Forest Rights Act 2006 – second regional review conference, Kolkata

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News

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs held the second regional review conference on implementing the Forest Rights Act 2006 in Kolkata on 9 Oct 2026, opened by Secretary Ranjana Chopra. Eight States took part – West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Nationally (as of 31 Aug 2026) over 54 lakh claims have been received and about 25 lakh titles distributed; about 11 lakh are pending.

Key facts

Organiser	Ministry of Tribal Affairs; Secretary Ranjana Chopra
Date & venue	9 Oct 2026, Kolkata; first conference – Bengaluru (10 Sept 2026, southern States)
National figures	Claims 54 lakh+; titles about 25 lakh; pending about 11 lakh; rejected 18 lakh+ (31.08.2026)
Directions	Action plans for Gram Sabhas; Community Forest Resource (CFR) management plans; entering rights in revenue and forest records; National FRA portal and app

Background

- Law: the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, in force from 31 Dec 2007. Individual rights (up to 4 hectares), community rights, minor forest produce, Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights and PVTG habitat rights.
- Eligibility: occupation of forest land before 13 Dec 2005; 'Other Traditional Forest Dwellers' must prove 75 years (three generations) of residence. The Gram Sabha starts the claim process; then the Sub-Divisional and District Level Committees.
- Constitution: Fifth Schedule (Article 244) – Scheduled Areas; PESA Act 1996 empowers Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas. Article 338A – National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's 6 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are the Todas, Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas, Paniyas and Kattunayakans (mostly in the Nilgiris). The first regional conference, for the southern States, was held in Bengaluru.

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