National Geospatial Policy: present status and a way forward towards unambiguous and consistent geodetic positioning in India

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Geodetic positioning in India began with the Great Trigonometric Survey. The Survey of India (SoI) has since undertaken significant initiatives, such as the National Mapping Policy 2005, National Ground Control Points Library, and establishing Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS). The National Geospatial Policy 2022 emphasizes the importance of precise coordinates and advocates for the liberalization of geodetic data collection and dissemination. It also aims to develop a new geodetic reference frame. Unambiguous positioning requires also specifying the reference frame, ellipsoid, epoch and datum. This article provides an overview of the current status of the geodetic positioning in India and a way forward towards consistent geodetic positioning in India through CORS-based Indian Geodetic Datum.

Keywords: Continuously operating reference station, geodetic position, horizontal datum, National Geospatial Policy.