

Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
(Department of Land Resources)

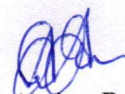
NBO Building, Nirman Bhawan,
New Delhi-110011, Dated: 12.04.2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Monthly summary of important activities of Department of Land Resources during March, 2022 –reg.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of unclassified portion of the monthly summary of important activities of Department of Land Resources for the month of March, 2022.

Encl: As above.



(Arjun Rana)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel. No: 011-23044653

To,

All Members of Council of Ministers

Copy to: -

1. Secretary to President of India, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi-110004
2. Secretary to Vice-President of India, No.5, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi- 110011.
3. Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India, South Block, New Delhi-110011.
4. Dy. Chairman, NITI Aayog, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi
5. Secretary, Department of Rural Development, New Delhi
6. Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, New Delhi
7. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi
8. Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, New Delhi
9. Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi
10. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, New Delhi
11. Secretary, Ministry of Power, New Delhi
12. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi
13. Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi
14. Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, New Delhi
15. Secretary, Ministry of Railways, New Delhi
16. Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, New Delhi
17. Secretary, Dept. of Expenditure, New Delhi
18. Secretary, Dept. of Economic affairs, New Delhi
19. Secretary, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi
20. Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, New Delhi
21. The Director, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi- 110004.
22. Technical Director (NIC), DoLR for uploading on the website of the Department.

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister of RD and PR
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State (RD and CA, F&PD)
3. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State (RD and Steel)

Monthly summary of important activities of Department of Land Resources during March, 2022.

An e-Book on Land Governance Reforms in Budget Announcement “Empowering Citizens Powering India” was released by Hon’ble Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in the presence of Hon’ble Minister of State (RD and Steel), Hon’ble Minister of State (RD and CA, F&PD) and Hon’ble Minister of State (PR) on 14.03.2022. In accordance with directions, an Article – “A Ripple Effect Reform” was written by Secretary(LR) which was published in the Indian Express newspaper on 18th March, 2022 (Copy enclosed).

2. National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) was launched in the State of Assam, Bihar and Ladakh during the month of March, 2022.
3. Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) was launched in the State of Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland and Madhya Pradesh during the month of March, 2022.
4. Secretary (LR) chaired a Video Conference Session on Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR) on 22.03.2022 and reviewed the preparedness of States/UTs for the campaign.
5. Quality Council of India (QCI) team as deputed by DAR&PG under the Special Campaign to dispose of various important references and cleanliness made a visit to the Department on 07.03.2022 to undertake a review study/survey on Increasing Efficiency in Decision Making.
6. The Department has incurred an expenditure of Rs.1464.89 Crore which is 98.68% of the Revised Estimates of Rs.1484.52 Crore during the financial year 2021-22. It is also stated that the Cabinet Approval of WDC-PMKSY was received on 15.12.2021 for a Budgetary allocation of Rs.1216 crore for the FY 2021-22. However, due to meticulous planning in coordination with States/UTs and intensive monitoring, the targets of Revised Estimates for FY 2021-22 were achieved successfully.
7. Under Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY), 5306 projects have been completed till date out of the total 6382 {8214 (Sanctioned) - 1832 (Transferred to State)}. End line evaluation of 4022 projects have been received till now.
8. The current status of progress (cumulative) of the different components of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) is as follows:-
 - i. Computerization of Land Records of 6,11,359 Villages completed.
 - ii. Computerization of Registration in 4,884 SROs completed.
 - iii. Digitization of 1,11,56,031 Cadastral Maps/FMBs/Tippans completed.
 - iv. Integration of 3,997 SROs with land records completed.
 - v. Establishment of Modern Records Rooms in 2,516 Tehsils completed.



AJAY TIRKEY

A ripple effect reform

Land resource management measures in budget will impact larger economy

IN HER BUDGET speech, the Finance Minister talked of land resource management. Any reform or initiative that strengthens land governance, impacts the economy positively and has a ripple effect across sectors.

Consider this: The computerisation and digitisation of land records, undertaken in the recent past, has enabled the e-procurement of wheat and paddy in the states through the minimum support price scheme. It is extremely convenient now for the mandi administration to make an assessment of the food crop sown and the food-grain produced by individual farmers on the basis of *khasra* entries. All that the mandi administration has to do now is to plan the arrival of farmers to the mandi by staggering them village wise. And on arrival, check whether the food crop in the *khasra* entry matches the quantum brought to the mandi by the individual farmer. On satisfaction, payment as per the MSP is credited to the individual farmer's account.

Most states now use computerised land records for e-procurement. While transactional efficiencies are evident, there are other benefits as well. The staggered arrival plan of farmers' produce at the mandis can be conveniently planned on the basis of data related to total acreage under cultivation in the villages. The long queues of tractors crowding the mandis, once a common sight, is not seen these days. The ease of living of the farming community has thus been positively impacted.

Similarly, payments under the Pradhan

Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-Kisan) in the states are being done on the basis of computerised land records. Also, take the case of land acquisition for setting up an industry or infrastructural facilities like highways or railway lines. Proper and updated computerised land records are extremely essential for relief and rehabilitation.

The budget speech included three land governance initiatives. It is apparent that the initiatives are technological at their core. It is the most pragmatic way of implementing central schemes in the states. Technology cuts across geographical, regional and state policy barriers and integrates the nation by preparing all relevant sectors of the national economy to avail of the intended spin-off benefits. These three initiatives will impact the citizen and the national economy. Let us examine each of them.

First, the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN). In plain language, this is an Aadhaar-like identification for a land parcel or plot. Each land parcel or plot is assigned a unique identification number. And therefore, like Aadhaar, the agencies and services can use the land database from anywhere in the country to authenticate a farmer or the beneficiary's identity for the purpose of delivery of services. The land-farmer relationship will be strengthened and authenticated. For the farmer and the individual land holder, it would facilitate and enable access to information relating to his entitlements through various means like kiosks and mobile

phones. Benami and fraudulent transfers of land especially in urban areas is a big concern for states. This framework, integrated with Aadhaar, will put a check on such irregular and illegal transfers.

Second, the National Generic Document Registry System (NGDRS) — One Nation One Registration Software System — is undoubtedly a major initiative for urban property registration. It is a software application platform that facilitates online registration of immovable properties and documents as compared to the manual registration process used earlier. The entire process, right from applying for registration to paying the stamp duty and furnishing encumbrance certificates, is online. States/UTs can conveniently make use of the software. Frequent visits to various offices and institutions like banks and local bodies are not required anymore. Utility bills from local bodies and encumbrance certificates from banks are now submitted online. It is only at the time of the final execution of the registration document that the physical presence of the buyer and seller is mandatory as per Section 32A of the Registration Act. Since the processes are online, there is a higher degree of transparency in the transaction of these properties which reduces disputes and fraudulent transactions as well. NGDRS, therefore, is a major convenience for buyers and sellers of immovable property. It cuts into the costs, time and processes in registration drastically.

The third initiative is transliterating the land records in any language under Schedule

VIII of the Constitution. The objective is to break the linguistic barriers in land records. Presently, land records are largely in regional languages. These linguistic barriers need to be overcome in order to open up the national economy. A prospective property buyer from Maharashtra should conveniently get access to land records of Tamil Nadu in his language. It is time that all forms of unintended barriers, including linguistic ones, which impede economic growth, be dismantled.

To conclude, the budget speech has underscored the significant role land resource management and governance is expected to play in the resurgence of the national economy in the years to come. It has strengthened the belief that the use of technology for land governance is pragmatic and a strategically convenient and acceptable approach when states are implementing schemes. And it has also emphasised that reformative land governance initiatives will positively impact and benefit the citizen as well as various other sectors of the economy in more ways than one. Land resource management and governance, like the keel of a ship, will provide the right balance and float to the national economy despite one of the worst economic downturns induced by the pandemic. How smooth the sail will be will depend on how readily and effectively states take up the land governance initiatives.

The writer is Secretary, Department of Land Resources, Government of India. Views expressed are personal