

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Finally, UP tribals get a reason to rejoice

Text Size: [A](#) [A](#)

Ashish Tripathi , TNN 21 December 2009, 04:36am IST

[Insulin Injection Pen - Next generation of insulin pens. Find more information here : www.novonordisk.com](#)

Ads by Google

Topics: - [Forest Rights Act 2006](#) - [Sonbhadra](#)

LUCKNOW: Over six decades of struggle of tribals and forest workers in UP yielded some result on Sunday when the state government gave ownership rights on 3258.50 acre forest land to over 3100 tribals in Sonbhadra district under the Forest Rights Act 2006. The land was already being tilled by the tribals but now with ownership titles, their claim has been legalised. Besides uplifting the status of tribals, the decision would also check spread of naxalism in the area.

Officials claimed that UP is the first state in the country to distribute land ownership titles to tribals in such a large number. It became possible due to coordination between the departments of revenue, panchayati raj, social welfare and chief minister's office among others, they said. On the instructions of chief minister Mayawati officials specially went to Sonbhadra for the job. A function was held at police lines on Sunday where over 8,000 tribals assembled to watch the distribution of the ownership titles. They welcomed the government step saying it was a victory of democracy but added that there was still a long way to go.

The ownership titles are in the name of entire family and are non-saleable. It was the first phase of distribution. Similar exercise will continue in future to clear over 60,000 claims submitted by the tribals so far. "It's a small but welcome move which would send a good message among tribals in UP and other states. But still, there are lakhs of tribals whose rights on their ancestors' land have to be restored," said Roma, UP convener, National Forum of Forests People and Forest Workers (NFFPFW). Roma is also the first woman in UP to be booked under the National Security Act for leading movements for restoration of tribals' right.

In recent years tribals have intensified their struggle. Women of over 500 villages in the Kaimur range, covering five districts in east UP, had forcibly taken over around 20,000 hectare of land in the area for cooperative [farming](#) under the banner of Kaimur Kshetra Mahila Majdoor Samiti. But they were being harassed by mining companies, government and forest officials as well as the police. Naxals from neighbouring states of Chhattisgarh and Bihar too have been trying to strengthen their base in the area taking advantage of 'state oppression'. But majority tribals prefer democratic way over gun for their struggle.

Ashok Chaudhary, national convener, NFFPFW, also welcomed the move and gave credit to chief minister Mayawati and state minister Sanjay Garg. But, he added, ownership titles have been given to individuals on agriculture land presently under forest department control, whereas the Forest Rights Act 2006 also asks for community ownership to tribals on forests and its produce. The tribals have been dwelling in forests for centuries though the British had declared them as encroachers in 1927. The same continued even after Independence. Tribals were not even allowed to collect food and grass from forests for building thatched houses.

Over a dozen tribes including Gond, Kol, Baiga, Agaria, Ghasia, Punika, etc., are found in the region. Naxal movement reached here in late 90s but did not get popular support as majority preferred peace. Narrating their woes to government officers on Sunday, tribals said the entire region is in the grip of coal, mineral and forest mafia, who, in connivance with forest officials and police indulge in illegal cutting of trees and mining but tribals are booked even if they collect tendu leaves for making bidi. Over 3000 tribals have been falsely booked under various charges in last five years, they claimed.

- [MBA in London : 1 Year](#) : Multi Country study options. For Admissions Apply Now! : www.amitylondon.org.uk/MBA
- [Unitech Nirvana Gurgaon](#) : Book Luxurious Unitech Nirvana Row Houses & Villas. Call 09810839770 : www.UnitechNirvanaCountry.in

Ads by Google

Powered by Indiatimes

[Home](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Life & Style](#) | [Hot on the Web](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Photos](#) | [Videos](#)

The Times of India

 [Advanced Search](#)Connect with us: [RSS](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [TOI Mobile](#) | [mPaper](#) | [ePaper](#)Other Times Group news sites: [Indiatimes](#) | [The Economic Times](#) | [इकॉनॉमिक टाइम्स](#) | [ઇકોનોમિક ટાઇમ્સ](#) | [नवमरत टाइम्स](#) | [महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स](#) | [Mumbai Mirror](#) | [Times Now](#)Living and entertainment: [iDiva](#) | [Bollywood](#) | [Zoom](#)Networking: [itimes](#) | [Dating & Chat](#) | [Email](#)Hot on the Web: [Hotklix](#)Services: [Book print ads](#) | [Online shopping](#) | [Business solutions](#) | [Book domains](#) | [Web hosting](#) | [Business email](#) | [Free SMS](#) | [Free email](#) | [Website design](#) | [CRM](#) | [Tenders](#) | [Remit](#) | [Cheap air tickets](#) | [Matrimonial](#) | [Ringtones](#) | [Astrology](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Property](#) | [Buy car](#) | [eGreetings](#)[About us](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [Terms of use](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sitemap](#)Copyright © 2009 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: [Times Syndication Service](#)

This site is best viewed with Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher, or Firefox 2.0 or higher, at a minimum screen resolution of 1024x768.