



Bhoomi Samman 2023

For Prelims: [Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme](#), [Aadhaar Card](#), [Unique Land Parcel Identification Number](#), [Blockchain-based system](#), [Geographic Information System](#).

For Mains: Challenges Associated with Digitisation of Land Records

Source: [PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the [President of India](#) presented the “**Bhoomi Samman**” 2023 at a function organised by the **Union Ministry of Rural Development**.

What is “Bhoomi Samman”?

- The “**Bhoomi Samman**” is a prestigious award scheme launched by the Union **Ministry of Rural Development** to recognize and incentivize the achievements of states and districts in the implementation of the [Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme \(DILRMP\)](#).
- The award is presented by the President of India **to the state secretaries and district collectors** along with their teams who have excelled **in achieving saturation of the core components of DILRMP, such as:**
 - Computerization of land records
 - Digitization of cadastral maps
 - Integration of textual and spatial data
 - Survey/re-survey using modern technology
 - Computerization of registration
 - Interoperability between registration and land records

Note: **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme** (erstwhile National Land Record Modernization Programme) under the Ministry of Rural Development was revamped and converted as a **Central Sector Scheme with effect from 1st April, 2016** with 100% funding by the Centre.

What are the Advantages of Digitalisation of Land Records?

- **Transparency and Accountability:** Digitization increases transparency in land transactions, **reducing the scope for unethical and illegal activities** related to land.
- **Disaster Management:** Digital records are more resilient to natural calamities like floods and fires, safeguarding **essential land-related documents from loss**.
- **Land Parcel Identification Number:** Similar to [Aadhaar Card](#), the [Unique Land Parcel Identification Number](#) provided under the Digital India Land Information Management System allows efficient land utilization and enables the **formulation and implementation of new**

welfare schemes.

- **Resolution of Land Disputes:** Access to land-related information in a free and convenient manner aids in **resolving ownership and land-use disputes**, reducing the burden on the administration and judiciary.

What are the Challenges Associated with Digitisation of Land Records?

- **Fragmented Land Records:** India's land records are maintained by multiple authorities at different levels - village, district, and state.
 - The **lack of uniformity and integration between these records** can create difficulties when attempting to centralize and digitize them.
- **Technological Infrastructure and Connectivity:** Digitization requires adequate technological infrastructure, including **hardware, software, and internet connectivity**.
 - In rural areas, where **most land is located**, the availability of such infrastructure can be limited, hindering the digitization process.
- **Data Security and Privacy:** Land records contain sensitive personal and property-related information.
 - Ensuring the **security and privacy** of this data during digitization and beyond is crucial to prevent unauthorized access and misuse.

Way Forward

- **Blockchain-based Land Records:** Implement a **blockchain-based system** to store and manage land records.
 - **Blockchain's decentralized and immutable nature** ensures transparency, reduces the possibility of fraud, and fosters trust in land transactions.
- **Drone Surveys and GIS Mapping:** Use drones equipped with high-resolution cameras and Lidar technology to conduct accurate surveys of land parcels.
 - Integrate the **data with Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping** to create a dynamic and real-time representation of land records.
- **Standardization and Interoperability:** Establish **uniform data standards and formats to ensure compatibility** and seamless integration of land records across different departments and systems.
 - This will enable efficient data sharing and retrieval.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. With reference to land reforms in independent India, which one of the following statements is correct? (2019)

- (a) The ceiling laws were aimed at family holdings and not individual holdings.
- (b) The major aim of land reforms was providing agricultural land to all the landless.
- (c) It resulted in cultivation of cash crops as a predominant form of cultivation.
- (d) Land reforms permitted no exemptions to the ceiling limits.

Ans: (b)

Mains:

Q. Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India. (2016)

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