



# Chhattisgarh Forest Department Withdraws Community Forest Rights Directive

## Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh forest department has **recently withdrawn its directive**, which had **barred government departments, NGOs, and private entities from undertaking any work related to [Community Forest Resource Rights \(CFRR\)](#)**.

## Key Points

- **Withdrawal of Advisory:**
  - The forest department **initially claimed control over CFRR lands granted under the [Forest Rights Act \(FRA\) 2006](#)**, pending the release of model management plans by the central government.
  - The advisory designated the **forest department as the nodal agency for CFRR implementation**, which led to protests from tribal communities who viewed this as a violation of their rights to manage forest resources.
    - To address the concerns, **the forest department has requested the Ministries of Tribal Affairs and Environment to urgently release detailed CFRR plans, implementation guidelines, and training modules for all stakeholders.**
- **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**
  - **About:** It was enacted to **officially recognize and grant forest rights** and tenure to forest-dwelling **Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)** who have lived in these forests for generations without formal documentation of their rights.
  - **Aim:** It seeks to correct **historical injustices** faced by these communities due to **colonial and post-colonial** forest management policies that overlooked their deep, **sybiotic relationship** with the land.
    - To empower these communities by enabling sustainable access to land and utilization of forest resources, **promoting biodiversity and ecological balance**, and protecting them from illegal evictions and displacement.
  - **Provision:**
    - **Ownership Rights:** Grants ownership over [Minor Forest Produce \(MFP\)](#). Allows collection, use, and disposal of forest produce.
      - **MFP** refers to **all non-timber forest products** of plant origin, including bamboo, brushwood, stumps, and canes.
    - **Community Rights:** Includes traditional usage rights such as **Nistar** (a type of Community Forest Resource).
    - **Habitat Rights:** Protects the rights of **primitive tribal groups** and pre-agricultural communities to their traditional habitats.
    - **Community Forest Resource (CFR):** Enables communities to protect, regenerate, and sustainably manage forest resources they have traditionally conserved.
      - The Act facilitates the **diversion of forest land** for public welfare projects managed by the government, subject to [Gram Sabha](#) approval.
- **Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR)**

- 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**.

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