

In new norms, govt enables cos to freely map India

New Delhi/Bengaluru:

The Centre on Monday announced sweeping changes to India's mapping policy as it liberalised regulations that apply to acquisition and production of geospatial (topography) data and services, including surveying and mapping, enabling private companies to work without prior approvals, report **Surendra Singh & Chethan Kumar**.

While announcing new geospatial data guidelines, science and technology minister Harsh Vardhan said, "Because of the non-availability of high-quality maps, several hundred billion positive sectors like farming, mining, construction, transportation services for e-commerce and communication like 5G have been suffering." He said due to curbs, even Survey of India had to take a series of permissions for its own work.

► Continued on P 13

PM: Geospatial norms to benefit farmers as well

► Continued from P 1

The new norms will help the “government realise its vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and the goal of a \$5 trillion economy,” he said, adding the “historic decision will lead to a Rs 1 lakh crore geospatial economy”. Firms can now acquire, collect, generate, disseminate, store, share, distribute and create geospatial data, including maps within the Indian territory, including underwater by using geospatial technologies.

Besides “unlocking tremendous opportunities for startups, private sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a series of tweets said, “India’s farmers will also be benefitted by leveraging the potential of geospatial and remote sensing data.”

Spelling out the new provisions, science and technology department secretary Ashutosh Sharma said the “new norms will stimulate and empower Indian industry and surveying agencies without diluting security concerns, will facilitate ease of acquiring and use of data, and will take the system away from the regime of approvals to self-certifications.” Isro chairman K Sivan said coupled with remote sensing policy, the Indian private sector will be able to become more vibrant and enable India to innovate better.

Centre deregulates geospatial data and map-making in India

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Under the new policy, geospatial data from government agencies such as the Survey of India and the Indian Space Research Organisation will also be made available to public and private companies.

"Our government has taken a decision that will provide a huge impetus to Digital India. Liberalising policies governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data is a massive step in our vision for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, or Self-Reliant India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote in a tweet.

He added in another tweet: "The reforms will unlock tremendous opportunities for our country's start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions. This will also generate employment and accelerate



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The new guidelines will allow increase the scale, speed, and accuracy of mapping. Indian entities will require no prior approvals, security clearances, licenses for acquisition and production of geospatial data and geospatial data services, including maps.

"Geospatial data is vital for all manners of planning and development work. There are three major objectives of the new guidelines—first, ease of collecting, using and sharing geospatial data. Second, deregulating the sector and allowing private entities to survey and

map all physically accessible areas without prior approvals. Third, sharing the geospatial data collected by government agencies with the public and the industries," said Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, secretary of department of science and technology.

The government estimates that the new guidelines will boost the geospatial data sector to a value of ₹1 lakh crore by 2030, create jobs for 2.2 million people, and have a multifold impact on the economy.

"This will be beneficial for all allied sectors that need geospatial data such as logistics

and transportation, road safety, e-commerce. It will also aid government programmes such as MNREGA where people will now be able to see the implementation of various projects and their progress. It will have huge economic impact. Just an example would be the logistics industry, where the country spends around 13% of GDP. This can be brought down to 9% using geospatial data and other technology," said Rohan Verma, CEO and executive director of MapmyIndia, a technology company that builds digital map data, and offers telematics services and location-

based software as a service and geographic information systems using artificial intelligence.

The new policy restricts the terrestrial mapping and surveying to only Indian entities—both public and private. The data generated also needs to be owned and stored in India, with foreign entities being allowed to license it. High resolution data—finer than 1m horizontally and 3m vertically—will still remain restricted.

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Ajeet Lele, senior fellow working with space security and strategic technologies at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, said that this will allow companies to use Indian data instead of paying for expensive data from other satellites.

"We have very good remote sensing satellites as well as earth observation satellites, but so far the data was not freely available to private players. This resulted in many applications using data from foreign satellites and paying a lot for it. This policy will allow data generated by Isro to be used and it will be more cost effective," he said.

{ **GEOSPATIAL DATA** } POLICY CHANGE

Govt liberalises mapping in self-reliance boost

Anonna Dutt

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bhar Bharat," or Self-Reliant India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote in a tweet.

He added in another tweet: "The reforms will unlock tremendous opportunities for our country's start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions. This will also generate employment and accelerate economic growth."

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→P18

Now, easy access to geospatial data, maps

ADITI TANDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 15

Indian entities will no longer need government permission to collect, use, publish or share geospatial data, including maps.

The government today deregulated the sector, ending its own 250-year-old colonial era monopoly in the area with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing the move as a massive push to the national goal of self-reliance.

EYING ₹1L-CR MARKET

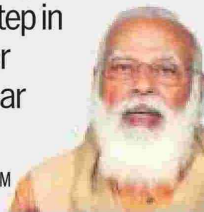
- Plan is to allow private sector to make and publish maps with geospatial features
- It's estimated to become a ₹1 lakh cr market by 2030 and create 22 lakh jobs
- May improve outcome in a range of sectors, including farming and infrastructure

The Guidelines for Acquiring and Producing Geospatial Data and Geospatial Data Ser-

DIGITAL INDIA PUSH

“The government decision will provide a huge impetus to Digital India. It is a massive step in our vision for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Narendra Modi, PM



vices, including maps, acknowledge that maps and other accurate geospatial data

are crucial for national infrastructure projects like linkages of rivers, creation of industrial corridors and deploying smart power systems. “From creation of maps to their dissemination, Indian firms were hitherto required to seek licences and follow cumbersome procedures of permissions,” Science Minister Harsh Vardhan said.

The government said emerging vibrant technologies like e-commerce, autonomous drones, delivery

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Now, easy access to...

and urban transport require a massive leap in mapping with greater depths, resolution and precision for which deregulation was necessary.

The guidelines place some restrictions on the marking of sensitive attributes (such as strategic locations) on maps, but there is no restriction on surveying or mapping any area as long as it is physically accessible. High-spatial accuracy geospatial data finer than 1 metre horizontally and 3 metres vertically can, however, only be acquired and owned by Indian entities and stored in India.

“Data of accuracy coarser than that is globally available through satellites and has hence not been regulated. Also finer data such as data needed to predict disasters can be licensed for foreign entities also but these entities cannot own that data,” the guidelines say.

Centre announces major changes in mapping policy

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB 15

The Centre on Monday announced major amendments in the country's mapping policy, which it said, will benefit Indian companies. The changes have been made in the policy keeping in mind the the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

Announcing this on Twitter, the Prime Minister said that the policy change is a massive step in the government's vision to make India self-reliant.

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tion and production of geospatial data is a massive step in our vision for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," Mr Narendra Modi tweeted.

"The reforms will unlock tremendous opportunities for our country's start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions. This will also generate employment

and accelerate economic growth," the Prime Minister further said in subsequent tweet.

He also said that the country's farmers will benefit by leveraging the potential of geo-spatial and remote sensing data. "These reforms demonstrate our commitment to improving ease of doing business in India by deregulation," PM Modi said in another tweet on the matter.

Mapping reforms boon for start-ups, farmers: Modi

Will lead to ₹1L cr geo-spatial eco: Harsh Vardhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

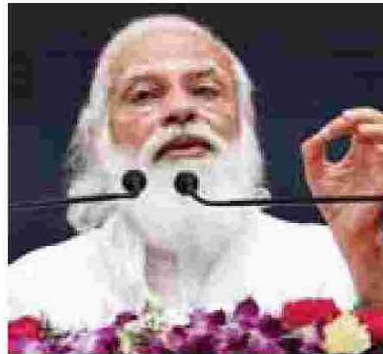
The Centre on Monday announced “sweeping changes” to the country’s mapping policy, specifically for Indian companies, to enable them to create substantial advances in mapping and ultimately empowering small businesses that “will lead to a one lakh crore rupees geo-spatial economy”.

Commenting on the mapping reforms, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the reforms will unlock “tremendous opportunities” for our country’s start-ups.”

“India’s farmers will also be benefited by leveraging the potential of geo-spatial and remote sensing data. Democratising data will enable the rise of new technologies & platforms that will drive efficiencies in agriculture and allied sectors,” he said.

Union Science & Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan held a joint Press conference with Union Minister for Space and Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh to unveil the mapping policy reforms.

“By liberalising the geo-spatial guidelines, the Government has taken a historic decision that will lead to



a one lakh crore rupees geo-spatial economy. Today’s announcement heralds unlocking of geo-mapping from restrictive use to wider use in the interest of nation building and creating an Atmanirbhar Bharat,” said Singh.

Vardhan said, “The next generation of technologies will use hyper-resolution maps. Availability of comprehensive, highly accurate, granular and constantly updated representation of geospatial data will significantly benefit diverse sectors of the economy and will significantly boost innovation in the country and greatly enhance the preparedness of the country for emergency response.”

The availability of data and modern mapping technologies to Indian companies is also crucial for achieving the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and a five trillion-dollar economy, he said.

“With the advent of publicly available geospatial services, a lot of geospatial data that used to be in the restricted zone are freely and com-

monly available now and some of the policies/guidelines that used to regulate such information have been rendered obsolete and redundant,” said Vardhan.

“What is readily available globally does not need to be regulated. For Indian entities, there would be complete deregulation with no prior approvals, security clearances, licences, etc, for acquisition and production of geospatial data and geospatial data services including maps,” he announced.

Vardhan pointed out that all geospatial data produced using public funds, except classified geospatial data collected by security/law enforcement agencies, will be made accessible for scientific, economic and developmental purposes to all Indian Entities and without any restrictions on their use.

Government agencies and others need to collaborate and work towards openlinked geospatial data.

“Stakeholders benefitted will include practically every segment of society, from industry to academia to government departments,” he emphasised.

This is a transformative reform, the Minister added.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh said the Centre has taken a historic decision to completely deregulate Geospatial Map-making and unshackle the Geospatial sector in India for the first time.

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Mapping reforms...

From page 1

He said the decision is an extension of a series of visionary reforms undertaken in the space sector. He pointed out that today's announcement heralds the unlocking of geo-mapping from restrictive use to wider use in the interest of nation-building and creating an AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

Singh said this is one more distinct example of the removal of some of the colonial legacies that India was still grappling with.

He claimed that deregulation of Map-making is historic in the sense that Geo-Map is now going to be recognised as an instrument for development rather than only a tool for securing the country.

Singh also invited Indian businesses to take lead and utilise the opportunities being thrown open for the making of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

He said the collaborative efforts from industry, academia and the Government will make India a world leader in geospatial knowledge. The Minister urged all sections to grab the opportunity and fulfil the aspirations of the nation to become a five trillion-dollar economy.

Secretary, DST, Professor Ashutosh Sharma gave a presentation on the Geo-Spatial guidelines. He said the new guidelines will be "stimulating and empowering Indian industry and surveying agencies without diluting security concerns. Atmanirbharta in Geospatial products and solutions will be a one lakh crore business by 2030 plus economic impact through development".

Govt announces liberalisation of policies governing geo-spatial data

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The government on Monday announced liberalisation of policies governing the acquisition and production of geo-spatial data, a move that will help in boosting innovation in the sector and create a level playing field for public and private entities.

Under the new guidelines, the sector will be deregulated and aspects like approvals have been done away with, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Ashutosh Sharma said.

For Indian entities, there will be complete deregulation with no prior approvals, security clearances, licenses, for acquisition and production of geospatial data and geospatial data services, including maps, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the liberalisation of policies governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data is a "massive step in government's vision for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat". The reform



Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Harsh Vardhan addresses a press conference in New Delhi, on Monday

will benefit country's farmers, start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions, he said.

Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan in a press conference said the easing of norms will greatly help in

several sectors that were suffering because of non-availability of maps.

He said earlier even the Survey of India, the agency entrusted with making maps, had to seek permission for mapping, thus delaying its work by at least 3-6 months.

In a series of tweets, Modi said, "Our government has taken a decision that will provide a huge impetus to Digital India. Liberalising policies governing the acquisition and production of geo-spatial data is a massive step in our vision for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

The move will unlock tremendous opportunities for the country's start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions. This will also generate employment and accelerate economic growth, he stressed.

"India's farmers will also be benefited by leveraging the potential of geo-spatial and remote sensing data. Democratising data will enable the rise of new technologies and platforms that will drive efficiencies in agriculture and allied sectors.

"These reforms demonstrate our commitment to improving ease of doing business in India by deregulation," he said.

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map all physically accessible areas without prior approvals. Third, sharing the geospatial data collected by government agencies with the public and the industries," said Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, secretary of department of science and technology.

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based software as a service and geographic information systems using artificial intelligence.

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Ajeay Lele, senior fellow working with space security and strategic technologies at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, said that this will allow companies to use Indian data instead of paying for expensive data from other satellites.

"We have very good remote sensing satellites as well as earth observation satellites, but so far the data was not freely available to private players. This resulted in many applications using data from foreign satellites and paying a lot for it. This policy will allow data generated by Isro to be used and it will be more cost effective," he said.

Centre opens up map sector to private players

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Monday opened up the restricted mapping sector by allowing private companies to collect mapping data and offer map services in the open market without seeking any approvals from the government.

Indian outfits can carry out street-view surveys — something that wasn't allowed for Google — besides terrestrial mobile mapping and surveys in Indian territorial waters. While there would be some restrictions on sensitive installations, mapping is allowed in most parts of India.

"For Indian entities, there would be no prior approvals, security clearance and licences for acquisition and production of geospatial data and maps," Ashutosh Sharma, secretary, Department of Science and Technology said here.

This, the government

hoped, would encourage Indian companies to enter this arena, which is likely to be a Rs 1 lakh-crore sector spawning nearly 22 lakh jobs by 2030.

Union Science Minister Harsh Vardhan and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh released the new policy prepared by the Ministry of Science and Technology. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, too, welcomed the change, describing it as a "landmark reform" and a massive step towards "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

While data can be collected using satellite images, drones, LIDARs (light detection and ranging) and ground truthing surveys, Indian firms can acquire and store high-resolution satellite images (finer than one metre) in India.

Private firms can also obtain data generated by public funds — like ISRO satellite images. Sensitive information, however, would not be shown.

Centre makes local data for maps easy

New Delhi, Feb. 15: In sweeping changes in the country's mapping policy, the government on Monday liberalised norms governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data, a move that will help in boosting innovation in the sector and create a level-playing field for public and private entities. Minister Harsh Vardhan said due to this policy, the whole sector will open up and geospatial data of value of ₹1 lakh crore can be acquired and used by 2030. — *PTI*

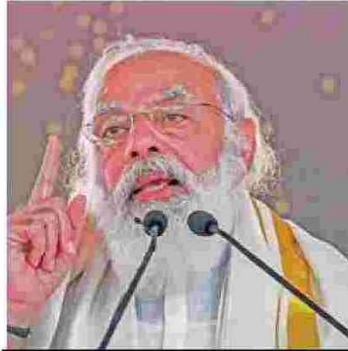
India liberalises mapping policy; will spur innovation, says PM

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Under the new guidelines, the sector will be deregulated and aspects such as prior approvals for surveying, mapping and for building applications based on that have been done away with, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Ashutosh Sharma said.

For Indian entities, there will be complete deregulation with no prior approvals, security clearances, licenses, for acquisition and production of geospatial data and geospatial data services, including maps, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the liberalisation of policies governing the acquisition and production



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of geospatial data is a "massive step in government's vision for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

The reform will benefit the country's farmers, start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions, he said. Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan in a press conference said the easing of norms will greatly help in several sectors that were suffering because of non-availability of high quality maps.

"Availability of comprehensive, highly accurate, granular and constantly updated representation of geospatial data will significantly benefit diverse sec-

tors of the economy, significantly boost innovation in the country and greatly enhance its preparedness for emergency response," Vardhan said.

He said earlier even the Survey of India, the organisation entrusted with making maps, had to seek permission for mapping from different agencies, thus delaying its work by at least three-to-six months. In a series of tweets, Modi said, "Our government has taken a decision that will provide a huge impetus to Digital India. Liberalising policies governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data is a massive step in our vision for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

— PTI

Restriction on private use of geospatial data lifted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ New Delhi

INDIA on Monday announced liberalisation of regulations that apply to geospatial data and maps that will allow Indian private players the freedom to handle such information without prior approval or restriction.

Until now, there were restrictions on using such data by private entities and it was solely handled by the Survey of India. Under new guidelines, the sector will be deregulated and aspects such as prior approvals for surveying, mapping and for building applications based on that will be done away with, Depart-

ment of Science and Technology (DST) secretary Ashutosh Sharma said.

PM Narendra Modi said liberalising the acquisition and production of geospatial data was a massive step in the vision for an **A a t m a n i r b h a r** Bharat. "India's farmers will also be benefited by leveraging the potential of geo-spatial & remote sensing data. Democratizing data will enable the rise of new technologies & platforms that will drive efficiencies in agriculture and al-

lied sectors," he tweeted.

The DST said maps and accurate geospatial data are crucial for national infrastructure projects such as linkages of rivers, creation of industrial corridors and deploying smart power systems. Emerging vibrant technologies like Digital India, Smart Cities, e-Commerce, autonomous drones, delivery logistics and urban transport require a leap forward in mapping with greater depth, resolution and precision.

"In every economic endeavor, spanning agriculture, finance, construction, mining and local enterprise, India's farmers, small businesses and corporations alike stand to gain tremendously from the application of innovative technologies based on modern geospatial data technologies and mapping services," it said.

The existing regime imposed significant restrictions on the mapping industry — from creation to dissemination of maps, requiring Indian companies to seek licenses, follow a cumbersome system of pre-approvals and permissions. These restrictions subjected startups in India to unnecessary red tape.



Democratizing data will enable the rise of new technologies and platforms that will drive efficiencies in agriculture and allied sectors — Prime Minister Narendra Modi

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Geospatial data policy liberalised

Move will help drive innovations and build scalable solutions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

In sweeping changes to the country's mapping policy, the government on Monday announced liberalisation of norms governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data, a move to help boost innovation in the sector and create a level playing field for public and private entities.

Under the new guidelines, the sector will be deregulated and aspects such as prior approvals for surveying, mapping and building applications

based on that have been done away with, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Ashutosh Sharma said.

For Indian entities, there will be complete deregulation with no prior approvals, security clearances and licences for the acquisition and production of geospatial data and geospatial data services, including maps, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the liberalisation of policies governing the acquisition and production of geospatial

data was a "massive step in the government's vision for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

The reform will benefit the country's farmers, start-ups, the private sector, the public sector, and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions, he said.

Generate employment
Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan in a press conference said the easing of norms will greatly help in several sectors that were suf-

fering because of non-availability of high quality maps.

The move will unlock tremendous opportunities for the country's start-ups, private sector, public sector, and research institutions, to drive innovations and build scalable solutions. It will also generate employment and accelerate economic growth, he stressed.

"India's farmers will also be benefited by leveraging the potential of geospatial and remote sensing data," he said.

सैटलाइट से मिले डेटा पर अब सरकारी बंधन नहीं पर संवेदनशील मामलों में जारी रहेंगी बंदिशें

■ विस, नई दिल्ली : सैटलाइट या अन्य सोर्स से हासिल किए गए डेटा को अब सरकार की परमिशन के बगैर हासिल किया जा सकेगा। इससे हर क्षेत्र के लिए योजनाएं बनाने और हालात का आकलन करने में मदद मिलेगी। संवेदनशील डेटा हासिल करने की परमिशन नहीं होगी। इसके साथ ही अभी तक देश के सरकारी संस्थानों ने मैपिंग उद्योग पर बहुत सारे प्रतिबंध लागू कर रखे थे। मानचित्रों के निर्माण से लेकर उनके प्रसार तक के काम में भारतीय कंपनियों को न सिर्फ लाइसेंस लेना पड़ता था, बल्कि पूर्व अनुमति लेने की जटिल व्यवस्था का भी पालन करना पड़ता था। अब संबंधित पक्षों को इस काम में काफी सहूलियत होगी।

सोमवार को साइंस एंड टेक्नॉलजी मिनिस्टर डॉ. हर्षवर्धन ने इस संबंध में भारत के नीति निर्देश जारी किए। भू-स्थानिक (जियोस्पेशियल) डेटा के इस्तेमाल के लिए अब सरकार से पूर्व अनुमति लेने की जरूरत नहीं होगी। इसके साथ ही देश में नक्शे के निर्माण को भी सरकार ने नियंत्रण मुक्त कर दिया है। इस कदम से योजनाएं बनाने, सर्वे करने, देश के संसाधनों के बेहतरीन इस्तेमाल, कृषि, वन प्रबंधन, नदियों को जोड़ने, स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के विस्तार, औद्योगिक योजनाएं बनाने और आपदा

नियंत्रण जैसे तमाम काम में खासी मदद मिलेगी।

विदेशी कंपनियों या संस्थानों को जियोस्पेशियल डेटा हासिल करने के

लिए लाइसेंस लेना होगा। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने इसे एक बड़ी उपलब्धि करार देते हुए कि कहा कि आत्मनिर्भर भारत के सपने को साकार करने में मदद मिलेगी।

**भू-स्थानिक
डाटा नियंत्रण
की नीतियां
होंगी उदार**

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस :
देश की मैपिंग
नीति में व्यापक
बदलाव करते
हुए सरकार ने
सोमवार को
भू-स्थानिक
डाटा (आंकड़ों)
के अधिग्रहण
और उत्पादन को
नियंत्रित करने
वाली नीतियों
को उदार बनाने
की घोषणा की।
विज्ञान और
प्रौद्योगिकी सचिव
आशुतोष शर्मा
ने कहा कि नए
दिशानिर्देशों के
तहत क्षेत्र को
नियंत्रण मुक्त कर
दिया जाएगा
और सर्वेक्षण,
मैपिंग और
इसके आधार
पर डाटा तैयार
करने को पूर्व
मंजूरी हासिल
करने जैसे
पहलुओं को खत्म
कर दिया गया है।


**भू-स्थानिक आंकड़ों को
नियंत्रित करने वाली नीतियों
का होगा उदारीकरण
नई दिल्ली।** सरकार ने सोमवार को
भूस्थानिक आंकड़ों (डाटा) के
अधिग्रहण और उत्पादन को नियंत्रित
करने वाली नीतियों के उदारीकरण की
घोषणा की। इस कदम से क्षेत्र में
नवाचार को बढ़ावा देने और
सार्वजनिक तथा निजी संस्थाओं के
लिए समान अवसर पैदा करने में मदद
मिलेगी। विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी
सचिव आशुतोष शर्मा ने कहा कि नए
दिशानिर्देशों के तहत क्षेत्र को नियंत्रण
मुक्त कर दिया जाएगा और अनुमोदन
जैसे पहलुओं को दूर किया गया है।
उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय संस्थाओं के
लिए इसे पूरी तरह से नियंत्रण मुक्त
किया जाएगा।

नक्शे और आंकड़े आसानी से उपलब्ध होंगे

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

सरकार ने सोमवार को भू-स्थानिक आंकड़ों (डाटा) के अधिग्रहण और उत्पादन को नियंत्रित करने वाली नीतियों के उदारीकरण की घोषणा की। इस कदम से क्षेत्र में नवाचार को बढ़ावा देने और सार्वजनिक तथा निजी संस्थाओं के लिए समान अवसर पैदा करने में मदद मिलेगी। विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री डॉ. हर्षवर्धन ने एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में इसकी घोषणा की।

उन्होंने कहा कि मानदंडों में ढील से कई क्षेत्रों में बहुत मदद मिलेगी, जो नक्शों की अनुपलब्धता के कारण त्रस्त थे। अब आसानी से उन्हें नक्शे और आंकड़े उपलब्ध हो सकेंगे। विज्ञान और

 किसानों को भी सुदूर संवेदी आंकड़ों का फायदा मिलेगा। आंकड़ों से नई प्रौद्योगिकियों और मंचों का उदय हो सकेगा जो कृषि क्षेत्रों में दक्षता बढ़ाएंगे। ये सुधार भारत में व्यापार आसान बनाने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता को प्रदर्शित करते हैं। - नरेंद्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के सचिव डॉ. आशुतोष शर्मा ने कहा कि नए दिशा-निर्देशों के तहत क्षेत्र को नियंत्रण मुक्त कर दिया जाएगा और अनुमोदन जैसे पहलुओं को दूर किया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय संस्थाओं के लिए इसे पूरी तरह से नियंत्रण मुक्त किया जाएगा और भू-स्थानिक आंकड़ों के अधिग्रहण और उत्पादन के लिए पहले से मंजूरी

लेना, सुरक्षा मंजूरी, लाइसेंस की जरूरत नहीं होगी। इस मामले पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा है कि भू-स्थानिक डेटा के अधिग्रहण और उत्पादन को नियंत्रित करने वाली नीतियों को आसान बनाया जाएगा और यह सरकार के आत्मनिर्भर भारत के अभियान के लिए एक बड़ा कदम है। मोदी ने कई ट्वीट में कहा कि हमारी सरकार ने एक ऐसा निर्णय लिया

सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध भू-स्थानिक सेवाओं के आने के साथ बहुत से भू-स्थानिक डाटा जो कि प्रतिबंधित क्षेत्र में हुआ करते थे, अब आसानी से उपलब्ध हैं और ऐसी जानकारी को विनियमित करने के लिए उपयोग की जाने वाली कुछ नीतियां/निर्देश अप्रचलित और निरर्थक हो गए हैं। - हर्षवर्धन, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री

है, जो डिजिटल इंडिया को एक बड़ी गति प्रदान करेगा।

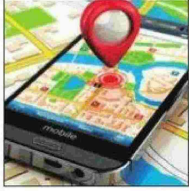
उत्पादन नियंत्रित करने वाली नीतियों को आसान बनाया जाएगा। इससे हमारे आत्मनिर्भर भारत के विचार को भी बढ़ावा मिलेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इस कदम से देश के किसानों, निजी-सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र को चलाने व समाधानों को हासिल करने में मदद मिलेगी।

युद्ध जैसी चुनौतियों में सूचना के लिए विदेशी एजेंसी पर नहीं होना होगा निर्भर

नई दिल्ली। केंद्र सरकार ने देश की मैपिंग व भू-स्थानिक नीतियों में परिवर्तन कर इन्हें सरल करने की घोषणा की है। इससे करगिल युद्ध जैसी चुनौतीपूर्ण स्थितियों में सुदूर इलाकों की सटीक सूचना के लिए विदेशी एजेंसियों पर निर्भरता खत्म होगी। साथ ही निजी कंपनियों के इस क्षेत्र में हिस्सेदारी बढ़ने से इस क्षेत्र में नवोन्मेष बढ़ेगा और विभिन्न लोकेशन आधारित स्टार्टअप्स को भी बेहतर सेवाएं देने में मदद मिलेगी।

भूस्थानिक डाटा से जुड़ी नीतियों को सरल करेगी मोदी सरकार

विज्ञान एवं तकनीकी मंत्री हर्षवर्धन ने दावा किया कि भूस्थानिक डाटा को पाने और तैयार करने के नियम आसान करने से अर्थव्यवस्था के कई क्षेत्रों को भी फायदा होगा। उनके अनुसार साल 2030 तक भू-स्थानिक डाटा का क्षेत्र करीब 1 लाख करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंचने का अनुमान है। एजेंसी



अब तक क्या होता था

अब तक भौगोलिक सर्वे, क्षेत्रीय नक्शा निर्माण व इनके आधार पर मोबाइल व वेब आधारित एप्लीकेशन बनाने के लिए सरकार से पूर्व अनुमति लेनी होती थी। हर्षवर्धन के अनुसार देश के अधिकृत नक्शे तैयार करने वाले सर्वे ऑफ इंडिया संस्थान को भी कई एजेंसियों से अनुमति लेनी होती है।

क्या होता है भू-स्थानिक डाटा

जियो-स्पेशियल या भूस्थानिक डाटा दरअसल किसी खास क्षेत्र में धरती की सतह भौगोलिक स्थिति और वहां मौजूद सभी संरचनाओं की जानकारी है। इसमें किसी भी खास जगह मौजूद पहाड़, गड्ढे, खाई, नदी, तालाब, पोखर, खेत, कच्चे-पक्के निर्माण, हरियाली, कोई अन्य प्राकृतिक संरचनाएं, इनकी लोकेशन, पता, शामिल होते हैं।

अब क्या हो सकेगा?

विज्ञान एवं तकनीकी सचिव आशुतोष शर्मा के अनुसार अब विभिन्न अनुमति, सुरक्षा क्लियरेंस, लाइसेंस की जरूरत नहीं होगी। सरकार से भू-स्थानिक डाटा व नक्शे हासिल करना आसान होगा।

कैसे-क्या मिलेगा फायदा

स्टार्टअप, सरकारी प्राइवेट सेक्टर के संस्थान व एजेंसियां, शोध संस्थान, किसान आदि इनोवेशन कर सकेंगे। ज्यादा रोजगार पैदा होगा। उदाहरण के लिए मोबाइल मैपिंग, रास्तों व पानी के स्रोतों का सर्वे इसके जरिये हो सकेगा। वहीं, अब तक किसी शहर या गांव में रास्ता खोजने के लिए गूगल मैप जैसे विकल्प ही हमारे पास होते हैं, लेकिन नए इनोवेशन होंगे तो हम क्षेत्रीय और भारतीय विकल्प तैयार कर पाएंगे। सरकार द्वारा अब तक जुटाया गया डाटा भी नागरिकों को मिलेगा।

करगिल में लेनी पड़ी थी मदद

करगिल युद्ध के दौरान सरकार को दुश्मन का मुंहतोड़ जवाब देने के लिए सटीक लोकेशन की जानकारी चाहिए थी। दुश्मन हमारी सेना से ऊपर की चौकियों पर थी और उसे देख पाना मुश्किल था। तब विदेशी जियोस्पेशियल एजेंसियों की मदद लेनी पड़ी थी।

ओला, ऊबर, जोमैटो इसी से करते हैं काम

ओला, ऊबर और जोमैटो जैसे एप इसी जियो स्पेशियल डाटा के आधार पर काम करते हैं। इस क्षेत्र में विनियमन नीतियों के सरलीकरण से स्थिति और सुधरेगी।



किसानों को भी मिलेगी मदद : पीएम

सरकार ने आत्मनिर्भर भारत को ध्यान में रखते हुए यह कदम उठाया है। इसके तहत देश में नक्शे तैयार करने की नीति उदार होगी। भू-स्थानिक डाटा तैयार करना व उसे सरकार से हासिल करना आसान होगा। सिर्फ कूटनीतिक स्तर पर बल्कि शोध संस्थानों से लेकर किसानों तक को मदद मिलेगी। -नरेंद्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

GOVT MOVE A BOOST FOR LOCAL INNOVATION

Indian Firms to Gain from Liberalised Mapping Policy

Eased regulations for geospatial data to level the playing field and allow for more accurate applications

Our Bureaus

New Delhi | Bengaluru: The Centre has eased regulations governing the acquisition and application of geospatial data — including maps — by Indian entities, in a far-reaching move that is expected to spur local innovation and level the playing field for both public and private Indian companies. The liberalised mapping policy, announced on Monday, allows private Indian firms to use high-precision satellite imagery — of 1 metre and below — on both land and in Indian territorial waters. This was hitherto reserved for strategic purposes only.

Private firms and startups can now leverage data to build applications including more efficient and accurate delivery of online purchases to consumers' doorsteps, industry executives said.

The policy also makes it clear that fore-

On the Pin

WHAT WILL DEREGULATION OF MAPPING DO?

Reduce dependency on foreign firms

Spur local innovation, entrepreneurship

Enable more accurate doorstep delivery in ecommerce

Help traditional sectors like agriculture, mining



Experts call it a pathbreaking reform that ends decades of regulatory inertia

New rules won't affect Google, Apple satellite-based mapping services: Officials

₹99,000 CRORE

Govt's estimate of Indian geospatial sector's contribution to economy by 2029, employing 22 lakh people

ign companies can only source such data — including land-based mobile mapping surveys and street views — from Indian firms where data is hosted on servers locally. Overseas firms cannot own such data. Internationally, companies such as Google and Apple offer products that give consumers a 360-degree view of a street. Google's street view was banned in India in 2016.

Officials said revised regulations will have no impact on satellite-based mapping services currently offered by companies like Google and Apple in India.

Ashutosh Sharma, secretary in the Department of Science and Technology, said "the liberalised policy will allow mapping data that has been restricted to a few departments, such as the Survey of India and National Remote Sensing Centre," to now be "freely shared with other government departments and, for a nominal fee, with private Indian firms."

A Google spokesperson said the company is studying guidelines. Apple did not reply to ET's queries till press time.

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Unlocking Huge Value: Experts

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"With 1 metre resolution, more accurate mapping can be done for homes and in multi-storied buildings," said Rohan Verma, chief executive of MapmyIndia, an Indian map-based services provider. "Last-mile delivery will be more precise, without any hassle for customers, and e-commerce and mobility customers will see more efficiency and productivity."

Experts are of the view that the new rules will allow local entrepreneurs to build applications employing mapping for use cases that are unique to India, and "unlock billions of dollars" of value in the country.

"This will help India have a little foot in the door in the global mapping ecosystem," said Lalit Kishore Katragadda, who built Google's map maker and Google Maps in India. He said the time and cost taken to build large scale infrastructure projects could reduce significantly, as satellite data can be used to monitor progress more effectively than physical presence.

Union minister of state for space Jitendra Singh said the government has previously used space technology for laying railway tracks, monitoring unmanned crossings, in housing, agriculture, construction of bridges and telemedicine. He estimates that India's geospatial sector co-

uld contribute as much as ₹99,000 crore to the Indian economy by 2029. "We (are in) a phase where space technology has entered Indian households in one way or the other," said Singh. "Similarly, by making mapping accessible to other stakeholders, we would be incentivising them to become partners in the development of new India."

A WIDER SPACE

Last year, India opened up its space sector, allowing private firms and startups to build rockets and satellites and launch them from Indian soil. It will also open up the earth observation data from its dozen-plus satellites in easy formats, so companies can build applications for use in areas such as infrastructure, traffic management and agriculture.

The country's first private earth observation satellite, Anand-1, built by Bengaluru startup Pixxel, will be launched on an Indian Space Research Organisation rocket on February 28.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that India's farmers will also benefit by leveraging the potential of geospatial and remote sensing data. "Democratising data will enable the rise of new technologies and platforms that will drive efficiencies in agriculture and allied sectors," he said.

Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, who is a champion of open use of data to enable economic progress, said on Twitter, "The new map policy is another strategic step in India's journey of data empowerment!"

With rules on geospatial data liberalised, map-making made easy

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, February 15

In a move that could be critical for location-based services such as e-commerce, logistics and urban transport, the government on Monday freed public and private firms from the need to seek approval, security clearance, or licence for the collection, generation, storage and publication of geospatial data.

There were several restrictions around using geospatial data by agencies other than a few government departments.

The government estimated the domestic geospatial market at ₹1-lakh crore in 2020 with an employment potential of nearly 22 lakh people.

This will liberalise the mapping industry and democratise existing datasets, a crucial requirement for achieving India's vision to become a \$5-tril-



lion economy, said an official statement.

"What is readily available globally, should not be regulated," said Department of Science and Technology Secretary Ashutosh Sharma. "There will not be any restriction on areas for mapping and surveying. Firms do not need approval for collecting geospatial data. They just need to self-certify," he said.

Addressing a press conference, Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan said that in spite of being a government institution, even the Survey of India has to seek permis-

sion from the Ministries of Defence and Home, the Intelligence Bureau and others to carry out activities it was supposed to do on a regular basis. Such approvals often take several months to come, severely affecting the productivity of the institution.

Now, there is a complete deregulation with no approvals, security clearances or licences needed for acquisition and production of geospatial data for both public and private sectors. However, only Indian entities can own and store geospatial data finer than 1-metre horizontally and 3-metre vertically. Foreign entities, however, can licence such fine data, but not own them.

"This is very similar to the 1991 moment for the Indian geospatial industry," said Rohan Verma, CEO of MapmyIndia.

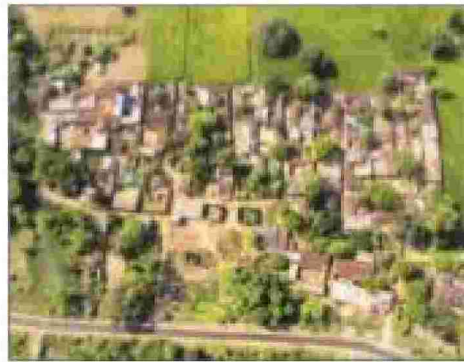
Govt ends barrier on surveying, mapping to boost infra

BLOOMBERG
February 15

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT on Monday ended restrictions on cartography and geospatial information to help local entities generate, distribute and store topographical data, a move that will help the nation spur infrastructure development and improve delivery of government services.

Indian companies had so far been required to seek licenses and approvals to create and publish maps and other geospatial data. Ending those restrictions is part of India's push toward Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of self-reliance, the government said in a statement.

"There will be unprecedented value creation for Indian economy and society," said Rohan Verma, chief executive officer of MapmyIndia, which has been building digital maps and advanced geospatial technology products. "Sectors such as agricul-



ture, healthcare, finance, revenue, logistics, transportation, technology, commerce and many more — which form 70% of India's GDP will be positively impacted."

The move will also help companies that develop apps which use location data to provide services. "Instead of seeing geospatial data from a security lens alone, this deregulation will allow Indian companies to freely build maps and applications for a variety of developmental purposes," said Pranay Kotasthane, head of research at Takshashila Institute. "This will make maps with India's political boundaries easily available in the digital form on the internet."

Centre liberalises mapping policy, allows free access to geospatial data

Sector deregulated, approvals done away with; PM says 'massive step'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 15 February

The government on Monday announced liberalisation of policies governing the acquisition and production of geo-spatial data, a move that will help in boosting innovation in the sector and create a level playing field for public and private entities.

Under the new guidelines, the sector will be deregulated and aspects like approvals have been done away with, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Ashutosh Sharma said.

For Indian entities, there will be complete deregulation with no prior approvals, security clearances,

licenses, for acquisition and production of geospatial data and geospatial data services, including maps, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the liberalisation of policies governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data is a "massive step in government's vision for an Atmanirbhar Bharat". The reform will benefit country's farmers, start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions, he said.

Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan in a press conference said the easing of norms will greatly help in several sectors that were suffering



The move will unlock tremendous opportunities for the country's start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions

because of non-availability of maps.

He said earlier even the Survey of India, the agency entrusted with making maps, had to seek permission for mapping, thus delaying its work by at least

3-6 months.

In a series of tweets, Modi said, "Our government has taken a decision that will provide a huge impetus to Digital India. Liberalising policies governing the acquisition and

production of geo-spatial data is a massive step in our vision for an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The move will unlock tremendous opportunities for the country's start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions. This will also generate employment and accelerate economic growth, he stressed.

"India's farmers will also be benefited by leveraging the potential of geo-spatial and remote sensing data. Democratising data will enable the rise of new technologies and platforms that will drive efficiencies in agriculture and allied sectors."

"These reforms demonstrate our commitment to improving ease of doing business in India by deregulation," he said.

Centre deregulates geospatial data and map-making in India

Liberalization of the mapping sector will enable India Inc to leverage modern mapping technologies



Government
insulted
farmers,
ministers
called them
traitors:
Priyanka
Gandhi
bit.ly/2NqpY2e

Neetu Chandra Sharma
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NEW DELHI

Indian companies can now buy geospatial data and modern mapping technologies, the department of science and technology announced on Monday, part of liberalized measures it said would introduce "sweeping changes" to the country's mapping policy.

The government realized that the existing regime imposed significant restrictions on the mapping industry—from creation to dissemination of maps that require companies to seek licences and follow a cumbersome system of approvals and permissions. These rules have hobbled start-ups with red tape, hindering Indian innovation in map technologies for decades.

The ministry of science and technology on Monday issued guidelines for acquiring and producing geospatial data and geospatial data services, including maps. What is readily available globally does not need to be restricted in India and therefore geospatial data that used to be restricted will now be freely available in India, the guidelines said.

"Furthermore, our corporations and innovators are no longer subject to restrictions nor do they require prior approvals before



Currently, India relies heavily on foreign resources for mapping technologies and services.

they collect, generate, prepare, disseminate, store, publish, update digital geospatial data and maps within the territory of India," the ministry said.

"The availability of comprehensive, highly accurate, granular and constantly updated representation of geospatial data will significantly benefit diverse sectors of the economy and will significantly boost innovation in the country and greatly enhance the

preparedness of the country for emergency response," said Ashutosh Sharma, secretary, department of science and technology.

the "collection, generation, preparation, dissemination, storage, publication, updating and/or digitization" of geospatial data and maps.

NEW FRONTIERS

THE existing regime imposes curbs on firms from creation to dissemination of maps.

CORPORATIONS no longer need permits before they generate, disseminate, publish maps within India.

GEOSPATIAL data are crucial for infrastructure projects such as linking rivers, creation of industrial corridors.

According to the new guidelines, there will be no requirement for approval, security clearance, license or any other restrictions on

applications and develop solutions in relation to such data; and use such data products, applications, solutions, etc by way of "selling,

distributing, sharing, swapping, disseminating, publishing, deprecating and destructing," the guidelines state. However, self-certification will be used to convey adherence to these guidelines.

"In every economic endeavour, spanning agriculture, finance, construction, mining and local enterprise, India's farmers, small businesses and corporations alike stand to gain tremendously from the application of innovative technologies based on modern geospatial data technologies and mapping services," said Sharma.

India currently relies heavily on foreign resources for mapping technologies and services. "Liberalization of the mapping industry and democratization of existing datasets will spur domestic innovation and enable Indian companies to compete in the global mapping ecosystem by leveraging modern geospatial technologies," the guidelines said.

Locally available and relevant maps and geospatial data would also help in improved planning and management of resources and better serve the specific needs of the Indian population, the guidelines stated.

Maps and accurate geospatial data are crucial for national infrastructure projects such as linking rivers, creation of industrial corridors and deploying smart power systems, the guidelines state.