

Minutes of the Interaction by HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, ASSAM  
in the

State Level Revenue Conference of ADC (R), CO and CO (attached) on 07.09.2021

List of Participants at ANNEXURE-A

At the outset, Shri Jishnu Barua, IAS, Chief Secretary, Assam welcomed all to the second day of the State Level Revenue Conference and gave an overview of the deliberations of the first day (06-09-2021) by resource persons and feedback from participants. (Discussion points placed at Annexure I)

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam commenced his interaction with officers present by taking up for discussion all components of 'MISSION BASUNDHARA' to elicit the views of the officers. The following were highlighted during the interaction -

1. It was decided that re-survey of the entire State would be conducted using hybrid methodology and would be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. On a pilot basis the reconstruction of missing/damaged maps of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts is to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
2. The polygon survey of non-cadastral villages to be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
3. The purification of land records through mission mode updation, polygon survey of NC villages, complete re-survey would enable the State to achieve 100% Digitalization of Maps and true Integration of textual and spatial data.
4. The 10 (ten) proposed services to be provided to citizens under the portal to be launched on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, viz i. Mutation by right of inheritance ii. Mutation after deed registration iii. Partition for undisputed cases iv. Conversion from AP to PP (non-transferred cases) v. Reclassification of land vi. striking out names of persons who are no longer in possession from RoR under Rule 116, ALRR 1886 vii. Allotment certificates to periodic pattas viii. Name correction ix. Area correction x. mobile number update of pattadars were deliberated upon and inputs sought from officers.
5. It was decided that all applications received through manual means/ Rajah Adalots would be processed through a single gateway i.e., the portal only.
6. The services to be provided under the mission would be exempted from user fees during the implementation period and strict adherence to the timelines would be necessitated.
7. In the services proposed under the portal, the suggestion received for including rectification/updation of remarks in the jamabandi as a service to be examined.
8. All logistic support in terms of seamless net connectivity, vehicle, contingency, manpower support would be provided for smooth implementation of the mission.

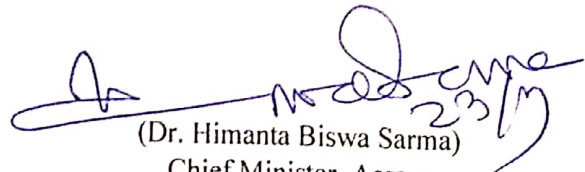
9. A review to be conducted with service providers for seamless net connectivity in Circle Offices for smooth disposal of cases and accelerated service delivery.
10. It was emphasized that the provision of Rule 116, under ALRR, 1886 be utilized by Circle Officers to strike off names of persons who no longer have possession after verification to cleanse the land records (RoR).
11. The timelines for notice and hearing period for office mutation, office partition to be reduced after revising the existing provisions to expedite disposal of undisputed cases.
12. It was proposed to conduct virtual hearing as and when necessary for greater outreach and accessibility by people residing outside the jurisdiction of the revenue circle. The cases through virtual hearing would be recorded for official purposes, evidence and records would be preserved.
13. It was directed that Athani Revenue Circle, Dhubri District would be made fully functional by providing office infrastructure, manpower by Deputy Commissioner, Dhubri by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
14. The disputed cases for various categories to be taken up for resolving after 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.
15. The ongoing Re-settlement operation in Cachar, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Goalpara, parts of Dhubri districts and Chandrapur Revenue Circle to be foreclosed or accelerated with private parties.
16. Policy decision to be taken for updation of Allotment Certificates already provided earlier to PP in terms of the criteria of the 3 (three) years' period of possession required for granting Periodic Patta for such cases.
17. The implementation of the mission in villages with damaged or missing maps to be reviewed.
18. Regarding the villages with missing survey pillars, it was informed that after the setting up of CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations) network under SVAMITVA by Survey of India in 33 locations of the state, high precision geo positioning, simplified real-time data acquisition, authorized crowdsourcing would enable overcoming the issue of missing survey pillars.
19. Training to be organized for master trainers from districts on ETS/DGPS.
20. Training to be imparted to COs (attached) of ALRS 2021 batch soon to equip them for facilitating implementation of the mission.
21. It was directed to discuss with Deputy Commissioners regarding hiring of technical manpower in Circles for implementation of the mission. It was proposed that hiring of



NRC contractual staff and availing the services of local CSCs may be explored after discussing with DCs.

22. Regarding conversion from AP to PP, decision on the user fees to be taken at the policy level. It was proposed that there should be decentralization in the conversion policy and the premium rates to be reduced for lower middle class and lesser quantum of area except Guwahati.
23. Regarding reclassification of land the cases not requiring NOC or no premium payment to be kept as a service under the mission initially.
24. Technological innovations in terms of land records systems such as BHOOMI portal of Karnataka to be explored. It was directed that the land records management system of Assam to be re-engineered within two years.
25. The miscellaneous works allotted to Circle Officers to be reduced except disaster management, election, census to enable them to deliver effectively.
26. There would be visits to Circle Offices to assess the status of implementation of the mission.
27. Hon'ble Chief Minister decided that he would be reviewing the progress of the mission every two months by video conferencing.
28. It was directed that for Kamrup (M) and Kamrup districts, the land sale permissions should be processed, and NOCs issued for cases without objections immediately. The completion report to be furnished to Hon'ble CM by Friday. Henceforth, the DCs of both districts to convene meeting every Friday with ADCs (Rev) and all Circle Officers to issue NOC for land sale cases without creating pendency.
29. It was decided to simplify the process of issuing NOC for land sale by bringing policy reforms.
30. Hon'ble Chief Minister appealed to officers to rededicate and redefine the perception around revenue administration, to ensure accelerated service delivery by empowering all in the revenue ecosystem and transform Circle Offices in terms of accessibility by citizens, maintaining propriety and transparency.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

  
(Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma)  
Chief Minister, Assam

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Copy to –

Dated, Guwahati the 27-09-2021

1. The Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Revenue & D.M. Deptt. Dispur, Guwahati-06 for favour of kind information.
2. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Revenue & D.M. Deptt. Dispur, Guwahati-06 for favour of kind information.
3. P.S to Hon'ble Minister, Revenue & D.M. Deptt. Dispur, Guwahati-06 for favour of kind appraisal.
4. The CEO, ASDMA for favour of kind information.
5. The Staff Officer, to the Chief Secretary, Assam for favour of kind information.
6. The Deputy Commissioner (All) for favour of kind information and necessary action.

*Gyanendra Dev Tripathi* 27/9/2021

(Gyanendra Dev Tripathi, IAS)  
Director of Land Records & Surveys etc., Assam  
Rupnagar, Guwahati-32

## **Annexure I:**

### **Overview by Shri Jishnu Barua, IAS, Chief Secretary, Assam on the deliberations of the first day by eminent resource persons and feedback from participants**

Shri Avinash P. Joshi, IAS, Principal Secretary Govt. of Assam, Revenue & D.M. Department

1. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam program for next five years for reforms in Revenue & Disaster Management chalked out.
2. In today's context the importance of land revenue administration cannot be over emphasized. Speedy land revenue administration can address issues of local unrest and bring social justice.
3. The role of the Deputy Commissioner and Circle Officer to deliver the land related services to the people is of primary importance and it is expected that they redefine and re - dedicate to change the perception around revenue administration and deliver due rights to citizens.
4. The most important are the Land Rights and forest rights for the indigenous people.
5. In recently held DC Conference it has been decided that by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021, all the Proposed Reserved Forests (PRF) to be reviewed by Deputy Commissioner and make clear-cut recommendation whether to upgrade to reserved forest or denotify should be submitted.
6. The Circle Officer to be exempted from miscellaneous works except disaster management, election so that they get more time to deliver on revenue administration.
7. The Circle Office infrastructure to be upgraded on the lines of the flagship scheme, 'MOITRI' of Home Department.

Shri Jishnu Baruah, IAS, Chief Secretary, Assam –

1. Highlighted the challenges in Revenue administration in present day context, brief introduction on Land Rights during Ahom rule, colonial Assam, Late Colonial Assam, Post-independence land policies, Re – Settlement operation up to 1947.
2. The challenges before Circle Officer are that they have multifarious responsibilities, no maintenance of tour diary by Circle Officer, weak protection of PGR/VGR, delayed or non-preparation of Douls and consequent meagre levels of land Revenue collection and mounting arrears, irregular inspection of Circles by DC/ADC, reclassification of land not done therefore hampers land revenue growth.
3. Challenges before Lot Mandals are that there is a growing dependence on LMs for multifarious government services, they are unable to cope with technological ecosystem of Digitalized services, they have lots of miscellaneous works etc.
4. There should be doubling in strength of LMs.
5. The Challenges in absorbing technology impacts data purification, updation in ILRMS, quick disposal of cases and land sale cases.
6. The protection of Tribal belts and blocks through timely updation of records.



7. The quick completion of re – settlement operation in Cachar, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Dhubri and Chandrapur Rev. Circle even by engaging private parties to close re – settlement operation.
8. It is seen that there is much centralization in AP to PP conversion policy.
9. The road map is suggested for clearing up hanging pattadars, land bank details updation, more lots to be created, filling up vacant LM posts promptly.

Shri Jogen Mohan, Hon'ble Minister Revenue & D.M. Department –

1. Hon'ble Minister has appreciated Hon'ble CM's initiative to organize the conference.
2. The inputs of Circle Officers were sought regarding their requirements.
3. On the completion of 100 days of the government, several reforms and amendments have been brought to the Cabinet to ensure ease of doing business.
4. "Mission Basundhara" to be launched where NC village survey to be done in mission mode, the pending cases to be cleared before launch on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.
5. It is proposed to develop an online system of revenue collection and online payment of user fees.
6. The issues of circle offices in terms of infrastructure will be addressed.

Shri Ashok Kr. Barman, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat –

1. Highlighted land revenue administration prior to British era, British period, settlement rules of ordinary cultivation, re – settlement operations.
2. Emphasized the need to remove ambiguity in land records as having name recorded in RoR need not imply that a person is a landowner.
3. An AP holder is a settlement holder but not a land holder. It is prevalent only in Assam as earlier land revenue was high, so cultivator was given land only for 1 year with automatic renewal as long as lease rules is not violated. APs were given in *foringati* land specially compared to areas of wet land cultivation.
4. It is emphasized to move from the present presumptive titling towards conclusive titling.
5. Regarding strategies for giving land rights to landless indigenous people, identification of available Khas land and ceiling surplus land fit for settlement to be done, survey to ascertain the number of landless indigenous people circle wise, reservation of community land, wetland, playgrounds etc.
6. Creation of knowledge hub at ASSTC.

Shri Dilip Das, ACS (Retd), OSD to Revenue & D.M. Department –

For expediting Land Acquisition Process:

1. It is important to have the correct map of the area identified, missing out dag from the notification should be avoided.

2. There should be a composite notification/declaration of plots identified instead of piecemeal notification.
3. There should be drive for updation of land records prior to initial notification which will lead to minimizing objection/smooth disbursement of compensation.
4. There should be time bound updation of zonal value so that the land values reflect the present market value of land and correct compensation to pattadars.
5. There should be correct assessment of Zirat after proper field survey.
6. In Apportionment of compensation when DC is not able to decide the matter to be referred to principal civil court.

Shri M.S. Manivannan, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Govt. of Assam, Revenue & D.M. Department –

1. The preparedness and mitigation of disaster as per SOP, manuals, rules, policies,
2. The hassle-free distribution of GR/RG and other admissible items of assistance were highlighted.
3. It is important to update the district disaster management plans in all aspects.
4. In the River Atlas project, the mapping of river system being conducted by NESAC.
5. Inclusion of child friendly spaces in relief camps.
6. SOP on COVID appropriate relief camp management.
7. Inflated boats provided to districts and 2 river ambulances provide to Majuli.
8. To intensify AAPDA MITRA and Pratirodhi Bondhu.
9. Creating material banks and multipurpose flood shelters.
10. There should be proper assessment while preparing RG proposals by field officials. The assessment is to be made within 15 days and the assistance to be released in a month.
11. The SDRF norms of providing clothing (Rs. 1800) and utensils (Rs. 2000) to be explored and utilized by the districts.
12. Circle level task force for damage assessment and preparation of RG and SDRF proposals.

Shri Gyanendra Dev Tripathi, IAS, Director of Land Records and Surveys etc., Assam –

1. Hon'ble Chief Minister Assam to launch "MISSION BASUNDHARA" on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.
2. A special preliminary drive to dispose all pending cases by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to be undertaken so that the mission can be launched on a clean slate.
3. The MIS modules to be updated by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, by Circle Officers and ADCs
4. For purification of land records, a portal to be launched on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, for online applications by citizens for 10 services till November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and all cases to be disposed by May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
5. The polygon survey of 672 NC villages to be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

6. On a pilot basis the reconstruction of damaged/missing maps of 774 cadastral villages of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts to be conducted using hybrid methodology by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.
7. The complete Re – Survey would lead to 100% digitalization and integration of textual and spatial data for Assam.
8. A step towards Title Guarantee would be paved through “MISSION BASUNDHARA”

#### **Feedback from participants**

1. Some of the districts raised the issue of poor net connectivity, specifically ASWAN connectivity.
2. The mobility and office support of Circle officers need serious rethink.
3. The issue of damaged and missing maps was raised.
4. The proposals for reorganization of revenue circles to be submitted immediately – e.g., Charaideo
5. Proposal to drop completely eroded villages from database which to be submitted immediately.
6. Requests for increase in the strength of LMs in districts.
7. Updation of zonal valuation as per guidelines to be done immediately.
8. The decentralization of the conversion of AP to PP process to Circle officers
9. Timelines for office mutations and office partitions to be reduced from present 30 days' notice period to a shorter duration.
10. Suo-moto mutation after deed registration should be allowed by suitable law amendments
11. In view of re – settlement operation in Cachar, Hailakandi and a part of Dhubri the implementation of Mission Basundhara may be impacted. Expeditious decision on procedures to be followed in such areas be thought through.
12. Reduction of premium rates for conversion from AP to PP in towns may be explored.

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