

Unlocking the land assets: Empowering citizens, updating land records, reducing corruption

Land has emerged at the top of the political agenda. The political pendulum has swung from gross abuse of eminent domain to severe restrictions on scale and scope of land acquisition. However, the poor quality of land records and various land laws, including ceiling, zoning and taxations, have grossly distorted the land market. This has resulted in an artificial scarcity of land on the one hand. On the other hand, it has greatly limited the ability of land owners, particularly farmers, to capitalize their assets appropriately and diversify away from agriculture.

In India today, high transaction costs, and regulatory restrictions, have created a mismatch between supply and demand for land. This has created a nexus between the rich and powerful securing access to land, and fuelling enormous corruption. At the same time this led to displacement and dispossession, reflecting in land alienation and growing protests, which has now built up a social and political coalition against such arbitrary intervention. [Read More](#)

KEYWORDS: land acquisition, environmental policy

Public Seminar

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Date: 25 February, 2016

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 pm

Venue: Ground Floor Conference Hall, R&T Building, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, 18/2 Satsang Vihar Marg, Special Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110067

[Directions](#)



Speaker: Barun Mitra is a commentator on current affairs, with a particular interest in economic development, environmental issues, democracy and property rights. He has been published widely in newspapers around the world. He is the founder of Liberty Institute, an independent think tank based in Delhi.

[Detailed bio](#)



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