

Tribals protest, demand title deeds

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Demanding title deeds for the forest dwellers, Budakattu Krishikara Sangha office-bearers and tribals staged a protest in front of Deputy Commissioner's office on Friday.

The protesters said that the areas where tribals resided inside the forests should be declared as notified area. The administration should initiate measures to distribute community and individual title deeds under Forest Rights Act. The protesters took out a procession from Sudarshan Circle.

Addressing the protesters, Sangha district unit president J P Raju said that the district administration should implement Forest Rights Act effectively in the district.

"Tribals have been residing in the forests for generations. However, officials have violated the Act by not distributing individual and community title deeds for the forest dwellers. The government has failed to educate the tribals on the recommendations made by Prof Madhav Gadgil committee," he said.

Failure

Madikeri taluk unit president Kudiya Muthappa said that the Centre and state governments had chalked out several programmes for the welfare of the tribals. But authorities had failed to implement the same.

The BJP-led State government has done injustice to the tribals by failing to announce any special package for the tribals in the State budget. It has however announced special packages for mutts and religious institutions, he alleged.

Also, Kodagu had three Assembly constituencies in the past. But by delimiting it to two, the government has done injustice to the tribals.

The tribals should be given an opportunity to select an MLA from the community in Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, Mysore, Chikmagalur districts, he added.