

Subject: Brief Note on the Establishment of State Spatial Data Infrastructure (J&K State Geoportal).

1. What are the salient features of the J&K-SSDI Project?

In order to evolve J&K as a knowledge society, lot of emphasis needs to be given on Information Technology and “transparent” e-governance. Amongst the variety of datasets that would be involved in e-governance initiative, the spatial (or map) information will be a major “content”. In a bid to evolve a sound, area specific and responsive mechanism to local peoples needs and aspirations, the practice of planning needs to be decentralized to lower administrative units of districts, tehsils, blocks and villages. *Micro-level planning* is a complex and information intensive job as the various sectorial and spatial inter-dependencies play a vital role. In a bid to resolve the conflicting interests and to evolve comprehensive planning of the local areas, there is a need to adopt an integrated approach to the developmental strategy. For evolving such a planning mechanism, the state needs to have near real time accurate data/information of all the sectors on a common database so that it is made accessible to all the user organizations for analysis.

The spatial data is important database for making sound decisions at the local, regional and state level, besides, implementation of action plans for infrastructure development, disaster management, and business development. Presently different organizations are generating digital databases both in tabular form as well as in the form of maps using different formats, codifications and projection parameters which lead to incompatibility to share such data sets by the different user agencies. Besides, it leads to duplication of efforts and resources for generating one and the same thing. Since there is no standardization where different government agencies could use data for

different applications within the uniform frame work of standard formats, an understanding has evolved to improve spatial data management in the country within the frame work of Spatial Data Infrastructure. Since, the cost of creating and maintaining spatial data is high, it is particularly important that data created at considerable cost and effort be made shareable and the costly data collection not be duplicated, and that the collected data should be fully utilized by different agencies of the government. In order to ensure optimum use of the spatial data, the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) mooted by the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has already been under way at the National level and some states have made tremendous strides in this direction.

NSDI activity at the State level is visualized as State Spatial Data Infrastructure (SSDI). In Jammu & Kashmir, the NSDI activities are proposed to be coordinated by establishing state of art, '*State Spatial Data Infrastructure*' which would be operationalized in the form of web based *J&K State Geo-portal.. The Geoportal would be accessible by the user departments via internet and this would realize the dream of decentralized microlevel planning in the state.*

2. Who is responsible for SSDI Project execution in the State?

The State Remote Sensing Centre of the Directorate of Environment & Remote Sensing is responsible for execution of the project in the State.

3. What is the status of approval of the SSDI Project?

The Project proposal was presented by Mr. Humayun Rashid, Scientist of the State Remote Sensing Centre before the Expert Group of the DST, GoI on

26th of August, 2011 and the Expert Group has recommended support to the proposal at a total cost of 241.25 lacs in a ratio of 70:30 cost sharing mode between DST, GoI and Govt. of J&K with the State Remote Sensing Centre as the implementing agency. (refer letter No.NRDMS/11/1722/010 dated 27-12-2011 from Dr. Acharya, Director, DST)

4. Is it reflected in the State Plan anywhere?

No. Not yet. In the initial proposal the cost of working space to the tune of Rs 200.00 lacs had been contemplated to be funded by the DST, GoI. However, DST asked the State Govt. (vide D.O. letter No. NRDMS/11/1722/010 dated 28-09-2011 addressed to the State Chief Secretary) to separately provide the required floor space or budget for construction of a building at a suitable location in Srinagar, J&K from its own resources. Therefore, a provision of Rs 200.00 lacs needs to be made in the State Plan to fund the construction of the state of art building for housing the JK-SSDI (J&K State Geoportal), besides, keeping a provision of Rs 34.86 lacs annually in the State Plan for meeting the recurring expenditures.

5. What preparatory actions are required from the State Govt. Departments?

1. Sanction needs to be accorded to the constitution of a State Project Implementation Committee(PIC) headed by the State Chief Secretary to oversee the implementation of the Project and coordination between the various State Stake holder departments.(refer enclosed D.O.letter No.NRDMS/11/1722/010 dated 28-9-2011 from the Secretary, DST, GoI addressed to the State Chief Secretary).

2. A commitment letter from the State Govt. reaffirming therein to share 30% of the total Project cost of 241.25 lacs needs to be submitted to the DST, GoI at the earliest as desired by DST , GoI vide letter dated 27 Dec., 2011.(refer enclosed letter from Dr. Acharya dated 27-12-2011).
3. The Planning Department needs to provide an amount of **Rs 200.00 lacs** for meeting the cost of construction of the building for housing the State Spatial Data Infrastructure in the campus of the State Remote Sensing Centre at Bemina, Srinagar where the land stands already earmarked for the purpose.(refer enclosed D.O.letter No.NRDMS/11/1722/010 dated 28-9-2011 from the Secretary, DST, GoI addressed to the State Chief Secretary)
4. The various posts under State Plan as envisaged in the final draft project proposal need to be created for manning the State Spatial Data Infrastructure after the expiry of the project period of three years funded by DST, GoI so that an uninterrupted updation of GIS data bases is ensured and updated geospatial data is uploaded on the ***J&K State Geoportal*** for access through internet by the user departments for improved Decentralized Micro-level Planning in the state.
5. An annual provision of **Rs 34.86 lacs** needs to be kept in the State Plan after the expiry of the Project period of three years for meeting the annual recurring expenditures on account of salary of regular staff, office expenses, maintenance, workshops / trainings to users besides, Internet access charges of the ***Software Technology Park of India(STPI), Srinagar.***