

With the people of Jammu and Kashmir benefited from the implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006? Critically analyse.

The Jammu and Kashmir after the abolition of special status under Article 370, is undergoing a rapid change in land use, development, tribal rights, infrastructure etc.

The implementation of Forest Right Act 2006 is a welcome step for granting rights to the tribes and Scheduled forest dwellers of Jammu and Kashmir.

### Benefits from Forest Right Act, 2006:

#### 1. Rights over forest land:

1. Till now, J&K people tribes like Gujjar and Bakarwals don't had any

legislatural right over the forest land.

2. Now they have right over Habitation, Self cultivation, ownership, minor forest produce etc.

3. (e.g) The people of J&K can now use the herbs of mountains and exploit them sustainably for their income.



The land rights is now heritable:

1. Until now, the people of Jammu & Kashmir tribal land is exploited by landlords and other citizens of the Jammu & Kashmir.
2. Now, their tribal forest land is only heritable between generation and not transferable/salable.
3. (e.g) The Bakkerwally lands were exploited by 87% by landlords - State Report.

Infrastructure development to the people:

1. Grama Sabha with the approval of people, can grant 1 hectare land for infrastructure development.
2. Thus people will now get hospitals, schools, community service centre, irrigation bodies etc.

Concerns that need to be addressed:

1. Relaxation to be given to the documents produced for 3 generations since many people lack it.
2. The disput committee after appeal from Grama Sabha cases should act like arbitration council to get trust from J&K people.
3. Steps should be taken so that no tribals should be left behind in the act.

The Forest Rights act will bring a new change in the integration of the people with the welfare of nation if concerns are addressed.