

COMMUNITY FOREST RIGHTS



Issue

Chhattisgarh state became only the second in the country to recognize Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights of a village inside a national park.

Background

The tribal village of Gudiypadar, located within the Kanger Ghati National Park in Bastar district was given community rights.

Details

- Common forest land that has been traditionally protected and conserved for sustainable use by a particular community is known as community forest resource.
- This helps community to get access to resources available within the traditional and customary boundary of the village.
- The customary boundary of a community is identifiable through landmarks recognised by the community and its neighboring villages.
- The traditional forests can be in form of revenue forest, classified & unclassified forest, DLC land, deemed forest, reserve forest, protected forest, sanctuary and national parks etc.

Community Forest Resource rights

- They are recognised under Section 3(1)(i) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act.
- The community discharges its rights by formulating rules for forest use by itself and others and under Section 5 of the FRA.

- The Gram Sabha will have the right to adopt local traditional practices of forest conservation and management within the community forest boundary.

Significance of CFR rights

- The CFR rights aimed at negating the injustice against forest-dependent communities due to curtailment of their customary rights over forests.
- It recognises integral role that forest dwellers play in sustainability of forests and in conservation of biodiversity.
- Giving rights to communities within protected forests allows them to become a part of management of the protected forests using their traditional wisdom.

Major challenge

Getting a consensus amongst various villages for demarcating their traditional boundaries often proves a challenge.

NOTES

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