



Bihar's Land Survey Sparks Mixed Reactions

Why in News?

Bihar's recent [land survey](#) aims to update century-old records, impacting ownership claims, especially among [marginalized communities](#).

Key Points

▪ Historical Background

- Bihar's last comprehensive land survey dates to the **British period in 1910-1911**, with partial attempts made in 1967 and 1980.
- The current survey, **initiated in 2013**, aims to cover all **45,000 revenue villages** by 2025 .

▪ Scope and Process

- Over 10,000 personnel, including land surveyors, have been deployed to digitize over **150 million land records**.
- This includes verifying the genealogy charts, critical for proving familial claims to land. Boundary measurement for each landholding is slated for **early 2025**.

▪ Challenges Encountered

- **Verification of Ownership:** Absence of clear partition deeds has led to disputes, with residents struggling to confirm family-owned land as informal, verbal agreements often dictate ownership.
- **Document Translation:** Historical documents, many written in **Kaithi script**, require translation and comprehension, creating delays. The government has introduced training to facilitate script translation .
- **Technology Hurdles:** Poor internet connectivity in rural areas hampers real-time updating and retrieval of records, leading to inconsistencies in uploaded data .

▪ Social Implications

- **Gendered Disputes:** A significant issue is the inclusion of women's inheritance rights, leading to conflicts within families. Married women have faced pressure to relinquish their claims, challenging entrenched patriarchal norms .
- **Community Tensions:** Land claims have led to violence in some cases, with recent instances of Dalit homes being torched due to boundary disputes with upper-caste communities .