

GEOSPATIAL DATA POLICY LIBERALISED

Relevant for: Indian Economy | Topic: Effects of Liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth incl. Economic Reforms

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 suffering 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.

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