

# DigitalMaps@Work in Villages

The event was aimed at empowering Panchayat level stakeholders through geospatial knowledge. The symposium was aligned with the transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda - 'Leave no one behind,' emphasizing the grassroots level integration of geospatial technology.

## Objective:

The objective of the symposium was to encourage the use of geospatial technologies such as remote sensing,

GIS and spread awareness about their benefits for the Panchayat raj development. The objectives were carried out by:

- Providing an overview of remote sensing and GIS technology
- Highlighting the use of remote sensing and GIS for Gram Panchayat development
- Demonstrating the Bhuvan Panchayat portal
- Providing training on asset management and planning through the Yuktdhara portal

## Recommendations

- Gram Panchayats should continue to invest in geospatial technology to improve development planning and implementation.
  - Geospatial World should continue to offer training and support to Gram Panchayats on the use of geospatial technology.
  - Going forward, the sessions should be multilingual to support the different communities and cultures, coming from all over the country.
  - Practical sessions and demonstrations shall be held in villages and field that explain the use-cases of different geospatial technologies and their benefits.
  - The alerts for calamities and natural disasters are mostly sent to government officials and stakeholders. If these alerts can be simultaneously sent to the Sarpanch (Head of Panchayat) of the respective village, more streamlined and quick actions can be taken.
  - The symposium not only imparted practical knowledge but also fostered collaboration among diverse stakeholders, promoting the effective use of geospatial technology for sustainable rural development.
- Impact:** Digital Maps Work in Villages sector at GeoSmart India promoted 'geospatial thinking' within masses that are driving development at the grassroots level, thereby boosting efforts of mapping the villages/towns/cities. It also helped in collecting evidence-based information for making data-based development plans and monitoring its impact by taking advantage of geospatial technology.
- It initiated thoughts and actions at industry and policy maker level to fine tune technological advances for sustainable rural development. This also will provide a platform to share the wealth of geospatial information already created in silos over decades and defining ways for easier use of these information.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- The 2-day symposium (15-16 October 2023 at the Training and Outreach campus, Jeedimetla, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) in Hyderabad, India) covered topics such as the application of space technology in gram panchayat development, basics of remote sensing, Bhuvan portal demo, Mobile applications, MNREGA project, and applications in Agriculture.
- 57 delegates attended the symposium (17 from FES, 13 from the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, and 27 by the Earthsight Foundation). The delegates mainly comprised of Gram sarpanches, village-level workers, teachers, students, and people from various other NGO organizations.
- Training was focused on village level geospatial information and planning tools developed by NRSC ISRO.
- Remote sensing and GIS technology can be used to improve a variety of Gram Panchayat functions, including disaster management, crop management, and asset management.
- The Bhuvan Panchayat portal is a valuable resource for Gram Panchayats, providing a wealth of information and tools for development planning.
- The Yuktdhara portal is a useful tool for Gram Panchayats for asset management and planning.
- The GSI2023 was a valuable learning experience for Gram Panchayat stakeholders. The tutorial provided participants with the knowledge and skills they need to use geospatial technology to improve their communities.

## ALL PANELISTS AND SPEAKERS

- **Sanjay Kumar**  
Founder and CEO, Geospatial World
- **Milind Wadodkar**  
Chief Soil Survey Officer, Soil and Land Use Survey of India
- **Agendra Kumar**  
Managing Director, Esri India
- **Alok Prem Nagar**  
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- **Dr Prakash Chauhan**  
Director, NRSC
- **Dr Deb Jyoti Pal**  
Vice President, Geospatial World
- **Bharat Kakade**  
President, BAIF
- **Chandrashekhhar Biradar**  
Country Director-India and Principal Scientist, CIFOR-ICRAF Asia Continental Program
- **Advait Kulkarni**  
CEO  
Vasundhara Technologies
- **Chiranjit Guha**  
General Manager  
Data and Analytics  
Foundation for Ecological Security
- **Priya Sankar**  
Director - Partner Engagement,  
Arghyam
- **Suneetha Sapur**  
Chief of Operations, INREM  
Foundation
- **Craig Dsouza**  
Data and Tech Lead  
WELL Labs – IFMR
- **Balachander T**  
Freelance Consultant
- **Shirish Ravan**  
Founder  
EarthSight Foundation
- **Dr Shamita Kumar**  
Vice principal, Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University (BVIEER)
- **Dr Jayant Kulkarni**  
Executive Director, Rambhau Mhalagi Prabodhini
- **Dr Suhas Diwase**  
IAS, Government of Maharashtra
- **PLN Raju**  
Special Secretary, Science and Technology, Government of Assam
- **Dr Sultan Singh**  
Chief Geospatial Officer, Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority
- **Dr GS Rao**  
Group Director (Training, Education & Outreach), NRSC / ISRO

