SVAMITVA Transforming Rural Governance

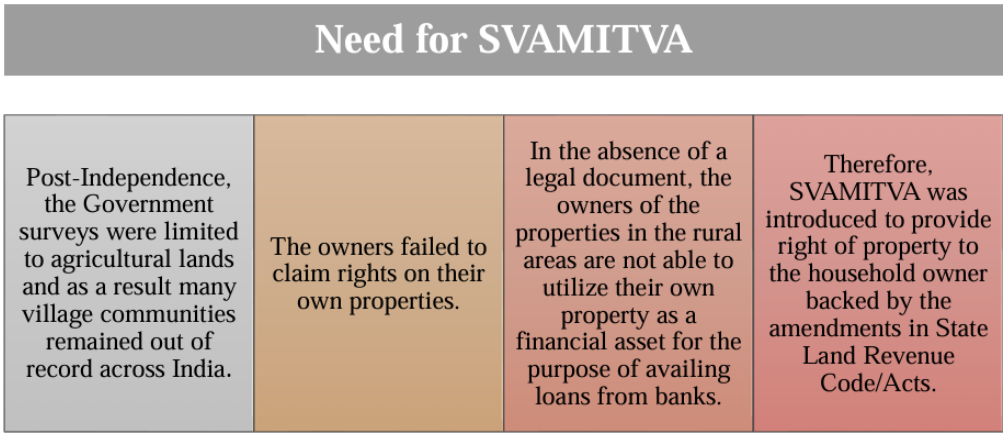
Mains Syllabus: GS II - Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors; e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;

Why in the News?

It has been 5 years since the launch of SVAMITVA scheme.

What is the SVAMITVA Scheme?

- **SVAMITVA** - Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas was launched on April 24, 2020, on National Panchayati Raj Day.
- **Nodal Ministry** –Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- **Implementation** – The scheme is implemented by the Survey of India (SoI) with the National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) as the technology partner
- **Aim** – To empower rural citizens with property cards, enabling access to credit, dispute resolution, and better planning.
- **Features of the scheme**
  - It uses drones ,special mapping tools to transform land governance by clearly marking property boundaries.



What are the objectives of the scheme?

- **Creation of accurate land records** - For rural planning and reduced property related disputes.
- **Financial stability** - Enabling rural citizens to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.
- **Determination of property tax** – To facilitate panchayat local bodies to assess

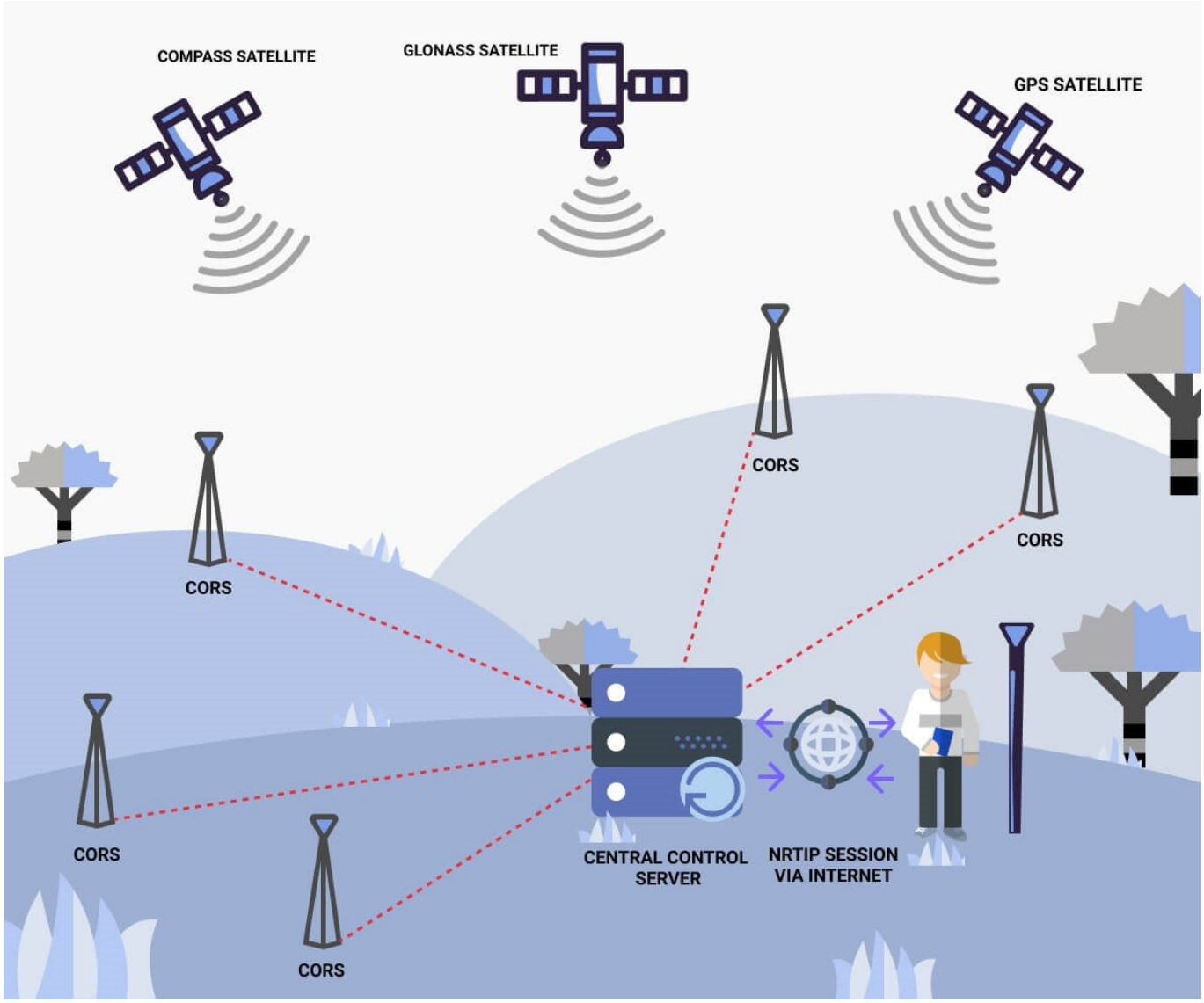
property taxes easily.

- **Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps** - To be leveraged by any department for their use.
- **Village planning** - To support in preparation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps.



What are the components of the scheme?

- **Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) network** - The CORS network support in establishing Ground Control Points, which is an important activity for accurate Geo-referencing, ground truthing and demarcation of Lands.



- **Mapping using Drones** - Rural inhabited (abadi) area is being mapping by Survey of India using drone Survey.
- It generates high resolution and accurate maps to confer ownership property rights.
- Based on these maps or data, property cards issue to the rural household owners.
- **Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Initiatives** - Awareness program to sensitize the local population about the scheme methodology and its benefits.
- **Gram Manchitra** – It is a spatial planning application for leveraging digital spatial data/maps created under drone survey for creation of spatial analytical tools to support preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).
- **Online Monitoring System** - Online Monitoring and reporting dashboard is monitored to track the progress of activities.

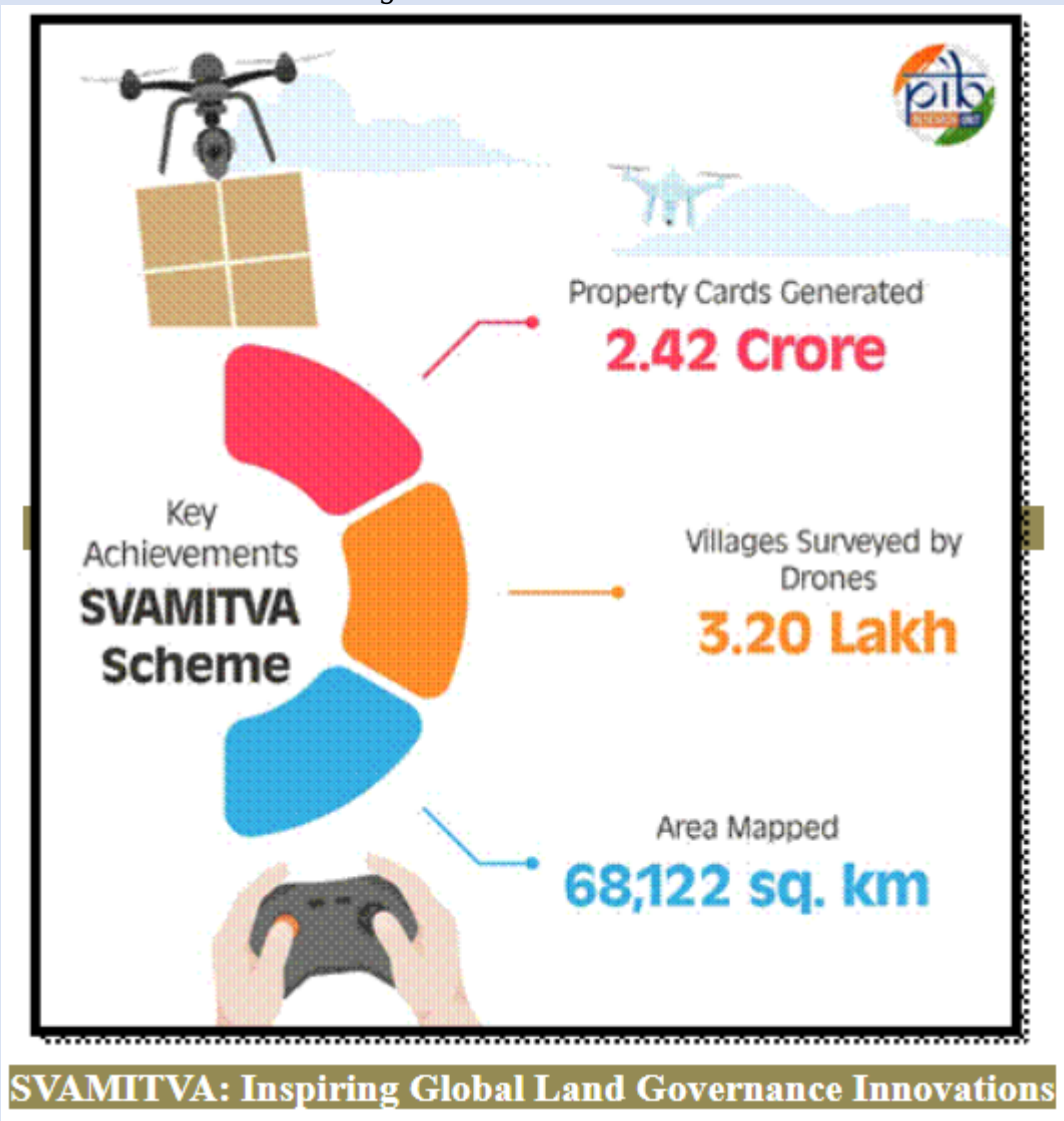
SVAMITVA is Leveraging Technology at Scale: **Digi-Locker & Dashboard**

SVAMITVA Dashboard Online Monitoring System - A centralized online monitoring and reporting dashboard for real-time progress monitoring of SVAMITVA implementation.	**Property cards are now available in DigiLocker app.** Beneficiaries can now view and download the property card through the DigiLocker App.

- **Project management** - Programme Management Units at the National and State levels for supporting Ministry & State respectively with scheme implementation.

Key achievements under the scheme

• **Village survey** - Drone surveys completed in 3.20 lakh villages.
• **Creation of property cards** - Over 2.4 crore SVAMITVA property cards have been created for 1.61 lakh villages under the scheme.



What are the impact areas under the scheme?

- **Inclusive Society** - Throughout history, scholars and development specialists have linked 'Access to Property Rights' with 'Improvement in socio-economic standards of vulnerable population in villages.
- The SVAMITVA Scheme aims to enable the same.
- **Land Governance** - Land is an essential resource for any economic activity aimed at creation of material wealth in the world.
- Lack of clearly demarcated Abadi area has led to high number of land conflict cases.
- As per reports, millions of people suffer the impact of land conflicts across India and the world.
- The SVAMITVA Scheme aims to address the root cause for disputes at local level.
- **Village governance** – The SVAMITVA Scheme is transforming rural governance by providing clear property rights and improving land management.

- **Sustainable Habitats** - High-resolution digital maps for better Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) leading to improvement across infrastructure like schools, community health centres, rivers, street light, roads etc.
- **Economic Growth** - The key outcome is to help people monetize their property as collateral.
- Furthermore, it gives a boost to India's economic growth through streamlining of property tax in States where it is levied leading to increase in investments and ease of doing business`.

Rural Land & property before and after SVAMITVA

S.no	Primary Objective	Before SVAMITVA	After SVAMITVA
1.	Banks recognize proof of ownership for rural property owners	Dependence on money lenders with exorbitant interest rates	Banks amenable to providing loans as per standard practices
2.	Aiding survey infrastructure	Monitoring of works based on laborious ground work	Panchayats and departments can plan their development easily
3.	Enabler for reduction in property related disputes and legal cases	High disputes due to absence of property card with individuals	Greater social security through title deeds updated using technology
4.	Enabler as determinant of property tax	Low levels of property tax collection by several states	Streamlined levy of property taxes by panchayats leading to empowerment of the villages

Conclusion

- SVAMITVA is more than a government program, it's a step toward self-reliance, better planning and a stronger rural India.

References

PIB | Building a Self-Reliant India

PIB | SVAMITVA

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