

Maha second in forest land allotment to tribals

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Nagpur: At a time forest rights activists have been complaining about the lack of effective implementation of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, Maharashtra has emerged as second highest after Chhattisgarh in distributing forest land under the Act.

The FRA 2006, a pivotal piece of legislation in India, has been a significant step towards recognizing the rights of forest dwelling communities. A status report by the ministry of tribal affairs reveals that Maharashtra distributed more than 58.70 lakh acres of forest land under individual forest rights (IFRs) and community forest rights (CFRs) till February 29, 2024.



STATE FOREST LAND

61 | 58.70 | 23.66

Over 50.26 lakh (48.35 lakh IFRs & 1.90 lakh CFRs) claims have been filed of which 24.85 lakh titles (23.70 lakh IFRs & 1.15 lakh CFRs) were cleared

Maharashtra is second highest by distributing over 38.70 lakh acres of forest land under CFR and IDRs. Chhattisgarh topped the chart by distributing 61 lakh acres towards IFRs and CFRs. Among the other states that settled maximum IDRs and CFRs and distributed forest land include Telangana (9.26 lakh acres), Odisha (10.45 lakh acres), MP (23.66 lakh acres), and Gujarat (14 lakh acres).

“On the implementation of the FRA, Maharashtra stands second in the country, showcasing its commitment to upholding the rights of its indigenous populations. This indicates a high level of engagement & awareness among the communities regarding their rights and the provisions of the Act,” said Suresh Chopne of Green Planet.

Chhattisgarh has topped the chart by distributing a staggering 51.46 lakh acres by settling over 4.78 lakh IDR and 49,000 CFR claims, which is the highest in the country. The state has underscored its leading role in the implementation of the FRA.

The FRA has been a transformative policy for many communities, providing them with legal recognition and protection of their land rights.

The effective implementation of this Act is crucial for the empowerment of these communities, ensuring their sustainable development and conservation of the forests they inhabit.

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