

Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights

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In news- The **Chhattisgarh** government has become only the second state in the country to **recognise Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights of a village inside Kanger Ghati National Park in Bastar district. Simlipal NP in Odisha,** is the first, where CFR rights have been recognised.

What is a community forest resource?

- The **CFR under Section 3(1)(i) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act (Forest Rights Act (FRA))** provide for recognition of the right to “protect, regenerate or conserve or manage” the community forest resource.
- Each CFR area has a customary boundary with identifiable landmarks recognised by the community and its neighbouring villages.
- It may **include forest of any category** – revenue forest, classified & unclassified forest, deemed forest, DLC land, reserve forest, protected forest, sanctuary and national parks etc.
- These rights allow the community to formulate rules for forest use by itself and others and thereby discharge its responsibilities under Section 5 of the FRA.
- CFR rights, along with Community Rights (CRs) under Sections 3(1)(b) and 3(1)(c), which include nistar rights and rights over non-timber forest products, ensure sustainable livelihoods of the community.
- These rights give the **authority to the Gram Sabha to adopt local traditional practices of forest conservation and management** within the community forest resource boundary.

Extra reading- ‘Joint Communication’ on Forest Rights Act 2006 – JournalsOfIndia