



सत्यमेव जयते

दूरभाष / Tel : 26962819, 26567373,  
26562134, 26562122 (EPBAX)  
फैक्स / Fax : 26569908, 26515637,  
26863847, 26862418  
वेबसाइट/website : www.dst.gov.in

भारत सरकार  
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय  
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग  
टेक्नोलॉजी भवन, नया महरौली मार्ग  
नई दिल्ली-110 016

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
TECHNOLOGY BHAVAN, NEW MEHRAULI ROAD  
NEW DELHI-110 016

## Remarks of Secretary, DST

### Event: Introducing the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) 2022: Towards Geo-enabling the Global Village

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

#### Greetings and the celebration of the '75<sup>th</sup> Year of Independence'

- At the outset, I extend my warm greetings to all the participants, from India and abroad, of this side event today that is being organized as a precursor to the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nation Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at New York and also on the occasion of beginning the celebration of 75<sup>th</sup> year of our National independence.

#### Strengthening the Indian Geospatial Ecosystem by involving all stakeholders

- I am happy to mention that recently the Government of India has decided to liberalize the Geospatial Data sector to empower all the stakeholders including the private enterprises. This has been done in order to make the sector open to all the stakeholders of the Indian Geospatial Eco-system towards making the geospatial data a key currency of the domestic economy. This decision to make the geospatial data free coincides with our sacred celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independent India and is a valid reason for our meeting this evening.
- In order to share these experiences with the Global Geospatial Community and also learn from them to strengthen the emerging National Geospatial Ecosystem, we are excited to host the 2nd UN World Geospatial Congress (UNWGIC) with the focal theme "Geo-enabling the Global Village".

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**Understanding the sectoral inter-relationships and inter-dependencies using Geo-ICT is the key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

- I am happy to note that “Geo-enabling the Global Village” has been appropriately chosen as the theme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNWGIC for October 2022. The present day ubiquitous access to the Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) should now be up-scaled to a more robust, accessible and useful Geospatial Information & Communication Technologies (Geo-ICT) to the benefit of all the stakeholders of the Globe. In the word of our Honorable Prime Minister it should strengthen “Sab ka saat sabka Vikas” which means “No one should be left behind”, the philosophy at the heart of the core strategies of UN for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- The Global Geospatial Community should Geo-enable the Global Village with appropriate governance mechanisms, innovative tools and techniques; and collaborative partnerships amongst concerned stakeholders. I congratulate the United Nation Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) for providing the necessary leadership in this process.
- The geo-enablement is expected to make the relevant geospatial information accessible to and utilizable by the producers and consumers of the World’s physical resources (e.g. land & mineral resources, water, forests & wild life, air etc.) those are inherently distributed over space through its lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, atmosphere, and other spheres of activities. All the stakeholders consuming the global physical resources need to adequately understand the availability, interrelation and utilization patterns of the physical resources, climate change and the occurrence of various disasters in order to devise suitable sustainable development strategies for increased resilience.
- I understand that UN-GGIM has thus developed and is promoting the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) towards the utilization of Geo-ICT for the achievement of the SDGs.

**Conclusion**

- With a focus on dedicatedly working towards the realization of this vision and deliberations on its progress and achievements of Geo-enabling the Global Villages for achieving the SDGs, I am happy to inaugurate this virtual side event. This will provide a glimpse of India’s Evolving Geospatial Ecosystem and help in harnessing ideas on the core theme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNWGIC. I also welcome the Global Geospatial Community to India during the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNWGIC in the historic city of Hyderabad in October 2022.
- I wish a very big success to this evening’s deliberations and all the very best in your endeavors to effectively utilize Geo-ICT in achieving the SDGs. Thanking You.