Forest Rights Act, 2006

Recognising Rights, Securing Livelihoods

PIB Analysis

- The **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006** recognises individual and community forest rights of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs).
- Received Presidential assent on **29 December 2006** and came into force on **31 December 2007**.
- Objectives:
  - Recognise previously unrecorded forest rights.
  - Ensure land tenure, livelihood and food security.
  - Promote sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Implemented in 20 States and one UT (Jammu and Kashmir).

Forest Rights Title?

- An official document recording the holder's forest rights, village, land area and boundaries.
- Signed by the Divisional Forest Officer, District Tribal Welfare Officer and District Collector.
- Community titles are issued to Gram Sabhas; individual titles to eligible households.
- Titles are inheritable but non-transferable.
- Entry into revenue records enables access to PM-KISAN and other livelihood schemes.

Key Milestones

Date	Milestone
29 December 2006	FRA received Presidential assent.
31 December 2007	Act came into force.
1 January 2008	FRA Rules notified.
12 July 2012	Implementation guidelines issued.
23 April 2015	Community Forest Resource guidelines issued.
11 February 2019	PM-KISAN extended to forest rights title holders.
12 September 2023	Community Forest Resource management guidelines issued.
2 October 2024	DA-JGUA launched.
5 January 2026	PVTG Habitat Rights guidelines issued.
24 June 2026	Advisory issued to update revenue and forest records.

27 July 2026	Advisory on expediting FRA implementation and fund convergence.

Who Can Claim and What the Act Protects?

Eligible beneficiaries:

- **Forest-Dwelling STs:** Primarily reside in forests and depend on them for livelihood.
- **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers:** Have depended on forests for at least three generations (75 years) before 13 December 2005.

Key Provisions:

- Rights cover forest land occupied before 13 December 2005, with individual rights limited to actual occupation, up to four hectares.
- Covers reserved forests, protected forests, Sanctuaries and National Parks.
- No eviction until claims are verified and recognised.
- Less than one hectare of forest land can be diverted for specified government facilities on Gram Sabha recommendation.

Types of Forest Rights and Titles

1. Individual Forest Rights (IFR)

- Rights over land used for habitation and cultivation, up to four hectares.
- Titles generally issued jointly in the names of spouses.

2. Community Forest Rights (CFR)

- Rights over grazing areas, fishing grounds, water bodies and minor forest produce.

Community Forest Resource Rights

- Empowers Gram Sabhas to protect, conserve, regenerate and manage customary forests.

Other Rights:

- Ownership and disposal of minor forest produce, including bamboo, honey, tendu leaves, lac and medicinal plants.
- PVTGs receive habitat rights over their customary territories.
- Habitat rights granted to 11 PVTGs in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

How Are Claims Decided?

Gram Sabha:

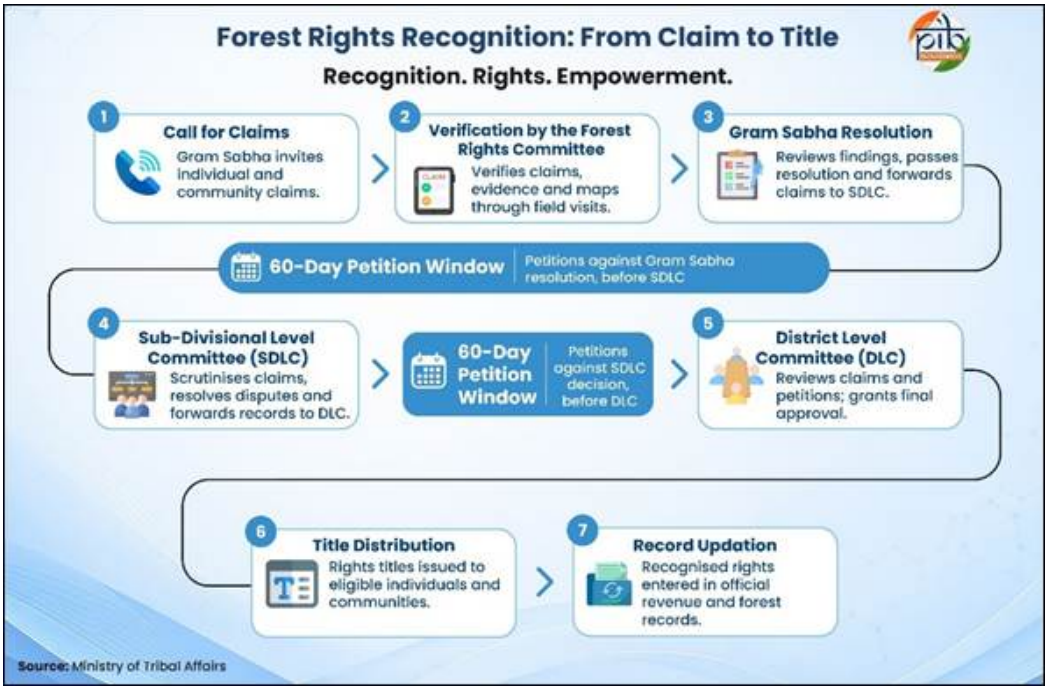
- Initiates claims, verifies evidence, maps land and passes resolutions.
- Constitutes a Forest Rights Committee of 10–15 members, with at least two-thirds ST members and one-third women.

Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC): Examines Gram Sabha resolutions and prepares records of forest rights.

District Level Committee (DLC) – Takes the final and binding decision.

Appeals and Monitoring:

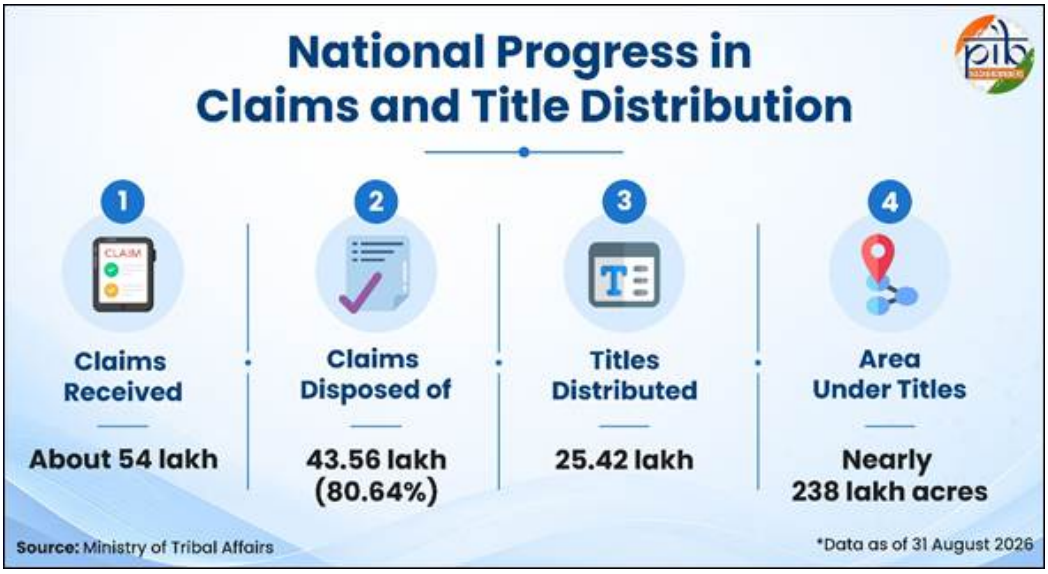
- Appeals can be filed within 60 days, extendable by 30 days.
- Rejections must provide written reasons.
- Recognised rights must be entered into revenue and forest records within three months.
- State Level Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary, meets quarterly.



Progress So Far

As of **31 August 2026**:

- 54 lakh claims received; 43.56 lakh (80.64%) disposed of.
- 25.42 lakh titles distributed, covering nearly 238 lakh acres.
- Individual titles: 24.18 lakh; Community titles: 1.24 lakh.



Top Five States in Titles Distributed

State	Total titles
Chhattisgarh	5,34,068
Odisha	4,73,936
Madhya Pradesh	2,89,461
Telangana	2,31,456
Andhra Pradesh	2,28,489

Support for States

- Ministry collects monthly progress reports on claims, titles and rejections.
- National FRA Portal and mobile app facilitate digitisation and mapping of records.
- **National FRA Digital Platform (November 2026):** Integrates the entire claims process, from Gram Sabha submission to digitally signed titles.
- Regular review meetings and grievance redressal mechanisms support implementation.

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA)

- Provides funding for State and district FRA cells for two years to expedite pending claims.
- Supports digital mapping, State FRA portals and technical infrastructure.
- Provides ₹15 lakh per Community Forest Resource Management Plan and ₹1 lakh for technical assistance.
- Community plans can be aligned with Forest Department Working Plans while retaining Gram Sabha authority.
- iGOT offers free FRA courses and States organise legal literacy camps.

State-Level Initiatives:

- **Maharashtra:** Introduced Forms 7E and 12E to facilitate crop loans, KCC, crop insurance and DBT.

- **Andhra Pradesh:** Integrated Giribhumi FRA portal with revenue and banking systems.
- **Telangana:** Integrated online titles with the BhuBharathi revenue portal.
- Three regional review conferences were held in September–October 2026.

Conclusion

- The FRA, 2006, secures tribal land and livelihood rights while promoting community-led forest conservation.
- Priorities include updating land records, linking beneficiaries with welfare schemes and strengthening Gram Sabha participation in forest management.

Reference

PIB

