

Guideline for Implementation of Scheme – ARUNDHATI

(A) Introduction:

Many parts of our country are plagued with social evils surrounding the girl child, like child marriage, female foeticide, dowry etc. But the Assamese society, from time immemorial is fortunate to be free from such evils. Though there is no dowry system prevalent in Assam, the parent of every girl desires to give something to the girl during her marriage. The parents, irrespective of their social and economic status dream to bestow their child with love, blessings and gifts. But for many, these dreams remain unfulfilled due to their economic weakness. Gold is always considered auspicious and an asset. The parents believe that a gift of gold ornament would enhance their daughter's social and economic status.

(B) Objective:

The Government of Assam has decided to introduce a New Scheme "ARUNDHATI" from the current financial year 2019-20. This has also been announced in the Budget Speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister in 2019 -20 at point No – 40.

The objective of the scheme is to facilitate the parents of the girl child who are economically not very sound, but like all parents desire to give some gold which is considered auspicious to their as gift daughters on her marriage. The Government desires to share the joy of such parents who are getting their daughters married by way of providing Rs.-30,000/-as a token of blessings to the daughters of these parents for purchasing of Gold.

The Nodal department for implementation of the ARUNDHATI Gold Scheme shall be the Revenue & DM(Registration) Department.

(C) Eligibility Criteria:

The eligibility criterion under the scheme are as follows:-

1. The bride and groom should have attained the legal age of 18 years and 21 years respectively at the time of registration of the marriage.
2. The marriage of the applicant should be registered under Special Marriage Act, 1954.
3. The applicant should have solemnised her marriage on or after 1st of December, 2019.
4. The applicant should have registered her marriage on or after 1st of January, 2020.
5. The applicant girl should apply for the benefit under Arundhati Gold Scheme on the same day that she applies for marriage registration.
6. The total income of parents of the applicant girl should be below Rs. 5.00 Lakh per annum.
7. The applicant girl can avail this benefit for her first marriage only.
8. Both the bride and the groom must have passed at least HSLC or equivalent except Tea Tribe

including Adivasi Communities of the State.

9. No minimum educational qualification is required in case of Tea Tribe including Adivasi communities for next five years, as most of the Tea Gardens in the State of Assam do not have High School facility.

D) Documents required to ascertain the eligibility criteria of the Applicant girl:

1. Document for proof of age-

a) Other than Tea Tribe and Adivasi Communities – HSLC/CBSE or equivalent pass certificate as proof of age whereby the bride should have attained the legal age of 18 years and the groom shall have attained the age of 21 years respectively.

b) Tea Tribe including Adivasi Communities – Birth Certificate of both bride and groom issued by notified authority or any academic certificate as proof of age or certificate through medical examination only from competent authority as a proof of age to ascertain the bride and groom have attained age of 18 years and 21 years at time of registration of marriage under Special Marriage Act, 1954.

2. The attested copy of Certificate of Marriage, issued by the Marriage Officer, in the form specified in the fourth schedule of Special Marriage (Assam) Act, 1954.

3. The income certificate of parents of the applicant issued by the Circle Officer of the area in which she resided permanently with her parents.

4. Bank Account details of the beneficiary/ copy of Bank passbook of the beneficiary.

5. A certificate issued by the Gaonburah/Mouzadar of the village in which the girl resided with her parents before marriage stating that this is the first marriage of the applicant girl.

E) How to apply:

1. The applicant shall apply for Arundhati Gold Scheme on the day of applying for the registration of Marriage under Special Marriage Act, 1954.
2. Filled up physical application form shall be submitted by the applicant along-with the Marriage application in the office of the Marriage Officer where the registration of marriage is applied for.
3. The applicant girl shall also submit online form for claiming the benefit under Arundhati Gold scheme. The online application form would be available at the link "revenueassam.nic.in"
4. After completing the form the applicant has to submit the same both online by pressing submit button at the end of the form and also take a print out of the form.

5. The applicant must take the printout of the form before submission, sign the declaration part of the printed form and submit the same physically along with a copy of all documents listed at **Point D** above, in the office of the concerned Marriage Registration Officer. The list of Sub Registrar offices where the application form under Arundhati Gold Scheme and its enclosures can be submitted is given in **Point F** of the guidelines.
6. The applicant shall receive a receipt on submission of her application and required enclosures from the office of Marriage Registering Officers where the form has been submitted.
7. The information on acceptance/rejection of the application will be communicated to the applicant by SMS and email (on the Mobile No/ email id given in the online application form).
8. If the application is accepted; the amount as eligible under the scheme shall be transferred to the Bank A/c number of the applicant by DBT. The Bank A/c number shall be same as per details given in online form where Bank A/c number with IFSC Code has been given.

F) List of Sub Registrar Offices: Annexure M

G) Official Process:

1. The Nodal Officer for implementing the scheme at State level shall be the Inspector General for Registration, Assam, Guwahati.
2. The Nodal Officer for implementing the Scheme at District Level shall be the Sub- Registrar as notified. The list of Registering Officers has been given at **Point F** of the guidelines.
3. Depending upon the load of registration the Government may notify Circle Officers/Attached Circle Officers as Marriage Officers for the purpose of the scheme, if necessary.
4. The online module of the Marriage Officer (Deputy Registrar/ Senior Sub-Registrar/ Sub- Registrar) shall provide them the option of pre-filling the time slots when they shall be available in office for receiving the application form physically under Arundhati Scheme.
5. The Marriage Officer upon being satisfied by the application and related documents submitted by the applicant shall approve/reject (with reasons) the application online through his ID and password provided in the system. They shall within one week of submission of the application confirm the acceptance or rejection of the application.
6. The information relating to acceptance or rejection of the application shall then be transmitted both to the applicant as well as the State Nodal Officer i.e. the Inspector General of Registration, Assam.
7. The accepted application with details of applicants Bank A/C No. with IFSC Code, her mobile No. and e-mail ID shall then be reflected on IGR's page of the portal. The Inspector General of Registration, Assam shall have a separate login ID and Password and can view /accept / Reject (with reasons if any) the application.

8. Once the application has been finally approved by the Inspector General of Registration, Assam, the next step for transmission of the Schematic amount by way of DBT to the A/C of the beneficiary shall be initiated by way of PFMS. The approved file shall be uploaded in the PFMS and then it will go to the Bank automatically for account number validation. Once it is validated, the IGR shall initiate the beneficiary payment by DSC.
9. The Inspector General of Registration, Assam shall make arrangement to issue instructions to the Bank where the account of ARUNDHATI shall be available in name of the Inspector General of Registration, Assam to make payment to the A/C No of the accepted application of the applicant through PFMS.
10. The bank on receipt of instructions from the Inspector General of Registration, Assam shall release Rs.10/- to check if the A/C No of the applicant is valid and live. On confirmation of transfer of Rs.10/-, the balance amount as mandated under the Scheme and instructed by the Inspector General of Registration, Assam shall be remitted to the A/C No of the beneficiary.
11. The reconciliation with Bank on the transfer shall be done every month by the Inspector General of Registration, Assam to ensure there is no pendency and that the Scheme is implemented seamlessly.
12. Necessary instructions to be issued to the banks for not deducting/diverting the grant received by the applicant under Arundhati Gold Scheme for any prevailing loans of the applicant.

G) Grievance Redressal Mechanism :

1. The Deputy Commissioner cum District Register of the concerned district shall be the Appellate Officer in case of any grievance arising at district level.
2. The Commissioner and Secretary/Principal Secretary Revenue & D.M. Department shall be the Appellate Officer at State level. The grievance arising at level of Deputy Commissioner concerned, where the applicant is not satisfied by the decision of Deputy Commissioner could be raised at State level.
3. The applicant can submit her grievance by way of a simple letter to the office of the Deputy Commissioner concerned or Commissioner & Secretary/Principal Secretary Revenue & D.M. Department concerned, as applicable.
4. The Deputy Commissioner concerned or Commissioner & Secretary/Principal Secretary Revenue & D.M. Department shall dispose of all such applications by way of a speaking order within one month of receipt of grievance. This shall also be communicated to be applicant concerned.

(I) Removal of Difficulty Clause:

If any difficulty arises due to any provisions of the guidelines, the Government in Revenue and Disaster Management Department may by order, make suitable modifications not inconsistent with the objectives of this scheme, as appears to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.