



Community Forest Resource Rights

For Prelims: Community Forest Resource, Reserve Forest, Protected Forest, Sanctuary and National Parks

For Mains: Community Forest Resource Rights and significance of the Recognition

Why in News?

Residents of the four villages in Chhattisgarh's Mungeli district have received [Community Forest Resource Rights \(CFRR\)](#).

- Achanakmar became the second [tiger reserve](#) in Chhattisgarh to get CFRR, following Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Dhamtari district.

What is a Community Forest Resource?

- The Community Forest Resource (CFR) area is common **forest land that has been traditionally protected and conserved for sustainable use** by a particular community.
- The community uses it to **access resources available within the traditional and customary boundary** of the village, and for seasonal use of landscape in the case of pastoralist communities.
- Each CFR area has **a customary boundary with identifiable landmarks recognised by the community** and its neighbouring villages.
- It may include forest of any category – **revenue forest, classified & unclassified forest, deemed forest**, DLC (District Level Committee) land, reserve forest, [protected forest](#), sanctuary and national parks etc.

What are Community Forest Resource Rights?

- The Community Forest Resource rights under Section 3(1)(i) of the [Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers \(Recognition of Forest Rights\) Act, 2006](#) (commonly referred to as the Forest Rights Act) provides for **recognition of the right to “protect, regenerate or conserve or manage”** the community forest resource.
- These rights allow the **community to formulate rules for forest** use by itself and others and thereby discharge its responsibilities under **Section 5 of the FRA**.
- CFR rights, along with Community Rights (CRs) under Sections 3(1)(b) and 3(1)(c), which include nistar rights and rights over non-timber forest products, **ensure sustainable livelihoods of the community**.
- **Once CFRR is recognised for a community, the ownership of the forest passes into the hands of the Gram Sabha instead of the forest department.**
- Effectively, the Gram Sabha becomes the nodal body for management of the forests.
- These rights give authority **to the Gram Sabha adopt local traditional practices of forest conservation and management** within the community forest resource boundary.
- Chhattisgarh is only the second state to have recognised CFR rights inside a national park i.e., [Kanger Ghati National Park](#).
- In 2016, the Odisha government was the first to recognise Community Forest Resources (CFRs)

inside the [Simlipal National Park](#).

What is the Significance of CFR?

- Aimed at undoing the “historic injustice” meted out to forest-dependent communities due to curtailment of their customary rights over forests, the **FRA came into force in 2008**.
- It is important as **it recognises the community’s right to use, manage and conserve** forest resources, and to legally hold forest land that these communities have used for cultivation and residence.
- It also underlines the **integral role that forest dwellers play in sustainability** of forests and in conservation of biodiversity.
- It is of greater significance inside **protected forests like national parks, sanctuaries and tiger reserves** as traditional dwellers then become a part of management of the protected forests using their traditional wisdom.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. At the national level, which ministry is the nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006? (2021)

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (c) Ministry of Rural Development
- (d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Ans: (d)

Exp:

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, also referred to as the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, recognizes the rights of the forest-dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources.
- The Act encompasses Rights of self-cultivation and habitation which are usually as individual rights, and community rights as grazing, fishing and access to Water bodies in forests, habitat rights for PVTGs, etc.
- In conjunction with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Settlement Act, 2013, FRA protects the tribal population from eviction without rehabilitation and settlement.
- As per the provisions of the Act and the rules framed thereunder, various schemes and projects are implemented **under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Source: DTE