM, Surveyor General, Survey of India
2. Lt General Rajesh Pant (Retd), National Cyber Security Coordinator, National Security Council Secretariat.
3. Lt General (Dr) AKS Chandele, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), President, Defense Security and Public Safety, Geospatial Media and Communications

National Think Tank Secretariat

The National Think Tank Secretariat is supported by Geospatial Media and Communications. Team Geospatial Media shall provide resources to develop the necessary research and documentation for developing the Geospatial Vision for New India document. It shall also coordinate with other relevant agencies and engage with them for developing a national perspective driven by common purpose and collective vision.

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