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## **TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **UPSC PRELIMS**

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#### **TODAY'S DROPS OF NEWS:**

<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>IN NEWS</u></b>
<b>POLITY</b>	---
<b>ECONOMY</b>	---
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>	---
<b>HISTORY AND ART &amp; CULTURE</b>	---
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>Many forest rights titles vanish in Chhattisgarh.</b>
<b>SCIENCE &amp; TECH</b>	---
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	---

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

**In news:** Many forest rights titles vanish in Chhattisgarh.

**Forest rights:** The Forest Rights Act, 2006 also known as the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006, is a landmark piece of legislation in India, which seeks to address the historical injustice faced by forest-dwelling communities by recognising their rights over the land and resources they have been dependent on for generations.

The Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA 2006) represents a significant step toward securing the livelihoods of millions of India's forest-dwelling tribes and other traditional forest dwellers along with ensuring sustainable development.

### **Types of Rights Recognized:**

- **Individual Rights:** Ownership and access to forest land for cultivation and habitation.
- **Community Rights:**
  - Use of minor forest produce (e.g., bamboo, honey, lac).
  - Grazing rights and access to water bodies.
  - Management and conservation of forests by local communities.
- **Community Forest Resource Rights:** Rights to protect, regenerate, and manage forests sustainably.
- **The Act identifies four types of rights:**
  - **Title rights:** It gives FDST and OTFD the right to ownership to land farmed by tribals or forest dwellers subject to a maximum of 4 hectares. Ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family and no new lands will be granted.
  - **Use rights:** The rights of the dwellers extend to extracting Minor Forest Produce, grazing areas etc.
  - **Relief and development rights:** To rehabilitate in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
  - **Forest management rights:** It includes the right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.

### **Objectives of Forest Rights Act, 2006:**

- To empower and strengthen the local self-governance
- To address the livelihood security of the people, leading to poverty alleviation and pro-poor growth
- To address the issues of conservation and management of natural resources and conservation governance in India.

## **Challenges and Issues with Forest Rights Act, 2006:**

- The main challenges coming in the way of implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 are listed as follows:
- **Lack of Awareness and Education:** The tribals have been vulnerable and have been subject to exploitation in the hands of forest officials, other minor Government agents, money lenders and landlords due to their lack of awareness and education. Many times they themselves are not aware of their entitlements.
- **Conflict with Other Legislations:** The act comes in conflict with other laws which creates ambiguity and thus creates loopholes on the ground level.
- For example, conflict with the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) and also with the Joint Forest Management practices.
- **Limitations of MoTA:** It is alleged that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (the nodal agency for FRA 2006) is short of eligible staff that are properly and completely aware of provisions of FRA and therefore fails to ensure that the proper application process is applied while recognising rights of the forest dwellers.
- **Wrongful Rejections of Claims:** Wrongful rejections of claims are also happening, which generally happen due to a lack of proper enquiries made by the officials.
- **Other Issues:**
- The vigilance committee of elected officials set up by the state Government is inactive.
- Of total forest right titles issued, the majority of them are individual titles, and only 4% are community-based.
- Instead of dealing with implementation problems, the Government keep coming up with new laws or rules, creating a complex maze of conflicting legal situations.

**MENTOR**

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