



Impact of the Forest Rights Act on Land Conflicts

Why in News?

Recently, **Land Conflict Watch**, a data research agency, tracking land-related conflicts in India, has noted a significant correlation between land conflicts and the enforcement of the [Forest Rights Act \(FRA\) 2006](#).

Key Points

- **FRA enacted in 2006 recognises the rights of forest-dwelling tribal communities** and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources on which these communities **were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation** and other sociocultural needs.
- Out of the 781 conflicts documented in the [Land Conflict Watch \(LCW\)](#) database, a subset of 264 conflicts has been closely linked to **parliamentary constituencies** where the Forest Rights Act (FRA) is an important issue.
- These constituencies are commonly referred to as **'FRA constituencies'** based on the **People's Forest report (by Centre for Science and Environment)**.
- Maharashtra, Odisha, and **Madhya Pradesh** have the **highest number of core FRA** constituencies.
- The states with the most forest rights issues in **critical FRA constituencies** are Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Status of Implementation of FRA

- **Titles Accorded:** As of February 2024, approximately **2.45 million titles have been granted to tribal and forest dwellers**.
 - However, out of **five million claims received, about 34% have been rejected**.
- **Recognition Rate:** Despite the vast potential, the actual recognition of forest rights has been limited. As of 31st August 2021, **only 14.75% of the minimum potential forest areas eligible for forest rights have been recognised** since the FRA came into force.
- **State Variations:**
 - **Andhra Pradesh:** Recognized 23% of its minimum potential forest claim.
 - **Jharkhand:** Recognized only 5% of its minimum potential forest area.
 - **Intra-State Variations:** Even within states, recognition rates vary. For instance, in Odisha, while the district of Nabarangapur achieved a 100% IFR recognition rate, Sambalpur's rate stands at 41.34%.