



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃত্বৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

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No. 550 Dispur, Thursday, 10th September, 2026, 19th Bhadra, 1948 (S. E.)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (PLAIN)

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

The 7th September, 2026

E: 241149/479.-

In pursuance of the directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Kumari Madhuri Patil vs. Addl. Commissioner* [(1994) 6 SCC 241] and consequent upon the bifurcation of the erstwhile Welfare of Plain Tribes and Backward Classes (WPT & BC) Department vide ARTPPG Notification No. AR.41/2022/17 dated 02/11/2022, the state government has re-aligned the administrative control and modalities for dealing with fake caste certificates.

Accordingly, the following updated instructions are issued specifically for the **Department of Tribal Affairs (Plain)** to simplify and streamline the procedure for investigating and dealing with fake **Scheduled Tribe (ST)** social status claims:

- 1. Constitution of Vigilance Cell:** A Vigilance Cell shall function at the Directorate of Tribal Affairs (Plain), consisting of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, CID Assam, along with requisite Police Inspectors to investigate social status claims of Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates. The Senior Superintendent of Police, CID Assam shall supervise its functioning. The Vigilance Cell shall operate under the overall control of the State Level Scrutiny Committee (SLSC) for ST verification.
- 2. Verification and Investigation Procedure:** Upon reference, the designated Vigilance Officer (Inspector) shall personally visit the local/original place of residence of the candidate. The officer shall examine school records, birth registration, and interview the candidate, parents, guardians, or local persons. The report submitted to the Directorate must specifically capture peculiar anthropological/ethnological traits, deities, rituals, customs, modes of marriage, death ceremonies, and burial methods relative to the concerned Scheduled Tribe community.

3. **Issuance of Show-Cause Notice:** If the Director of Tribal Affairs (Plain) finds the ST claim "not genuine," "doubtful," or "spurious," a show-cause notice along with the investigation report shall be served to the candidate (or head of institution/employer) via registered post. The candidate shall be granted two weeks (extendable to maximum 30 days upon formal request) to submit a reply.
4. **Inquiry by State Level Scrutiny Committee (SLSC):** If a hearing is requested, the Director shall refer the case to the State Level Scrutiny Committee (SLSC) chaired by the Secretary, Department of Tribal Affairs (Plain). Reasonable opportunity shall be given to adduce evidence, and public notices may be issued in the locality to allow objections.
5. **Genuine Claims:** If the Vigilance Officer's report confirms the genuine social status of the candidate, proceedings shall close, unless evidence emerges later showing the certificate was fraudulently obtained.
6. **Minor Candidates:** Notice shall also be served to parents/guardians in cases where the candidate is a minor.
7. **Timelines and Cancellation:** Inquiries should ideally proceed on a day-to-day basis and conclude within two months. If the ST claim is found false, the SLSC shall issue an order cancelling and confiscating the certificate and communicate the result within one month.
8. **Provisional Admission/Appointment:** In cases of administrative delay during pending admission or job appointment timelines, provisional consideration may be granted based on existing certificates or affidavits, strictly subject to the final SLSC inquiry result.
9. **Prosecution and Penalties:** Filing false social status claims shall invite criminal prosecution. Conviction shall be treated as an offense involving moral turpitude, causing disqualification for elective posts or public employment.
10. **Cancellation of Admissions/Services:** Upon an adverse finding by the SLSC, the fake ST certificate shall be cancelled and confiscated immediately. The decision shall be communicated to the appointing authority or educational institution to terminate the appointment/admission without further notice and debar the candidate.
11. **Finality of Order:** Orders passed by the Committee shall be final and conclusive, subject only to proceedings under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

BINITA PEGU,

Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Department of Tribal Affairs (Plain), Dispur.