

Subject Guide

Land Governance

According to [FAO](#) (2026), “Land governance concerns the rules, processes and structures through which decisions are made about access to land and its use, the manner in which those decisions are implemented and enforced, and the way in which competing interests in land are managed.” It includes statutory provisions, in the form of policy and legislation, as well as customary traditions that govern the transaction, transfer, and transformation of land.

Catalogues and Search Engines

1. [IIHS Library Catalogue](#): Books, maps and films are searchable here.
2. [WorldCat](#): A source for searching reading resources of more than 10,000 libraries worldwide.
3. [Shodhganga](#): A nation-wide repository of electronic theses and dissertations.
4. [National Digital Library of India](#): A virtual repository that provides a host of services for the learner community
5. [JSTOR](#): A database providing access to 12 million journal articles, books, images, and primary sources in 75 disciplines and 7,000+ open-access eBooks from 90 publishers.

Background Sources

[Colonial Land Revenue System in India](#): A two-volume set of books on the colonial revenue system in India, originally published in 1892. It provides a comprehensive analysis of land tenures and revenue administration across the various provinces of colonial India.

[Department of Land Resources, GOI](#): The Department of Land Resources works under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, to develop an integrated land information management system, and supports programmes on land records modernisation in various states of India.

[Land Administration Domain Model \(LADM\)](#) serves as a universal, conceptual framework for land administration and information. It defines a shared vocabulary and structure for the relationships between people and land, encompassing both formal ownership and informal or customary tenure.

[Land Governance Assessment Framework \(LGAF\), World Bank](#): The LGAF is a diagnostic tool developed by the World Bank in collaboration with various partners (including FAO and UN-Habitat). Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive, evidence-based, and participatory assessment of the quality of land governance at the country or sub-national level.

[International Land Coalition](#): ILC is a global alliance dedicated to achieving people-centred land governance. It is the largest

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and most diverse coalition in the world working on land rights, with 300 members across 81 countries.

UN-Habitat: The United Nations organisation UN-Habitat works for a better urban future. Its goal is to advance the growth of human settlements in a way that is ecologically and socially responsible and to ensure that everyone has access to appropriate housing.

Global Land Tool Network (GLTN): GLTN is an alliance, led by UN-Habitat, of international civil society organisations, research and training institutions, bilateral and multilateral organisations, to promote access to land and tenure security for the people living in margins.

MoHUA: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, is charged with developing policy ideas, sponsoring and supporting programs, as well as monitoring the programs pertaining to all housing and urban affairs-related issues in the nation.

Glossary and Encyclopedias

LandVoc: Hosted by FAO is a linked land governance thesaurus. It consists of 310 concepts arranged in a hierarchical manner in varied languages, including English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Khmer, Vietnamese, Burmese, Thai, Swahili and Arabic. It also contains a hierarchy of concepts and different aspects of land governance.

Skosmos: It is a list of relevant vocabularies regarding land governance, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

GoRT: The Glossary of Revenue Terms (GoRT) is an initiative by Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Govt of India, aimed at standardising land and revenue terminology used across different states of India. It compiles key terms related to land administration, land records, and revenue systems.

LGAF definitions by World Bank: Land Governance Assessment Framework by World Bank includes definitions that are useful in the local context, as well as for global comparison.

Databases

Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme MIS 4.0 (DILRMP-MIS 4.0): DILRMP-MIS by the Department of Land Resources, GOI, provides the status of modernisation of land records, automatic mutation process, and integration between textual and spatial records.

State-level databases: Various states in India provide digital land records in both textual and spatial formats. These include [Gujarat](#), [Haryana](#), [Karnataka](#), [Maharashtra](#), [Tamil Nadu](#), and [Tripura](#), among others.

SVAMITVA dashboard: SVAMITVA is a scheme by the Government of India to provide property cards for inhabited areas of villages in various states of India. The dashboard

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provides state-wise status of preparation and distribution of these property cards.

[World Bank Open Data](#): Offers a vast collection of global development data, including indicators related to land use, agricultural land, property rights, and urbanisation. The topic 'urban, resilience and land' provides land and geospatial data at the global level.

[Land Portal](#): Land Portal curates and provides land data, publications, news, blogs, and multimedia content across multiple countries.

[Land Conflict Watch](#): Land Conflict Watch (LCW) is a database tracking ongoing land and natural resource conflicts across India.

Journals

Land Use Policy	An interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal published monthly by Elsevier ; it operates on a hybrid subscription model. Impact Factor: 5.9 (2024)
Journal of Land Use Science	An open-access journal on land-system dynamics, published by T&F online. Impact factor: 3.3 (2024)

Land	A monthly online open-access journal on open access journal on land system science and allied subjects, published by MDPI . Impact factor: 3.2 (2024)
International Journal of Urban and Regional Research	A peer-reviewed journal that covers urban studies, development, and sociology, published by Wiley-Blackwell . Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024)
Environment and Planning D: Society and Space	An interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal operates on a hybrid subscription model, published by SAGE . Impact Factor: 2.5 (2024)
Territory, Politics, Governance	An interdisciplinary journal covering territorial politics and space governance, published by T&F online. Impact Factor: 2.3 (2024)
Journal of Property, Planning and Environmental Law	A peer-reviewed, international journal published by Emerald , a hybrid journal offering an open access option. Impact Factor: 0.3 (2024)

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Key Journal Articles

1. Wadhwa, D. C. 2002. "Guaranteeing Title to Land." *Economic and Political Weekly* 37 (47): 4699–4722. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4412872>.
2. Cowan, Thomas. 2021. "Uncertain Grounds: Cartographic Negotiation and Digitized Property on the Urban Frontier". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 45 (3): 442–57. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.13016>.
3. Azadi, Hossein, Guy Robinson, Ali Akbar Barati, Imaneh Goli, Saghi Movahhed Moghaddam, Narges Siamian, Rando Värnik, Rong Tan, and Kristina Janečková. 2023. "Smart Land Governance: Towards a Conceptual Framework". *Land* 12 (3): 600. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land12030600>.
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5. Ho, Serene, Pranab R. Choudhury, Nivedita Haran, and Rebecca Leshinsky. 2021. "Decentralization as a Strategy to Scale Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration: An Indian Perspective on Institutional Challenges". *Land* 10 (2): 199. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land10020199>.
6. Sharma, Alakh N. 2005. "Agrarian Relations and Socio-Economic Change in Bihar". *Economic and Political Weekly* 40 (2005). <https://www.epw.in/journal/2005/10/special-articles/agrarian-relations-and-socio-economic-change-bihar.html>.
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Commentary/Op-ed

1. Chatterji, Tathagata. 2025. "From Public Good to Private Control: Land Governance and Urban Exclusion in India." *Question of Cities*, September 4, 2025.
<https://questionofcities.org/from-public-good-to-private-control-land-governance-and-urban-exclusion-in-india/>.
2. Roy, Tirthankar. 2024. "Why Digitisation Is Not Enough to Reform Land Laws." *The Indian Express*, September 27, 2024.
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<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/an-expansive-land-management-policy-is-overdue/article67888083.ece>.
4. Panagariya, Arvind, and Abheek Barua. 2014. "India: Land-Shackled I." Peterson Institute for International Economics, July 19, 2014.
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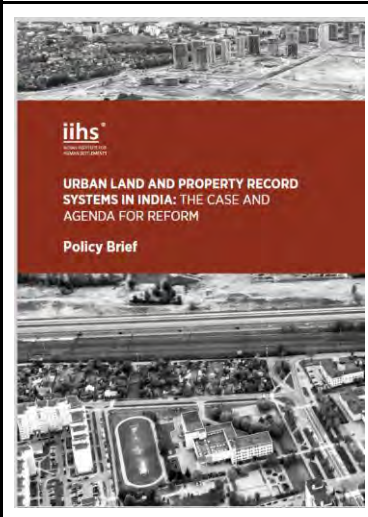
Working Papers

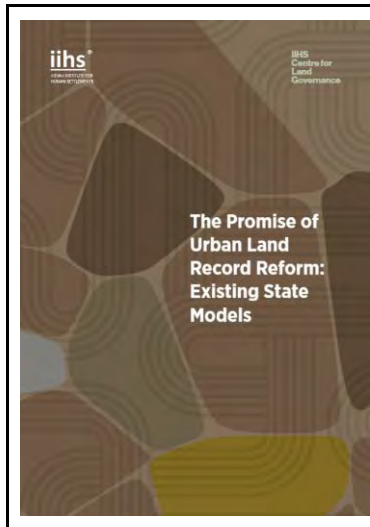
1. FAO and UN-HABITAT. 2010. *Towards Improved Land Governance*. Land Tenure Working Paper 11. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
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2. Rawal, Vikas, and Vaishali Bansal. 2021. "The Land Question in Contemporary Rural India." SSER Working Paper 21/2. New Delhi: Society for Social and Economic Research.
<https://archive.indianstatistics.org/sserwp/sserwp2102.pdf>.
3. Li, Yue, and Martin G. Rama. 2022. *Private Cities: Implications for Urban Policy in Developing Countries*. Policy Research Working Papers. The World Bank.
<https://doi.org/10.1596/1813-9450-9936>.

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Policy Briefs

	Evaluation of quality of land records (Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Bihar) Publication Year: 2025
	Urban land and property record systems in India: The case and agenda for reform ISBN: DOI: https://doi.org/10.24943/ULPR SICAR11.2023 Publication Year: 2023

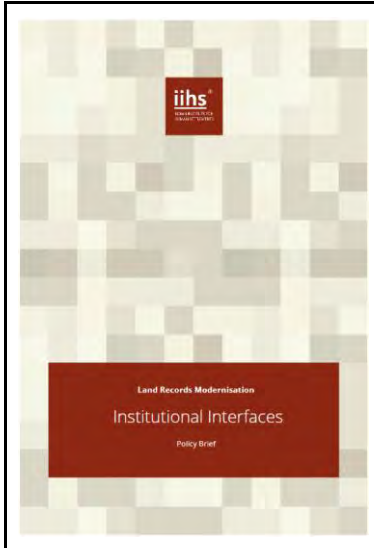
	The promise of urban Land record reform: Existing state models DOI: https://doi.org/10.24943/PULR R11.2025 Publication Year: 2025
	Land record modernisation: 'Good Practices' & 'Gaps' ISBN: 9789387315495 DOI: https://doi.org/10.24943/lrmgpg .2015 Publication Year: 2015

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	Land records modernisation: Technology transitions ISBN: 9789387315471 DOI: https://doi.org/10.24943/lrmtt.2015 Publication Date: 2015		Land records modernisation: State-level experiences ISBN: 9789387315440 DOI: https://doi.org/10.24943/lrmsle.2015 Publication Date: 2015

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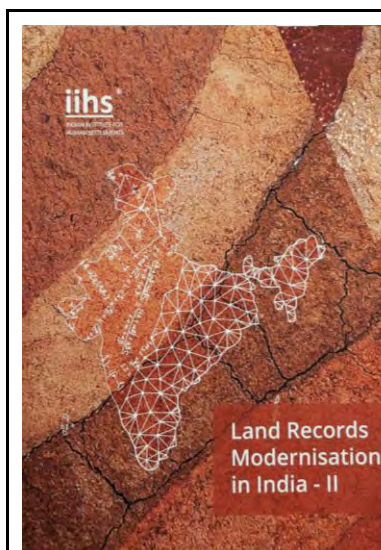
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[City survey in Maharashtra using drone technology](#)

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[Land records modernisation in India – II](#)

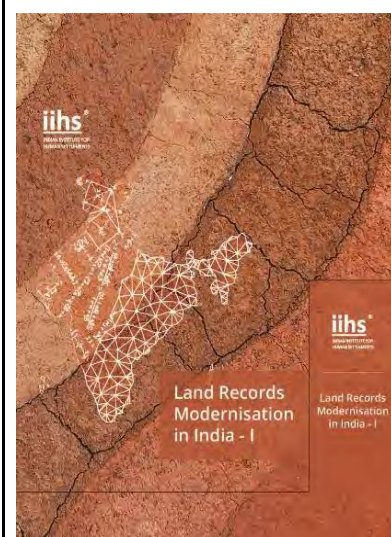
(Delhi, Maharashtra, Chandigarh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh)

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Books



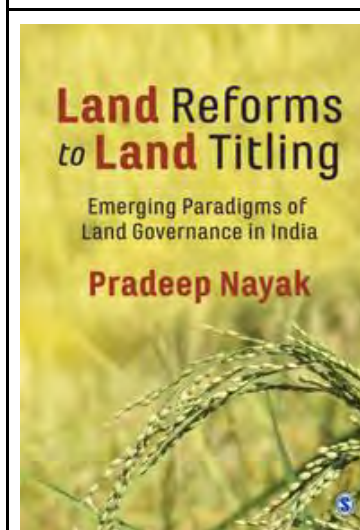
[Land records modernisation in India – I](#)

(Institutional and Legal; Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat)

ISBN: 9788195489398

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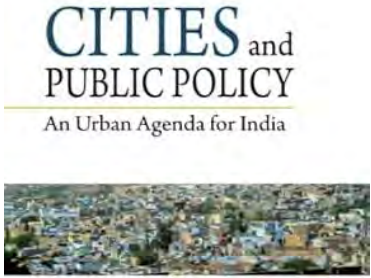
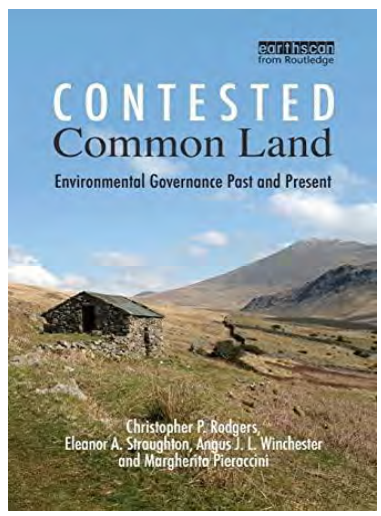
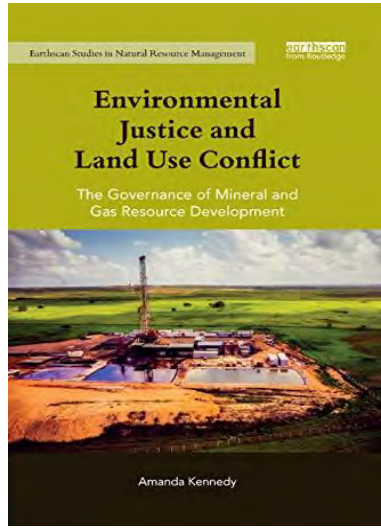
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 Suburban Constellations ROGER KELL [ED.]	Suburban constellations: Governance, land and infrastructure in the 21st century Call Number: 711 SUB 004827 ISBN: 9783868592313 Publication Date: 2013
 CONTESTED Common Land Environmental Governance Past and Present Christopher P. Rodgers, Eleanor A. Stroughton, Angus J. L. Winchester and Margherita Pieraccini	Contested common land: Environmental governance past and present Call Number: 333.2 ROD 014449 ISBN: 9781138971752 Publication Date: 2016
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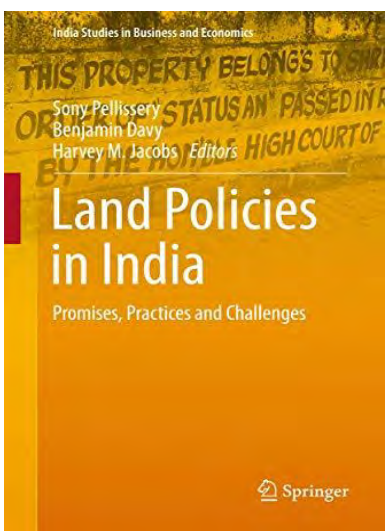
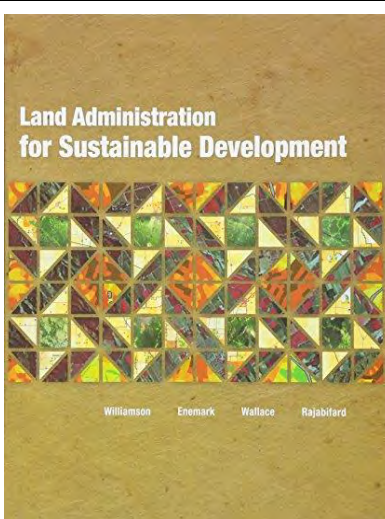
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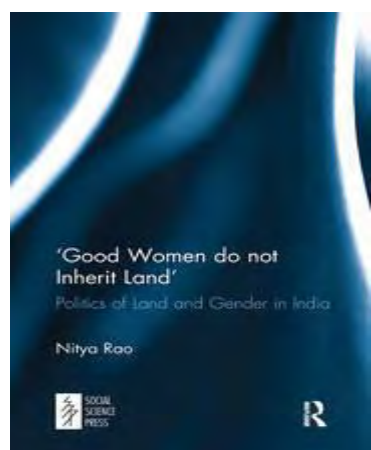
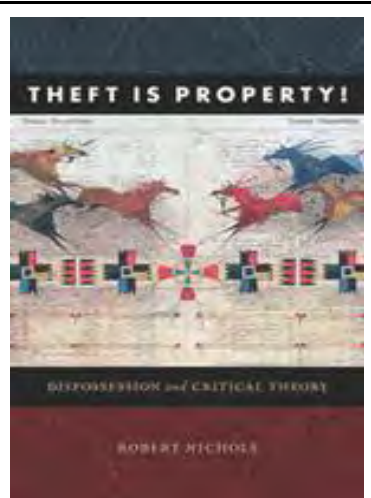


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	<u>Land administration for sustainable development</u> Call Number: 333.7316 WIL 002921 ISBN: 9781589480414 Publication Date: 2010

Recommended Books

	<u>'Good Women do not Inherit land': Politics of land and gender in India</u> ISBN: 9781032652986 Publication Date: 2018
	<u>Theft Is property!: Dispossession and critical theory</u> ISBN: 9781478006732 Publication Year: 2019

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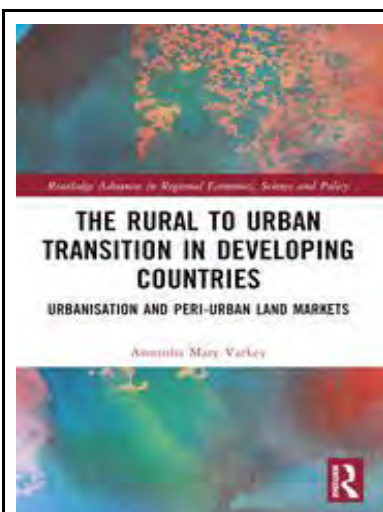
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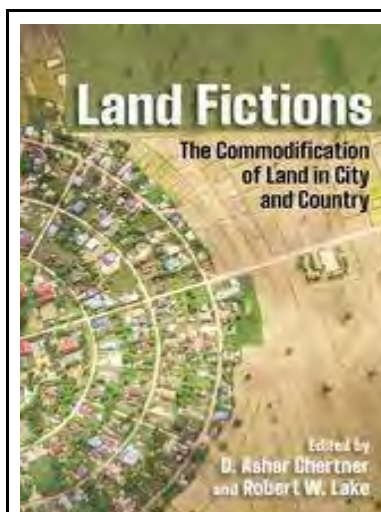
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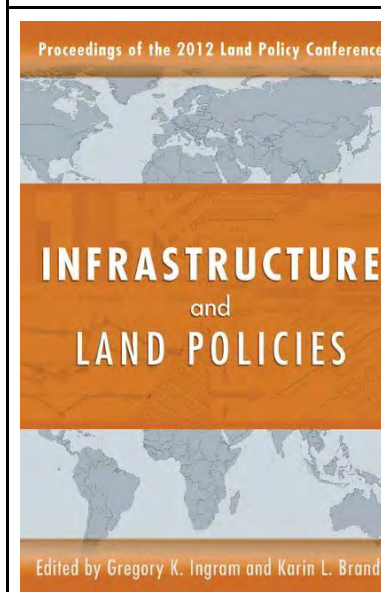
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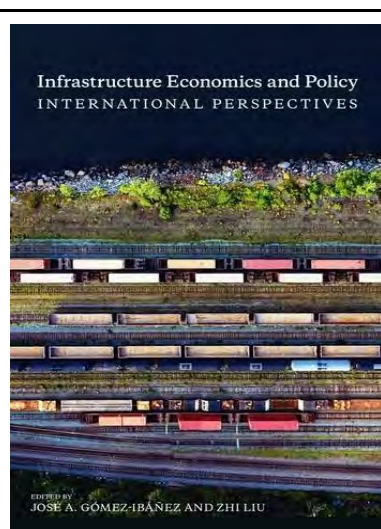
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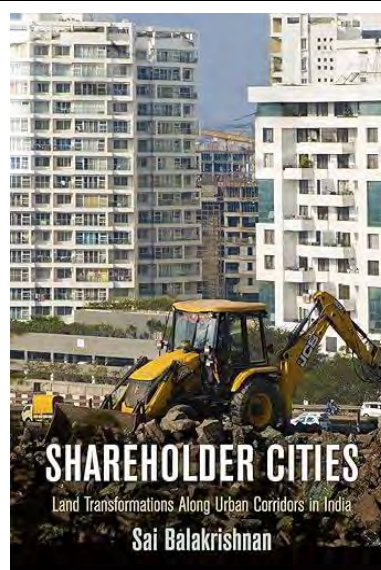
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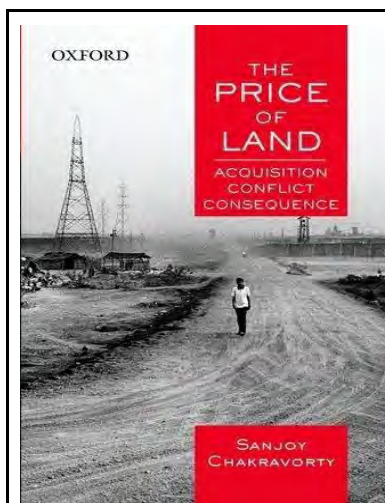
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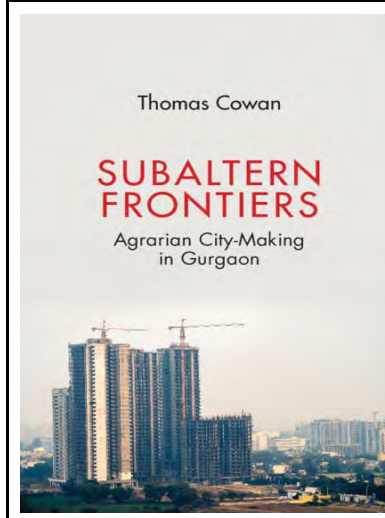
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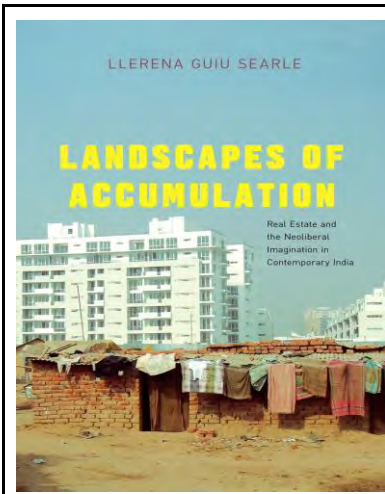
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Reports and guides

1. [Report of expert committee on SVAMITVA scheme, ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India](#)
2. [Land rights and the digital revolution in India: Potential and pitfalls](#)
3. [Land governance: A review and analysis of key international frameworks](#)

Further useful guides

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2. [Subject guide - land and property management](#)

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