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LETTER

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NOTES**

The Editor
The Statesman
4 Chowringhee Square
Kolkata 700001

November 10, 2018

Sub: Significance of Space Technology for Rural Development.

Reverent Sir,

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I intend to focus on the wonders created by space technology for rural development. The Indian Space programme has the primary objective of developing space technology and application programmes to meet the developmental needs of the country. Space Technology as the powerful enabler, provides a variety of vital inputs for holistic and rapid development of rural areas.

ISRO uses integrated GIS based solutions for decentralized planning through SIS DP programme and renders it through Bhuvan Panchayat. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IMWP), Mission Water Conservation (MGNREGA), Har Khet Ko Pani (HKP, Water for Every Farm) and Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) are all monitored by ISRO. Villages spread across wide variety of terrain and access are being monitored, assessed and assisted using geospatial technology for achieving best possible development rooted in conservation of soil and water.

The conventional data source for rural roads such as cadastral maps, SOI topomaps provide useful information. But this information needs to be updated periodically for effective monitoring and evaluation. In this context, high resolution satellite data provides reliable information on the status of rural roads as on the date of satellite imagery.

Affordable mobile telephones embedded with operationally compliant positioning device as well as photography coupled with internet connectivity have added another dimension of digital access to every rural dweller. In such a context, it is timely that ISRO has initiated web based geospatial information systems at the behest of departments dealing with rural development in a comprehensive manner. The Geo-spatial solutions contribute to the development of rural areas by realizing the objective of creating Digital India and thus minimizing the space between technology and common man.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,
XYZ