

SURVEY OF INDIA TO DEPLOY 300 DRONES FOR MAPPING COUNTRY

Relevant for: Geography | Topic: Physiography of India including Geology

Precision matters: The new maps will have a 1:500 resolution where 1 cm will represent 500 cm. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

India's oldest scientific department, the Survey of India (Sol) — historically tasked with mapping the country — will for the first time rely on drones to map the country.

Other than unprecedented detail, a consequence of the mapping will be creating high resolution maps of land in villages facilitating the digitisation of land titles in villages, according to officials involved with the survey.

Currently the best Sol maps have a resolution of 1:250000, meaning a 1 cm on the map represents 2500 cm on the ground. The maps being prepared, according to senior officials associated with the project will be of 1:500 resolution, meaning 1 cm will represent 500 cm.

"We are aiming to provide good high-resolution foundation maps," said Gireesh Kumar, Director-General, Sol, which came into being 1767.

Right time

"We've used aerial photography before for mapping purposes (taking pictures from planes) but that's expensive and has its limitations. This is the right time to deploy drones," he said.

The aim is to map 75% of India's geography— about 2.4 million sq km of the 3.2 million sq km — within the next two years. The organisation aims to procure about 300 drones — so far about 30 have been sourced — for the gargantuan exercise. However forests, hills and deserts are likely to be left out.

As a prelude, the Sol, which is affiliated to the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has signed agreements with 6 districts in Haryana, 2 in Karnataka and 2 in Maharashtra to undertake such drone-based mapping exercises. Every square kilometre mapped by drones will be encapsulated in 2500 pictures and thus be a trove of digital data.

Making the foundational map will be a Rs. 400-500 crore endeavour.

Sorting rural issues

A major consequence of the drone-based exercise will be the mapping of settled habitations in villages (called *abaadi* areas in legal parlance). Based on the availability of accurate maps, residents will finally be able to get property cards as well as proper legal titles to their lands. "This is unprecedented in the history of independent India and we've already executed a project in Maharashtra," said Mr. Kumar.

Subscribe before price increase to get unlimited access at just Rs.12 per week.

Already a subscriber? [Sign in](#)

Already a subscriber? [Sign in](#)

Find mobile-friendly version of articles from the day's newspaper in one easy-to-read list.

Enjoy reading our articles without intrusion from advertisements.

A select list of articles that match your interests and tastes.

Move smoothly between articles as our pages load instantly.

A one-stop-shop for seeing the latest updates, and managing your preferences.

We brief you on the latest and most important developments, three times a day.

*Our Digital Subscription plans do not currently include the e-paper or Android, iPhone, iPad mobile applications and print. Our plans enhance your reading experience on the website.

Support The Hindu's new online experience with zero ads.

Already a user? [Sign In](#)

END

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

CrackIAS