Q.22. There are challenges that need to be overcome in the implementation of the Digital Land Modernisation Record scheme. Evaluate, along with the measures to overcome these challenges. (15 M)

ARTICLE LINK: https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/unique-land-parcel-identification-number-launched-for-assam/articleshow/90174176.cms

APPROACH

Introduction: Describe DILRMP and its components.
Main Body:
- Challenges faced in implementation of the scheme due to historic and legal reasons.
- What steps can be taken to overcome these challenges.

Conclusion: Suggest how import this scheme is, especially for the rural population.

The Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2008 under Ministry of Rural Development.

It has 3 components:(a) Computerization of land record (b) Survey/re-survey (c) Computerization of Registration

Challenges in Implementation:

- **Legal:**
  - **Finalising Ownerships:** System of registered sale deeds instead of title deeds has led to property disputes constituting 2/3rd of all court cases.
  - **Exemptions:** The Registration Act, 1908 exempts certain land transactions from registration.
  - **Data privacy:** Lack of comprehensive data protection act may infringe digital rights of citizens

- **Technical:**
  - **Resource draining:** High cost of setting up the infrastructure.
  - **Digital illiteracy:** Among officials as well as the other stakeholders, making adaption difficult.
  - **Lack of updated digital maps:** lesser than 50% of **cadastral maps** have been digitised so far.

- **Bureaucratic:**
  - **Coordination:** Multiple agencies for maintaining records makes it difficult to ensure that survey maps, records, and textual data match.
  - **Low expenditure:** 14th report of the standing committee on Rural Development states lower expenditure than budget estimates.
  - **Rise of internet middlemen –** providing internet services in rural areas.
  - **Lack of consultation:** Before allocating ULPIN to the stakeholders

- **Social:**
  - **Forest land under FRA:** Lack of landholding titles, customary lines might be at risk of being added to land banks
  - **Alienation of marginalised sections:** Linking Aadhaar with ULPIN can potentially create conditions for alienation due to mismatch IDs and biometric verification.
  - **Digital land grabbing:** It may pay the way towards mass privatisation and financing of land. **Example**: Bolivia's digitalisation of land.

Steps to overcome challenges:

- **Technology integration:** Drones for ariel surveys, blockchain technology for transparency.
- **Lack of data** Accuracy of land digitization is dependent on the reconciliation of three data sets- textual records, spatial records and satellite map data.
- **Fastrack disposal of property cases:** to ensure ownerships, and smooth implementation.
- **Increasing rate of Registrations:** Reasonable stamp duties and modifying laws to make registering land transactions compulsory and easy.

Digitised land records will not only help small and marginal farmers access financial help, but also remove bottlenecks from India's underdeveloped Real Estate.

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