

# Adivasis say Project Tiger and tourism are displacing them from their ancestral land

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TOI correspondent from London: Indigenous communities across India are being pushed out of their ancestral lands in the name of tourism and expansion of tiger projects whilst the laws to protect them are being diluted and not implemented properly, Adivasis told a global press briefing on Monday.

"Our elders are very happy now. We are having our food, we are going for honey collection. We have our own water resource. We sit together in the evening, and they are teaching us songs. All these songs and lessons were silenced for 40 years."

"The forest department keeps saying that only after your rights are recognised, you can live on this land. We already have these rights," he said.

The Jenu Kurubas are filing a case against the Forest Department under the SC/ST Atrocities Act for withholding their rights and filing an appeal against 39 rejected forest rights claims.

"Why are their rights not being recognised despite the notification of central legislation such as the Forest Rights Act 2006," asked scholar Nitin Rai.

"People across the country in different states are fighting the same battles. It is important to find a way to raise a collective voice for what is happening all over," said lawyer Lara Jesani.