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[Back](#)[Other States](#) - [Orissa](#)

Land patta given to Bonda tribals

Staff Reporter

BERHAMPUR: Bonda tribals of Malkangiri district were provided land patta under the Forest Rights Act.

Bondas are considered to be one of the most primitive tribes in the world, who have till date tried to preserve their ancient culture and tradition.

They live in remote and isolated hilly regions in the northwest of Machhkund river. Their remote habitat is called Bonda hills. Even after six decades of independence the members of this ancient tribal community had no legal right over the land on which they lived and cultivated. Implementation of Forest Rights Act enabled the administration to provide legal possession of land to these tribals.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the district Collector of Malkangiri, Nitin Bhanudas Jawale said during past two days they have distributed around 250 land pattas to Bonda tribals living in five villages of Bonda valley under the Forest Rights Act. "We had received around 500 applications from Bondas for land rights under the Act", he said. There are 12 Bonda villages. The rest Bonda families would be provided land patta in phased manner.

With the distribution of these land pattas, the Bonda villages would also start to have their identity on the map of administration and revenue department.

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