Geo Spatial World Forum
May 10, 2022

Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure to be amongst you today. At the outset let me congratulate Geospatial World on its 25th anniversary and for organizing the Geospatial World Forum bringing together key experts and stakeholders.

Friends,

Technology has reshaped and continues to reshape the world around us. In today's technology driven age, geospatial knowledge plays a crucial role.

For individuals, geospatial technologies, with their use in numerous every day mobile apps, have become an integral part of their lives.

For businesses, the analysis of data in geospatial context has become a critical requirement for successful decision making to survive in increasingly competitive economic environment.

And for Governments across the world, who are working to achieve economic prosperity and well-being of their people, geospatial technologies provide useful tools for planning, executing and monitoring projects.

For India, with a population of 1.4 billion and 6th largest economy in real terms, where the Government has set ambitious development milestones with massive spending and socio-economic programmes, geospatial applications hold tremendous significance.

Large scale government investments in physical infrastructure, e-governance, digital initiatives, and integrated programs on urban and rural development, are driving the growth of geospatial market in India.

Last year Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi launched the Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Infrastructure and multi-modal Connectivity. A digital platform, Gati Shakti is bringing together various stakeholders for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity and development projects.

It is breaking the silos and improving coordination. More than 400 data layers are available now in the Master Plan. Infrastructure planning, implementation and monitoring is getting a new direction.

Multiple ministries across the Government of India are using geospatial technologies for various socio-economic programmes. For instance, geospatial technology is being used for better planning and management of water supplies.

National Mission on Clean Ganga is using geospatial and remote sensing technologies for guiding river cleaning works in India.

Ministry of Rural Development has put geospatial technology to use for Land Record Management.

NITI Aayog has launched a Geographic Information System (GIS) based Energy Map of India. GIS technology is also being used for monitoring in rural development schemes.

Geospatial technologies also find many applications in Disaster Management.

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is working with multiple government departments for using remote sensing and geospatial technologies in numerous projects. ISRO is also helping develop geospatial applications for various purposes.

Friends,

India’s geospatial economy was valued at about $ 5 billion in 2021 and employs approximately 470,000 people across the country.

By 2025, the geospatial economy has the potential to grow to more than USD 8 billion with employment in the sector rising to over 950,000 people.

There is therefore a huge potential that is yet to be realized.

India has set an ambitious goal of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy.

Many sectors such as logistics, transportation, enhancing agricultural productivity, healthcare, insurance, infrastructure, etc., which have significant applications for geospatial technologies, will be playing a key role for India to achieve that economic milestone.

Government of India has been creating an enabling environment to facilitate private participation in the geospatial services.

Last year in February, the Government of India introduced the new Guidelines for Acquiring and Producing Geospatial Data and Geospatial Data Services including Maps.

The guidelines liberalize the pre-existing regulations around geospatial data in India, paving the way for its usage across diverse sectors of the economy.

This will boost geospatial entrepreneurship in the country and greatly enhance the scalability of adoption of geospatial data, knowledge, and services across economic sectors.

A National Geospatial Policy is now being evolved.

Just a few days back India achieved a milestone in its start-up ecosystem with 100 Unicorn start-ups. For many of these start-ups, geospatial technology is an integral part of their services and business.

New-age technologies like Internet of Things (IOT), Artificial intelligence, Cloud computing, 5G and Big Data will further empower the assimilation of Geospatial information into existing business processes.

Developments in the technology and policy space in India, coupled with a vast and talented pool of human resources, provide the necessary ecosystem for companies and business to grow, not only in Indian context but also for the wider world.

India has tremendous opportunities to offer. I invite you all to be a part of India`s journey.

I thank the Organizers once again and thank you all for participating.

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