

THE HINDU

AP govt to distribute 4.42 acres of land to tribals

Hyderabad (PTI): The Andhra Pradesh government will distribute 4.42 lakh acres of land in the state to tribals under the Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006.

The process has been set in motion with collectors of various districts distributing 20,950 acres today, according to state Chief Secretary P Ramakanth Reddy.

The High Court permitted the state government on May 1 to issue title certificates to eligible forest dwellers under the Act. The district Collectors have been empowered to issue the certificates and accordingly the land distribution was started on Friday.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the process with the district Collectors through a video-conference from Hyderabad and asked them to step up the process.

GPS-based land survey work in the agency area of Visakhapatnam district is, however, hampered as the contractor allegedly received threats from the CPI (Maoists) to stop the process.

Accordingly, the district authorities have been asked to take up 'chain survey' and complete the process at the earliest so that the land could be distributed to the forest dwellers.

The state government has so far received 3,23,179 individual claims covering an area of 9,62,111 acres and 5,964 community claims covering an area of 1,65,404 acres.

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/004200905291431.htm>