

# executives

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# editor's note

Anyone who is reading this technical journal would be aware of the terms 'data', 'geospatial data', 'information' and 'geospatial information' and the context in which the terms are being used. In an earlier issue of this technical journal where the need and use of Geospatial Technologies for the planning of a smart city were discussed, it can be easily appreciated that a smart city constantly generates a lot of data like built up area, roads, population, socio-economic indicators, weather, pollution, green cover etc. Left to themselves, the data give vital inputs to the planner who incorporates them in the planning of a smart city. However, when the data is taken together, combined and processed, we arrive at Geospatial information that gives a whole new perspective to the planner or decision maker.

The COVID-19 pandemic is generating huge amounts of Geospatial data. This data is being processed in near real time and on a daily basis to generate Geospatial information that enables planners and decision makers to arrive at best practices to control the spread of the pandemic and to provide succour to the sick.

The above are just a few examples where Geospatial data has generated Geospatial information that has been put to use for planning. Geospatial data spans across many domains, disciplines and times. Geospatial technologies have evolved to a stage where it is just not about data but about getting to understand this data to arrive at information that is vital for planning and sustainable development. The latest Geospatial Technologies include data generation technologies which seamlessly dovetail into powerful hardware and software that is entirely devoted to processing the Geospatial data in order to arrive at vital, critical and timely Geospatial information.

Visualisation techniques have added another dimension to Geospatial Technologies that aid the planner or decision maker in understanding the Geospatial information by visualising the impact of different parameters and time on the Geospatial information. This aids the planner or the decision maker to get a wholistic view and make better sense of the information in order to arrive at the best possible scenarios that will impact human well being and progress.

Every day huge amounts of Geospatial data is being generated. Geospatial technologies and visualisation techniques now harness this data effectively, efficiently and in a timely manner to extract actionable information for a better planning process.

**Ashok Prim**  
Editor