



*By Express News Service  
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## Tribals to get rights over forest land from today

HYDERABAD: In a first-of-its-kind move in the country, the State government has decided to implement the Registration of Forest Rights Act (RoFR) in the State from Sunday.

The development is expected to transform the lives of tribals by giving them rights over forest land.

To mark the occasion, Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy will distribute title documents to tribals for 40,000 acres at a Girijana Sadassu at Paderu in Visakhapatnam district Sunday. Tribals will be given rights over 12 lakh acres by the end of July. Coffee and rubber plantations will be taken up on these lands.

The Chief Minister Saturday telephonically reviewed the forest land distribution process, including claims' settlement and certificate distribution, with officials.

Over 4.17 lakh acres had been distributed so far settling 70,480 claims.

About eight lakh acres would be distributed by July end.

The Chief Minister is likely to distribute title certificates for one lakh acres each at Khammam and Adilabad on July 19 and 26 respectively.

The officials had informed Rajasekhara Reddy that the department had organised a series of meetings to create awareness among tribals on forest land rights.

As on today, they received 3.23 lakh individual claims for an extent of 9.78 lakh acres and 5,964 community claims for an extent of 2.36 lakh acres.

After scrutiny, the district-level committees approved 1.44 lakh claims for an extent of 6.16 lakh acres.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister will leave for Visakhapatnam Sunday morning and arrive at Paderu at 11.40 am. He will proceed to Gangavaram and address a public meeting at Police Barracks at Indira Priyadarshini Stadium.

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