

India Land & Development Conference 2020 Session Concept Notes



Centre for Youth Culture Law and Environment

Panel: **One City Many Faces: Lal Dora Lands in Delhi**

Organized by: **CYCLE, HLRN , and NRM**

In the 1960s, 16,000 acres of agricultural land were acquired by the Government of India (GoI) from various villages of Delhi for the ‘public purpose’ namely, the planned development of Delhi. The villagers thus lost their sources of livelihood, trade, status, and opportunities for wealth creation. And, their residential land was left intact, known as “Lal Dora” (villages within a city, without any planning). Lack of defined ownership in the Lal Dora areas restricts villager’s access to formal credit facilities and mortgage rights. They can only sell/rent their property to make a living and enhance their quality of life. Due to inflation and small increases in rent these options aren’t profitable. So, they prefer unplanned constructions to extract maximum renting income that deteriorates their living conditions. In a way, they have become islands that stand out as areas with no basic infrastructure that pose grave danger to the life of their residents.

While the central government, in 2019, announced its decision to confer/recognize ownership or mortgage/transfer rights of 40 lakh residents of Unauthorized Colonies (UACs) in Delhi and provided 20 unauthorized colony residents registry papers, such promising benefits are unavailable in the Lal Dora villages. This dichotomy of ‘ownership rights’ resembles a unique case of development – ‘villages are denied formal opportunities and the illegal and unauthorized human settlements are being recognized’.

If neglected further, they could become an epicentre for several health-related challenges, including epidemics that could impact the entire city. Hence, it is in the interest of the government to ensure that a cogently formulated policy for the Lal Dora areas gets implemented to enhance their quality of life.

In the backdrop of the Land Pooling Policy of Delhi 2019, which envisions covering 15,000 acres of village land in Delhi, the aim of this panel discussion is to hear the affected community speak about the Lal Dora realities, and along with various state and non-State actors, discuss how to bring governance reforms to Lal Dora areas, which are left behind.

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03-Mar-20

Panel 16: One City Many Faces: Lal Dora Lands in Delhi

13.30 - 15.00 Hrs



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Chair & Moderator

Dr. Nivedita Haran, Retired Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala, and Professor at JNU

Panellists

Mr A.K Jain, Former Commissioner Planning DDA

Mr P P Srivastava, IAS (Retd), Member NDMA, Ex-Vice Chairman, DDA,

Mr Paras Tyagi, Founder & President, CYCLE

Dr Ruchita Gupta, Assistant Professor, SPA, New Delhi

Adv Sanjay Poddar, Senior Advocate, Delhi High Court

Date and Time: **13:30 – 15:00 hrs | 3 March 2020**

Venue: **India International Centre, New Delhi**