

Press Release**ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT**

Tamil Nadu moves forward on the Forest Rights Act to empower tribal communities. A workshop was inaugurated by the Chief Secretary, Thiru. Shiv Das Meena IAS., on **implementation of Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act**, at Secretariat. The Chief Secretary, also released a **Guide book on Forest Right Act, 2006** which provides for the effective implementation of the Act in Tamil Nadu. During his address, he stated that in Tamil Nadu, so far 12,728 individual Rights claims and 671 community rights claims were settled.

On the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Tmt. Supriya Sahu IAS., Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu with the keynote address called for the collaborative approach to ensure the rights enshrined for tribes. The genuine claims of the tribal community should be recognized and settled at the earliest. She insisted on the combined action of Tribal welfare department and Forest Department for effective implementation of the provisions of FRA, 2006.

Tmt. G. Laxmi Priya IAS., Secretary, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department highlighted the positive progress of tribal right's settlement in Tamil Nadu. She mentioned that the effort needed from District Collectors to take leadership in the matter.

The principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Mr. Subrat Mohapatra IFS., and the principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Director, Mr. Sewa Singh, IFS., Mr. S. Annadurai, CLS., Director, Tribal Welfare Department and other officials from Forest Department and Tribal welfare Department were present.

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