

To

Date:28.09.2026

The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Personnel Department
Government of Assam,
Dispur, Guwahati-781006.

Rabul Singh
28/9/26

Subject: Representation regarding the alleged ineffective functioning of Lakhipur Co-District, Cachar, under Sri Dhrubajyoti Pathak, ACS, Co-District Commissioner, Lakhipur; non-availability of officers and staff, alleged neglect and improper treatment of the public, and compliance with Executive Order No. ECF.837757/3 dated 03.09.2026 concerning full-fledged functioning of Co-Districts.

Respected Sir,

I most respectfully submit this representation for your kind consideration regarding the prevailing administrative condition of Lakhipur Co-District, Cachar, which, despite having been established with the avowed objective of bringing administration closer to the people and ensuring accessible, responsive and citizen-centric governance, is reportedly functioning far below the standard and purpose contemplated by the Government. Lakhipur is a relatively backward and geographically disadvantaged area, where a substantial section of the population depends upon Government offices for basic administrative services and assistance. The establishment of a Co-District was therefore expected to provide considerable relief to the people by bringing administrative machinery closer to them and reducing their dependence upon the District Headquarters at Silchar. Unfortunately, the ground situation, as being experienced and reported by the local people, appears to be substantially different. The people of Lakhipur continue to face considerable difficulty in accessing officers and obtaining routine administrative services, while the Co-District headquarters is frequently perceived as lacking the presence and availability of the officers and staff who are expected to administer the area.

The matter has assumed greater significance following the issuance of Executive Order No. ECF.837757/3 dated 03.09.2026 by the Personnel Department, Government of Assam, regarding "Ensuring full-fledged and effective functioning of Co-Districts." The said Executive Order specifically recognises the post of Co-District Commissioner as a high-priority, full-time assignment requiring dedicated attention to the administration and development of the concerned Co-District. It further requires the Co-District Commissioner to function as the full-time administrative head of the respective Co-District and devote his/her entire time and

attention to the administration and development thereof. The Order also places corresponding responsibility upon the District Commissioner to ensure that the Co-District Commissioner is not burdened with duties and responsibilities outside the jurisdiction of the respective Co-District except where specifically authorised by the Government in exceptional circumstances.

In this context, serious concerns have arisen regarding the actual functioning of Lakhipur Co-District and, in particular, the availability and headquarters presence of Sri Dhrubajyoti Pathak, ACS, Co-District Commissioner, Lakhipur. It is being repeatedly reported and alleged that the Co-District Commissioner does not devote his full official time and attention to Lakhipur Co-District and is frequently available at Silchar/Cachar, where he is understood to be attending to various responsibilities, branches and assignments outside Lakhipur. It is further alleged that he resides at or remains based in Silchar and attends Lakhipur according to his own convenience rather than maintaining the continuous administrative presence expected from the full-time administrative head of a Co-District. The exact factual position, however, can easily be established by an examination of official records, including attendance records, movement registers, tour programmes, official vehicle logbooks, e-office activity, file movement and records of meetings and official engagements.

More seriously, there are persistent complaints regarding the manner in which members of the public approaching the Co-District office are allegedly treated. It is reported that ordinary citizens, particularly persons belonging to economically and socially disadvantaged sections of the population, do not always receive the degree of attention, accessibility and courtesy that ought to characterise a citizen-centric administration. There are allegations that people approaching the office for legitimate administrative grievances and routine services are sometimes made to wait unnecessarily, are unable to meet the concerned officers or are required to repeatedly visit the office without obtaining a satisfactory response. The alleged conduct and manner of dealing with members of the public by the Co-District Commissioner, if established, would be a matter requiring serious administrative attention, particularly in a backward area where ordinary citizens may have limited means to repeatedly travel between Lakhipur and Silchar.

The people of Lakhipur cannot reasonably be expected to travel repeatedly to Silchar merely to obtain services which the Co-District administration was specifically created to provide closer to them. The very rationale behind the creation of Co-Districts is decentralisation, accessibility and effective delivery of Government services at the doorstep of the people. If the principal officers remain substantially engaged elsewhere and the people are unable to obtain access to the administrative machinery at Lakhipur, the objective of the Co-District system is substantially diluted. The problem, moreover, does not appear to be confined to the Co-District

Rakesh
28/01/2

Commissioner alone. It is also being reported that the Lakhimpur Co-District office frequently remains inadequately staffed during normal working hours, with officers and ministerial personnel not being available in the office as expected. Concerns have particularly been raised regarding the availability of Executive/Magistracy officers, Branch Officers, Senior Assistants, Junior Assistants and other supporting personnel. As a result, there are occasions when the office appears substantially devoid of the officers and employees required for its day-to-day functioning. Such a situation is particularly unfortunate in a backward and developing area like Lakhimpur. The ordinary citizen visiting a Government office does not have the ability to determine which officer has been assigned which branch, where the officer is presently stationed or whether the officer is attending to another office at Silchar. The citizen expects the designated Co-District headquarters to function as a proper administrative establishment during prescribed working hours. When the office is inadequately attended, the burden inevitably falls upon the public.

There are also allegations that certain officers and branches formally associated with Lakhimpur Co-District are in practice performing substantial portions of their duties from Silchar/Cachar. Such allegations have reportedly arisen in relation to field-oriented departments and offices, including Food, Public Distribution & Consumer Affairs, Excise and other administrative establishments. The precise extent of such arrangements, the orders under which they are operating and whether such arrangements have received the approval of the competent authority can be objectively ascertained from official records. The matter therefore does not require speculation or reliance upon competing personal statements. A simple, independent and impartial fact-finding exercise would be sufficient to establish the factual position.

The attendance and biometric records of the Co-District Commissioner and other officers and staff may be examined for an appropriate period. The movement registers, tour diaries, official vehicle logbooks, e-office login/activity records, file movement registers, meeting records, duty rosters, branch allocation orders, work-allocation orders and records of official engagements at Silchar/Cachar may be compared with the attendance records maintained at Lakhimpur. The records of official engagements undertaken by the concerned officers at Cachar/Silchar during working days would clearly indicate the extent to which their official time has actually been devoted to Lakhimpur Co-District and the extent to which it has been spent on responsibilities outside the Co-District. In particular, the records relating to the official engagements of the Co-District Commissioner at Cachar/Silchar may kindly be examined for the relevant period. If there exists a valid Government order or specific authorisation permitting the Co-District Commissioner to discharge substantial duties outside Lakhimpur, the same may also kindly be examined. Conversely, if the records demonstrate that substantial official time has been devoted

Rakesh Singh
28/01/22

to assignments outside Lakhipur without appropriate authorisation, the competent authority may take such action as may be considered appropriate under the applicable Government instructions.

Rakesh Choudhary
28/9/26

It is respectfully submitted that such verification would also protect the concerned officers from unfounded allegations. If the allegations regarding absence, outside assignments or inadequate headquarters presence are incorrect, the official records would conclusively establish the same. If, however, the allegations are found to have substance, the Government would have objective material upon which appropriate corrective measures can be taken. Thus, an impartial record-based inquiry would serve the interests of both administrative accountability and fairness. The people of Lakhipur deserve an administration that is physically accessible, responsive and sensitive to their difficulties. A backward area cannot be administered effectively merely through files and occasional visits. The presence of the administrative head and the supporting officers at the designated headquarters is essential for effective supervision, immediate grievance redressal, coordination among departments and timely delivery of Government services.

The present situation, if allowed to continue, would defeat the very purpose for which Lakhipur Co-District was created. A Co-District cannot become merely a geographical designation while its administrative machinery continues to remain substantially dependent upon or function from the District Headquarters at Silchar. The Government's recent Executive Order dated 03.09.2026 appears to have been issued precisely to address such issues and to ensure that Co-Districts function as genuine, full-fledged and citizen-centric administrative units. It is therefore respectfully requested that your good office may kindly cause an independent and impartial fact-finding inquiry into the functioning of Lakhipur Co-District, with particular reference to the headquarters presence and attendance of the Co-District Commissioner, the availability of officers and staff during prescribed working hours, the duties and branches assigned to the Co-District Commissioner outside Lakhipur, the functioning of officers posted/assigned to Lakhipur and the alleged treatment of members of the public approaching the Co-District administration.

It is further requested that the relevant biometric attendance records, attendance registers, movement registers, tour diaries, official vehicle logbooks, e-office activity records, file movement records, meeting records and work-allocation/branch-allocation orders may kindly be examined for an appropriate period. The records of official engagements of the concerned officers at Silchar/Cachar may also be obtained and examined so that the actual utilisation of their official working hours can be objectively determined. The District Commissioner, Cachar may also kindly be directed to review the existing allocation of duties and responsibilities in the light of Executive Order No. ECF.837757/3 dated 03.09.2026 and to ensure that the Co-District

Commissioner, Lakhipur, is enabled to devote his/her full official time and attention to Lakhipur Co-District, except where any contrary arrangement has been specifically authorised by the competent authority. It is also requested that all officers and staff posted or assigned to Lakhipur Co-District may be directed to remain available at their designated headquarters during prescribed working hours, except when they are on duly authorised tour, field duty, leave or performing any other officially sanctioned assignment. A clear system of attendance, accountability and headquarters availability would substantially improve the functioning of the Co-District and restore public confidence in the local administration.

Ravish Singh
28/9/26

I respectfully submit that this representation is not intended to be treated as a personal complaint against any particular officer. The primary issue is the plight of the people of Lakhipur and the effective implementation of the Government's own policy of decentralised and citizen-centric administration. The people of a backward and geographically disadvantaged area should not be deprived of effective administration merely because the officers entrusted with the responsibility of administering the Co-District are allegedly unavailable or substantially engaged elsewhere. A straightforward verification of official records can establish the true position. The records of attendance, movement, official engagements at Cachar/Silchar, file activity and branch responsibilities would speak for themselves. I therefore respectfully request that the matter may kindly be examined objectively and, if considered appropriate, an officer independent of the existing Lakhipur administrative arrangement may be entrusted with the fact-finding exercise. If the allegations are found to be incorrect, such verification will place the factual position beyond doubt. If they are found to be correct, appropriate corrective measures may kindly be taken in accordance with the applicable Government rules and instructions, so that Lakhipur Co-District functions as a genuinely full-fledged administrative unit and the people of Lakhipur receive the accessible, respectful and responsive administration contemplated by the Government.

I shall remain grateful if the matter is accorded due consideration in the larger public interest and necessary action is initiated for ensuring administrative accountability, effective implementation of Government directions and proper delivery of public services to the people of Lakhipur.

Enclosure:

Copy of Executive Order No. ECF.837757/3 dated 03.09.2026 issued by the Personnel Department, Government of Assam.

Yours faithfully,

Rakesh Singh

Rakesh Singh(RTI Activist and Social Worker)

S/o Late Rana Pratap Singh

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Copy To:

- ✓ 1. The PPS to the H'onble Chief Minister for his necessary information and appraisal of the matter .

Rakesh Singh,
28/9/26

Rakesh Singh(RTI Activist and Social Worker)

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