

**Speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura in Meeting of the North Eastern Space Application Centre at NESAC Headquarter, Umiam, Shillong**

1. Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shahji, Hon'ble Minister of DoNER Shri G. Kishan Reddyji, Hon'ble Minister of State of DoNER Shri. B. L. Vermaji, Hon'ble Chief Ministers of North Eastern States, Chief Secretaries of North Eastern States and other officials present in the meeting.
2. At the outset, I convey my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Hon'ble Home Minister for taking such initiatives to utilize Space Technology for planning and development of North Eastern Region. At the same time, I heartily congratulate our Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi Ji for his special attention and vision for the North Eastern States with special focus on "Act East Policy" for infrastructure development and achievement of sustainable development goals.
3. In 2018 at Agartala, Modi Ji had promised the people of Tripura with a model of "HIRA" i.e. H for Highway, I for I-way, R for Railways and A for Airways. He kept his words and now the people of Tripura are witnessing the development in every corner of the State. One of the recent example is that, now, besides other cities, Shillong is also directly connected with Agartala by Air.
4. North Eastern region has abundant source of natural beauty, serenity and exotic flora and fauna along with distinct historical culture and ethnic heritage. All these resources offers incredible scope for tourism especially eco-tourism. Geospatial technology and tourism share a common characteristic, that is, both cross the boundaries of disciplines and application areas. Tourism is an activity, highly dependent on environmental resources.
5. Geospatial technology can be regarded as providing a toolbox of techniques and technologies of wide applicability in the process of sustainable tourism development. Considering the enormous potential for tourism industry in all NER states, it is very much necessary to make use of geospatial technology for showcasing existing tourist spots as well as potential sites for tourism activity to the rest of the world.

6. Another important aspect I want to highlight here that North East region has mostly hilly areas where check dams are widely used to control water velocity, conserve soil and improve land quality. These are also used for reducing flood peak discharge, sediment transport, increasing lag time and groundwater recharge.
7. Identification of the most suitable sites for the water harvesting structures is crucial for maximizing recharge and conservation of water. GIS and Remote Sensing is an effective tool in planning for constructing these structures. In Integrated Watershed Management Projects (IWMP), we have completed 1825 numbers Check Dams in the State. Tripura Space Application Centre has conducted a comparative study of the said locations based on pre and post Satellite Imageries, showing the positive impact of the interventions taken up. The outputs are available on BHUVAN Geo-ICT Web portal. I strongly believe that these technologies would be more beneficial if we can use these more and more in North East region.
8. As per direction of National Green Tribunal, Tripura Space Application Centre has identified 31,694 water bodies in the State out of which 1910 water bodies have been identified where water area is more than 2 acres for which geo-tagging & verification of such water bodies are going on. Restoration of water bodies will be taken up wherever required considering water quality. 30 number of such polluted water bodies in Urban Local Bodies have been restored.
9. We all are aware that the agricultural practices of North East region are of two types, one is shifting cultivation and another is settled or plain land agriculture. About three-fourths of its population depends on agriculture and other allied activities. The region is characterized by difficult terrain, wide variations in slopes, altitude, land tenure systems and diverse cultivation practices. Applications of geospatial technology for developmental support of agriculture in North Eastern States may be a good option for better output through monitoring of selected major crops using satellite remote sensing.
10. We can also analyze existing cropping pattern and deriving indices to suggest suitable cropping system for increased productivity. Development of a Mobile App and Dashboard will also add more strength for the planning and monitoring of Crop Cutting Experiment in the States of North East.

11. During the last three and half years of my Government has done significant development in the field of GIS & Remote Sensing. By utilizing the Space Technology, Ground Water Prospect Mapping has been done for the entire State to assess the sub surface water availability which is being extensively used by the PWD (DWS), Government of Tripura where success rate has considerably improved in terms of water source creation by construction of deep tube well, small bore deep tube well etc.
12. We have developed GIS based Industrial Land Bank Management System which facilitates industries to explore land availability and also it encourages ease of doing business. Gas pipe lines network of Tripura Natural Gas Company Limited of Agartala Municipal Area has been completed which will help to detect the pipe line layout for monitoring of real time safety measures prior to excavation.
13. In the 9<sup>th</sup> North East Space Application Centre (NESAC) Society meeting held on last January Hon'ble Union Home Minister emphasized to prepare a Plan of Action (PoA) to utilize space technology and repository on North East Space Application Centre (NESAC) for different developmental works of the State. I am happy to announce here that the State of Tripura has already finalized the Plan of Action as advised by Hon'ble Union Home Minister and in consultation with North East Space Application Centre (NESAC) where 21 projects have been identified.
14. I am also happy to add here that we have already finalized two projects proposals namely "Application of geo spatial technology for development support in Agriculture and allied sector" with State funding and another is "Development of Geo-tourism dashboard for planning and management of tourism in the State" with North East Council Support.
15. Moreover, in the Plan of Action, there is a target for Mapping of Agar cultivation areas and site suitability analysis for expansion of Agar plantation in Tripura as it has a very good prospect and potential in the State which will make a positive impact on our economy.
16. I would like to mention here that different departments of State Government are uploading the beneficiary oriented data pertaining to Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the portals of the respective Central Ministries. This data is very crucial for the State Government Departments for preparation of Developmental plans and gap identification. However, the Ministries are not sharing this data with the State government. It is therefore requested that the database of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes may be shared with the departments of the State Governments so that it can be used for planning purpose.

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17. I strongly believe that with the able guidance and visionary thinking of Hon'ble Union Home Minister, the State of Tripura as well as North Eastern Region would definitely proceed to achieve its developmental goals as set up in the Vision Document-2030.
  
18. Last but not the least, I once again convey my greetings to Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Hon'ble Minister of DoNER, Hon'ble Minister of State of DoNER for giving such opportunity to discuss on various issues and challenges of North Eastern States. I firmly believe that under the active support and guidance of DoNER Ministry in association with North East Space Application Centre (NESAC), we will be able to achieve the Plan of Action within the time frame and thus extending benefits to the people of North Eastern States in fulfilling the dreams of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

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