

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
For
BharatMaps Integration with
Government Departments

Prepared By:

Geo Spatial Services and Technology Division
National Informatics Centre (NIC)
Department of Electronics & Information Technology
Ministry of Communications & Information Technology
Government of India.

Introduction

BharatMaps is a centralized geospatial data platform developed and maintained by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. It is part of the Digital India initiative and aims to provide standardized, secure, and accessible geospatial services to government departments, enabling better planning, monitoring, and delivery of public services. The platform offers base maps, administrative boundaries, satellite imagery, and thematic layers, and supports integration via APIs, making it a powerful tool for e-Governance.

2. Agreement & On Boarding

A. Formalization via Agreement

Before a government department can access BharatMaps services, it must get into formal agreement with NIC. This document outlines the scope of services, data access levels, responsibilities, security protocols, and duration of the collaboration. This ensures mutual understanding and formalizes the department's request for access to BharatMaps resources.

B. Service Request and Access Workflow via Parichay Login

1. Nominate Nodal Officer / Users: The department designates nodal officers who are registered using their official email addresses.
2. Parichay Registration: Officers register at Parichay (<https://parichay.nic.in>) using official credentials.
3. Login to BharatMaps Portal: Navigate to <https://mapservice.gov.in> and log in using Parichay credentials.
4. Service Request Submission: Authorized users submit requests for required map layers or APIs through the portal.
5. Review and Approval: The request get approval automatically as user is Government officer and APIs details sent to email.

C. Post-Approval Access & Integration

Once approved, the department receives API credentials and sample templates/code for integration for their GIS map services (WMS/WFS/REST) into their e-Gov applications . NIC may provide support through documentation, training, or technical workshops.

D. Customization and Ongoing Collaboration

Data overlays and custom visualization/layer development are tailored to meet specific departmental needs. Departments can request enhancements, submit feedback, or add new layers. NIC monitors performance and ensures updates are reflected across systems in a timely manner.

E. Use Case Implementation & Integration

Flagship Programs: BharatMaps supports multiple government missions like Swachh Bharat Mission, PMGSY (road infra), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Jal Shakti, School GIS, CGHS, rural development, Svamitva, Grammanchitra, Parivesh etc. Integration examples are available across ministries and states

3. Data Quality & Updates

Resolution Standards: Base maps are based upon Survey of India's 1:50,000 scale

Periodic Updates: Data providers refresh or update foundational layers (boundaries, roads, terrain, forest). NIC syncs with updates as per schedule.

4. Data Security & Compliance

License & Policy Compliance: All data use is governed by Government of India's liberalized geospatial policy from 2021, which deregulates data acquisition for Indian entities but mandates compliance and internal usage guidelines

5. Support, Monitoring & Feedback

Helpdesk & Coordination: NIC's GSTS division at CGO Complex, New Delhi handles coordination, user support, and issue resolution via official contact channels (email, phone)

Performance Monitoring: Usage metrics (e.g. visitor count, API hits) are monitored; dashboards track adoption across government departments.

6. Training & Capacity Building

Workshops & Documentation: NIC provides training sessions, technical documentation, and sample templates to help integrate GIS services effectively into e-Gov workflows.

Field Handholding: For state-level rollouts, NIC often collaborates with state GIS teams to ensure smooth adoption.

7. Is BharatMaps Paid for Government Organizations?

No, BharatMaps is free of cost for all Indian government departments and organizations. It is designed to promote the use of geospatial technology in governance

Free Services Include:

- Access to base maps and administrative boundaries
- Thematic data layers (population, infrastructure, environment, etc.)
- Geocoding and reverse geocoding APIs
- API integration support and training

Exceptions:

- High-resolution or sensitive datasets may require special approval
- Private companies or consultants under different ministries can use the BharatMap Service through the Government nodal officer
- Custom application development by NIC may be cost-based depending on scope

8. Disclaimer

User will put NIC BharatMaps Logo in prominent place on the application development using NIC BharatMaps Services.