



DIGITAL INDIA LAND RECORDS MODERNIZATION PROGRAMME - POLITY

NEWS: Rural India is witnessing a significant transformation in land governance, driven by the digitization of land records. This modern approach is revolutionizing the management of land ownership and providing a critical foundation for transparency, accessibility, and security.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Need for Digitization of Land Records

The digitization of land records has proven essential for addressing several long-standing challenges:

- **Disputes and Fraud Prevention:** Traditional manual processes often led to ownership disputes and fraudulent land transactions. Digitization helps mitigate these issues by ensuring that accurate, up-to-date land ownership information is accessible online.
- **Improved Transparency:** Online access to land records enhances transparency, reducing instances of illegal encroachment and land-related corruption.
- **Streamlined Dispute Resolution:** Courts have long been burdened by land disputes. Digitized records allow for quicker and easier resolution of these cases, freeing up judicial resources.
- **Empowerment of Marginalized Communities:** Secure and accessible land records empower marginalized groups, providing them with reliable proof of ownership and better access to land rights.
- **Enhanced Land Management:** The integration of digital records with geospatial mapping technologies improves the accuracy of land surveys, making it easier for authorities to plan and manage land resources.
- **Disaster and Acquisition Response:** In cases of land acquisitions or natural disasters, digital records ensure fair and timely compensation for affected landowners.

Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

The **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)** is at the core of this transformation. Initially launched as the National Land Record Modernization Programme, it was restructured as a Central Sector Scheme in 2016, with full funding from the central government. The primary goal of the program is to develop an **Integrated Land Information Management System**, ensuring a modern and transparent land records system.

Key Achievements of DILRMP

The DILRMP has made substantial progress toward digitizing land records across India:



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- **95% Computerization of Land Records:** Nearly all land records have been digitized, creating a vast database of online records for public access.
- **68.02% Digitization of Cadastral Maps:** These maps, crucial for determining property boundaries, have been digitized at the national level.
- **87% Integration of Sub-Registrar Offices (SROs):** A large majority of SROs have been integrated with the land records system, streamlining the registration of land transactions.



Major Initiatives under DILRMP

Several key initiatives have been introduced under the DILRMP to further streamline land management:

1. **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN):**
 - A unique 14-digit alphanumeric code assigned to each land parcel based on its geo-coordinates. This ensures each piece of land has a distinct identity.
2. **National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS):**
 - A nationwide system that standardizes the document registration process. It enables online data entry, payments, appointment scheduling, and document searches, making land transactions more efficient and transparent.
3. **e-Court Integration:**
 - This initiative links digitized land records with the judiciary to provide authentic land information, helping to speed up case resolutions and reduce land disputes.
4. **Transliteration of Land Records:**

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- To overcome language barriers, land documents are being transliterated into any of the 22 official languages recognized under Schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution. This makes the information more accessible to a wider population.

5. Bhoomi Samman:

- This prestigious award recognizes districts that have completed over 99% of the program's core components, including land record computerization and cadastral map digitization. So far, 168 districts across 16 states have achieved "Platinum Grading" under this initiative.

Conclusion

The digitization of land records in India is an ongoing but transformative process that holds immense potential for improving land governance.

The benefits extend across various sectors, with a particular impact on marginalized communities, who are now better empowered to secure their land rights.

As India continues to digitize its land records, the country moves closer to creating a more inclusive, equitable, and transparent society, with land governance at the forefront of this shift.

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