

No. 17014/02/2014-Eco
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(Economic Division)

Room No. 280, August Kranti Bhawan,
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi

Dated: 28th November, 2014

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of the Meeting on Effective use of Space Technology tools in Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of minutes of the Meeting on Effective use of Space Technology in Ministry of Tribal Affairs held under the chairmanship of Secretary (TA) on 18.11.2014 in the Conference Room, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi for information and necessary action.

(P.L. Verma)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

Tele: 011- 2618 2823

To,

- 1) The Secretary, Department of Space (Branch Secretariat), Delhi Branch Secretariat, Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 511
- 2) Shri Shantanu Bhatawdekar, Asst. Scientific Secretary, ISRO, Department of Space, Delhi Branch Secretariat, Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 511
- 3) Shri Vikram Desai, Director, DECU, ISRO, Govt. of India, Ambawadi Vistar, Jodhpur, Ahmedabad-380015
- 4) Dr. T.Ravisankar, Group Head, LRUMG, RSA, NRSC, ISRO, Govt. of India, Balanagar, Hyderabad- 500037.

Copy to:

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8. (FRA/C&LM-II)
9. PS to Secretary (TA)/PS to JS (A)/PS to JS (MKP)/PA to JS&FA/PPS to DDG

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Minutes of the Meeting on Effective use of Space Technology Based Tools.

A meeting on effective use of Space Technology based tools in Ministry of Tribal Affairs was held under the chairmanship of Secretary (T) on 18th November, 2014 at 10:30 AM in the Conference Hall, M/o Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

2. List of participants is annexed (Annex-I).

3. A presentation was made by Dr. T. Ravisankar, Group Head, Land Resources Land Use Mapping and Monitoring Group, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad, on the potentials of space technology in MoTA on the lines of Space Based Applications / Projects carried out in the past in tribal areas.

3.1. While describing the space based applications carried out in the past, Dr. Ravisankar mentioned that an ITDA project namely, soils survey & land evaluation for agricultural land use planning in tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh was undertaken during 1995-96 to prepare soil and land use land cover maps of 1:50000 and to generate action plans for optimum land use plans for the ITDA areas. In this regard, Dr. Ravisankar stated that information supplied by space technology is very useful at the planning stage.

3.2. A Space based application project was undertaken during 2007-10 by the National Remote Sensing Centre, Department of Space, Hyderabad, in collaboration with MoTA, on 'Comparative Assessment and Macro level Planning of Integrated Tribal Development Areas using Geoinformatics', to generate database on natural resources, infrastructure, and demography for 128 ITDAs distributed over 9 States and to bring out comparative indicators of development and variation of development for macro level planning of ITDAs. The digital data base generated can be used for monitoring tribal areas very effectively.

3.3. Under the project, 'Establishment of Satellite Interactive terminal in Tribal Department of Madhya Pradesh' taken up in 2009, ISRO had established a network of 50 satellite interactive terminals in Madhya Pradesh along with one year warranty and AMC. However, as of now only 15 out of 50 terminals are functional. In this regard, Secretary (T) desired that details of such terminals may be given by ISRO which are not in working condition.

3.4. Further, ISRO has given one hub free to all the States under their tele-education programme. In Madhya Pradesh, the hub is in RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration, Bhopal for schools in tribal areas. The Tribal Department is sharing the bandwidth with Forest and Education Departments.

3.5. Shri Ashok, Joint Secretary (T) enquired whether the level of soil moisture could be assessed through the space technology. In this regard, Dr. Ravisankar informed that as of now, it is difficult to determine the soil moisture content. However, information relating to assessment of land use, land cover, land degradation, geomorphology etc. is available on the geo-portal of ISRO namely, 'Bhuvan'.

4. Actionable points:

4.1. Secretary (T) observed that it was important to have information on tribal location and movement especially in respect of isolated tribes and tiny habitation. At times, due to disturbance around their habitat, including mining, some tribals migrate to other places without being compensated. Therefore, information relating to isolated habitations, damages caused to land and aquifers by mining etc. need to be captured through asset mapping. A copy of the asset mapping/study already conducted by Department of Space (DoS) may also be provided to MoTA.

(Action: ISRO/DDG, MoTA)

4.2. It was decided that making use of mobile based application for remote areas, ISRO would work out programme for mapping of schools in tribal areas, identifying schools where attendance of teachers is poor, real time attendance of children/teachers/school staff, quality of food served, etc. It was also decided that the options of both, DTH as well as Interactive Terminal would be exercised by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for tribal education sector.

(Action: ISRO/Director (Education))

4.3. Secretary (T) remarked that a number of districts were devastated due to mining in Bellary, Keonjhar, Jaintia Hills, etc. Therefore, there is a need to have information on displacement of tribals in such areas. Mapping of districts in these areas could be taken up. To begin with, one district may be identified per State.

(Action: ISRO/JS(MKP)/Director (SG))

4.4. Further, Secretary (T) stressed on mapping of small hamlets having less than 50 houses.

(Action: ISRO/DDG/JS(A))

4.5. It was decided that ISRO would provide a list of agencies who have been given the hubs along with list of users/field stations, hub locations etc. so as to determine the outreach. ISRO may also provide details of the SITs in Madhya Pradesh which are not functional.

(Action: ISRO/DDG)

4.6. Issues relating to damage to major aquifer, its impact etc. were discussed. ISRO was requested to explore whether information relating to tracking of aquifers, assessment of damage to them, effect of change in natural drainage, etc. could be collected.

(Action : ISRO/JS(A))

4.7. To meet the tribal development needs, ISRO was requested to develop SAT based monitoring system of remote areas and mobile based application for areas which are difficult to capture through satellite.

(Action : JS(A))

5. NGO and Research Division to provide inputs relating to their respective work areas on use of space technology.

(Action: NGO and Research Division, MoTA)

6. Secretary (T) accepted the invitation of ISRO to visit NRSC, Hyderabad. Shri Ashok Pai, JS (A) was nominated as a Nodal Officer to deal with issues relating to application of space technology from MoTA.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annex-I

Meeting for effective use of Space Technology based tools in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs held on 18th November 2014 at 10.30 A.M. – List of Participants

S.No	Name and Designation	Ministry /Department
1.	Shri Hrusikesh Panda, Secretary	Ministry of Tribal Affairs Chairperson
2.	Shri Ashok, Joint Secretary	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
3.	Shri Manoj Kumar Pingua, Joint Secretary	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
4.	Ms. Vishu Maini, DDG	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
5.	Shri Shantanu Bhatawdekar, Asst. Scientific Secretary	ISRO, Department of Space
6.	Shri Vikram Desai Director, DECU	ISRO, Ahmedabad
7.	Dr. T.Ravisankar GH LRUMG, RSAA	NRSC, Hyderabad
8.	Shri S.M. Sahai, Director	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
9.	Shri B. Sasmal, Director	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
10.	Ms. C.H.Honey, Director	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
11.	Ms. Shyla Titus, DS	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
12.	Ms. Nivedita, DS	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
13.	Shri Gopal Sadhwani, DS	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
14.	Shri Roopak Chaudhuri, DS	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
15.	Shri P.L. Verma, DS	Ministry of Tribal Affairs